Isaiah Scores with the Cleveland Browns and Achievement Centers for Children

Since 2011, the Achievement Centers for Children has partnered with the Cleveland Browns and the Cuyahoga Board of Developmental Disabilities so children and young adults with disabilities can “get in the game.” Each of our players and their families have their own unique story of how their son or daughter benefited from playing on the adapted football team. Isaiah’s story is one of over a hundred stories of determination and personal pride in achievement that our players experience on the field when they participate in our Adapted Sports program.

An otherwise healthy baby boy, Isaiah was born missing tibia bones, the main supporting bones, in both legs. As a result, his family made the heartbreaking decision with their doctor to have both of Isaiah’s lower legs amputated before his second birthday. The amputation actually helped him be more mobile and soon Isaiah became unstoppable as he tested his independence as is typical of two-year-olds. It seemed the loss of his legs gave him freedom to go his “speed of life.”

Isaiah, now 11 years old, has played adapted football with ACC for three years, and is excited that the team will be playing their “All Star” game in the Cleveland Browns Stadium this year where they will each be presented with awards.

“Come on, Isaiah! We can make a touchdown this time. Let’s go!”
—Duane Griffin, Jr., Isaiah’s adapted football volunteer

Isaiah’s mother, Samarah, has seen her son’s skills progress. “Each year, he’s able to throw the ball farther and farther, and everyone is impressed by his upper body strength. Playing adapted football helps direct Isaiah’s energy, keeps positive thoughts in his head, and helps him to be physically fit.”

We are grateful to be able to offer the Cleveland Browns Adapted Football League so players with disabilities can experience the thrill of making touchdowns, playing side-by-side with Cleveland Browns players, dedicated volunteers, and new friends with cheers of encouragement from their families on the sidelines. Thank you to the Cleveland Browns, the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, our over 100 volunteers, coaches and staff, as well as the sponsors and donors who support special athletes like Isaiah. For more information, visit achievementcenters.org/sports.
Family, Fun, Football …

Achievement Centers’ board member, Jennifer Allanson, found all this and more when she answered the call for volunteers for our Adapted Football program. Jen signed up along with her husband Joe and their three daughters—Lyndsey (age 13), Lauren (age 11), Ashley (age 7). It was important to her to volunteer in order to understand more about the organization she serves, give back in another way and have a family experience of service. On the way to practice each week, her family would think about all the other things they could be doing, but when they would go to lunch after practice, they would talk about how they wished they could have done more! The girls found out that the athletes were a lot like them, but had different challenges. Jen says, “Volunteering puts things into perspective and is definitely worth taking the time.”

SUE BURTON CELEBRATES 25 YEARS WITH ACHIEVEMENT CENTERS

Sue Burton, Billing and Accounts Receivable Administrative Coordinator, recently celebrated her 25th anniversary with the Achievement Centers for Children. When asked why she has stayed with the agency for so long, Sue commented, “I like being part of a mission that is so strong and positive and really makes a difference. I also value being part of such a dedicated staff that goes the distance for the children and families we serve.” Congratulations on your anniversary Sue and thank you for your work and commitment!

THANK YOU
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for the ADAPTED SPORTS PROGRAM

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APRIL IS DONOR RECOGNITION MONTH

2019 Donor Appreciation Award  The Achievement Centers for children is delighted to announce the winners of our 2019 Donor Appreciation Award, the Raymond and Rita Foos Family Charitable Foundation and Yvonne McNulty!

ACC created the Donor Appreciation Award to honor long-time donors and to recognize their steadfast commitment to our mission. This year’s foundation recipient, Raymond and Rita Foos Family Charitable Foundation has supported the Achievement Centers for ten years and most recently made a generous donation to fund necessary renovations at Camp Cheerful. Their support has helped us maintain our beautiful and welcoming camp facilities for generations of children and adults with disabilities.

The 2019 Individual Donor Appreciation Award recipient is Yvonne McNulty, a former board member, who has supported the Achievement Centers for Children in a multitude of ways for the last decade. With her support we can provide our “circle of care” through comprehensive and high quality therapy, recreation, education and family support services. Her caring has made a real impact in the lives of the families we serve.

ACC was privileged to honor Yvonne and the Foos Foundation’s exceptional commitment and partnership at the June board meeting.

As part of our April Donor Appreciation Month activities, we are also recognizing Gordon Harnett, a former ACC board member, former board president and co-founder of our Blue Chip Blue Tee golf event. Gordon has been a generous donor to the agency every consecutive year for over 24 years! Gordon was drawn to the agency because of its holistic approach, serving both the child and the family and helping the parents as much as the child. He was also always impressed with our Camp Cheerful. “You couldn’t help but connect to camp”, Gordon recalled. “And it’s always been impactful to hear testimonials from families and hear about the little victories their children achieve.”

He has made a philanthropic investment each year because he has seen that the Achievement Centers for Children is well run, professional and gets good results. Gordon and his wife Mary focus their giving on organizations where they feel they can make the most difference. He advises other potential donors, “If it is appealing to you to help children and families grow and thrive, come and visit the Achievement Centers for Children. You’ll become a believer!”

Gordon, we are so grateful for your longstanding interest, support and caring! If you’d like to join Gordon in supporting our work and mission, you can make a gift at achievementcenters.org/give.

Ways to Help

We welcome volunteers at ACC; there are many opportunities to donate your time and talents.

THERAPEUTIC HORSEMANSHIP
Camp Cheerful volunteers are side walkers, horse leaders, instructors and barn helpers. No experience necessary, but must attend orientation prior to volunteering.

Contact: Hannah Hayes, Therapeutic Horsemanship Volunteer Coordinator at 440-238-6200 ext 242 or email hannah.hayes@achievementctrs.org

SPECIAL EVENTS
Volunteers are needed in a variety of capacities during our special events from serving on auction event planning committees to helping out at “A Most Excellent Race.”

Contact: Katie Spring, Manager of Special Events at 216-292-9700 or email katie.spring@achievementctrs.org

ADAPTED SPORTS
Volunteer coaches assist players with practices and games. No experience necessary.

Contact: Mike Urban, Manager of Sports Services at 440-238-6200 ext 245 or email mike.urban@achievementctrs.org

CORPORATE GROUPS
Volunteer groups at our three sites (Camp Cheerful, Westlake, and Highland Hills) help us maintain our facilities, do landscaping, and special projects.

Camp Cheerful—Contact: Mike Urban, Manager of Sports Services at 440-238-6200 ext 245 or email mike.urban@achievementctrs.org

Westlake & Highland Hills—Contact: Laura Gambrell, Manager of Grants and Annual Giving, 216-292-9700 ext 225 or email laura.gambrell@achievementctrs.org
OUR MISSION is to empower children and adults with disabilities and their families to achieve their greatest potential.

HELPING CHILDREN BE "ALL THEY CAN BE"
Founded in 1940 as Society for Crippled Children
A non-profit organization providing support, services and programs for children and adults with disabilities and special needs and their families.

Programs include education and autism school; physical, occupational and speech therapy; Intensive Therapy Clinic; family support services; recreation, camp, sports and adult day program.

LOCATIONS
Highland Hills
Westlake
Camp Cheerful in Strongsville
Child care centers, schools, homes
216-292-9700

Special Events Cheers to Camp Cheerful

Saturday, September 21
5:30 PM–10:30 PM
Achievement Centers for Children
Camp Cheerful
15000 Cheerful Lane
Strongsville, OH 44136

Tickets—$50 per person
Sponsorship opportunities available
Reserve tickets online at
AchievementCenters.org/cheers
or call 216-292-9700 ext 226

BWW is a proud supporter of Cheers to Camp Cheerful

$5 OFF
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IT'S NOT WHETHER YOU WIN OR LOSE, IT'S WHERE YOU CELEBRATE THE GAME.

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