JASON’S SUPERPOWERS

Jason Butler lives life at full speed with enthusiasm and energy. As everyone who knows Jason can attest, his lively, outgoing personality and zest for life is contagious to those around him. At 31 years old, the most important things to Jason are his family and friends, his sports and activities, and being helpful. His mother, Aggie, said, “We always run into people Jason knows. He remembers details about everyone he meets, such as their family members’ names, and asks about them when he sees them.” It is his pure joy in living life to its fullest, along with his caring and compassion for those around him that are his “superpowers.”

Jason was just one month old when he started having physical and occupational therapies to help straighten and strengthen his legs and feet. As a child with developmental delays, he required a lot of repetition to learn the correct ways to walk and run. This early intervention paid off and as a result, Jason is able to play the sports he loves including running track in the Special Olympics, swimming, basketball, and football.

As an adult, Jason’s life has been enriched through many of the programs at the Achievement Centers for Children. In 2011, Jason was one of the original players in our Cleveland Browns Adapted Football League, and has played every year since. He loves our Weekend Respite Camps, which makes him feel more independent. Jason attends our River Rock Adult Day Program at Camp Cheerful year-round where he especially enjoys being with his friends, going on community outings, dancing and playing instruments with “The Band” every week, swimming, and bowling. He loves the cooking and baking classes, and working at the “snack shack” selling snacks to the day campers in the summer.

We’ve seen Jason learn new skills along with increased independence and responsibilities. He helps out around Camp Cheerful doing such things as feeding and brushing the horses, shredding papers in our camp office, and some landscaping work. He was welcomed onstage at our annual “Cheers to Camp Cheerful” fundraising event to help guests understand why their support is needed and appreciated.

Programs offered through the Achievement Centers gives adults like Jason opportunities to develop their special abilities, enjoy their days doing meaningful activities, and continue their lifelong learning. Support from our community makes these programs possible and means the world to each family. For more information about our River Rock Adult Day Program, visit AchievementCenters.org/riverrock or call 440-238-6200.
Engaging Support for 2019

FIRST TIME DONORS

738

Instagram launched
Join us at achievementcentersCLE

Out of every dollar donated
83¢
goes directly for the benefit of our clients and to further our mission.

TOTAL CLIENTS SERVED
3,772

*each figure represents about 150 clients (Includes NCTA)

Provided $1.3 million in subsidized services

Volunteers gave
9,468
hours of their time in our THERAPEUTIC HORSEMANSHIP PROGRAM

TOTAL NUMBER OF THERAPY SERVICES CLIENTS

355
Speech Therapy

246
Occupational Therapy

99
Physical Therapy

164 players and
328 volunteers participated in Adapted Sports

164

70 families trained and babies soothed in infant massage

70

CAMP CHEERFUL

339 Overnight Campers

Counselors from
10 Countries

ACHIEVEMENT CENTERS FOR CHILDREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019–2020
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Our Autism School is a very special place for children with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities. Here, students learn not only academic lessons, but so much more according to their needs, interests, and goals. They learn skills each day to adapt and open their minds to the world around them, and encourage independence for their future.

We use a blended method approach to teach children in ways that are most beneficial for each student’s unique learning style, allowing them to achieve their greatest potential.

Valuable Lessons Extend Beyond the Classroom

We are very proud of eight-year-old DJ who enrolled in our autism school last year, and is learning so much already. In our small group classrooms, experienced teachers and occupational therapists address DJ’s multiple special needs including being visually impaired, nonverbal, and using a wheelchair when traveling for a distance is needed. A special vision therapist visits several times each month to work with DJ and his classroom team, and recently introduced a lightbox and materials to help him. He’s learning to better tolerate sounds around him, and self-care skills such as gripping a spoon and bringing it to his mouth, and putting on his shirt. His mother, Jacquelin, said, “He is calmer and happier, and learned to communicate with an iPad since he started coming to the Achievement Centers. It gives me a real sense of security knowing his teachers are helping DJ, and that we have a chance for him to be as independent as he can be.”

In addition to his classroom lessons, DJ joins his classmates during community-based instruction outings. Many of the “soft skills” our students learn such as waiting in line, walking in a group, and following directions are best learned through repetition and practical applications. Our students participate in monthly community outings such as visiting an apple orchard, an amusement park, a planetarium, and others. Monthly lesson plans incorporate themes around the community-based instruction outings to prepare the students. For example, before the students visited the planetarium, the students learned about the Earth’s relationship with the Sun and planets through art projects, videos, worksheets and social stories. Community based instruction is a research-based teaching methodology to generalize adaptive and daily living behaviors to new environments.

The Achievement Centers for Children Autism School is a licensed, alternative public school for students in grades K–9. Here, we engage one-on-one with students and through small group activities designed to meet the unique needs of students with significant social, sensory, and communication challenges. For more information, visit our website at AchievementCenters.org or call Lisa Cooper, Director of Education, at 216-292-9700.
Creative Community Achiever Events

These organizations know how to have fun while making a difference for families through their generous donations to the Achievement Centers, and we are so grateful!

Networking is Dead “Shake Your Bones” Event was held Friday, October 18 at the Music Box and featured “The Garcia Project,” a top tribute band who performed classic Jerry Garcia band shows from the 70’s, 80’s and 90’s. The Halloween themed evening included Grateful Dead raffle items with proceeds benefiting the Achievement Centers. Thank you Ken Vinikoff, a former Achievement Centers Board of Director member, who suggested the Achievement Centers as a beneficiary of this event.

The Men Who Cook Event hosted by the St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church in North Royton was held Saturday, October 26. Guests voted for their favorite chef with monetary donations with a portion donated to our Camp Cheerful. Joe Pagonakis of News5 Cleveland suggested the Achievement Centers as a beneficiary of this event. Thank you!

Are you a part of a company or organization that would be interested in raising funds for the Achievement Centers for Children? Give Deborah Osgood, Vice President of Development and Marketing, a call at 216-292-9700 ext 224.

Sparkle, Shimmer & Shine Gala presented by MAI Capital Management

On Saturday, November 9 more than 420 guests gathered to honor Dee and Jimmy Haslam and the Cleveland Browns for their generous long-time support of children and adults with disabilities and their families, and for their meaningful involvement in and dedication to Northeast Ohio’s nonprofit community. We are grateful for the Browns’ generous support of our Cleveland Browns Adapted Football League for youth with disabilities.

Through the support of our sponsors, guests, and donors, the event raised over $450,000. Over 83% of the event’s proceeds go directly to the programs and services of the Achievement Centers. We are so very grateful to all our Sparkle, Shimmer and Shine contributors for their caring support, and for making a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

THANK YOU to our sponsors Adapted Sports Program Sponsors

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Amy Brady, KeyBank CIO and Executive VP,
Sparkle honorees, Jimmy and Dee Haslam and the
Cleveland Browns, and Sally Farwell, President
and CEO of the Achievement Centers
6 Ways to Help

1. Help stretch your donation dollars. Many employers encourage charitable donations and offer a matching gift program. Ask your employer if they will match your donation or check our website here: https://achievementcenters.org/give/donate/matching-gifts/

2. Make online purchases through smile.amazon.com. When you designate the Achievement Center, we will receive 0.5% from Amazon—at no additional cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as amazon.com.

3. Follow the Achievement Centers on social media—Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Flickr. Be sure to like, comment, and share posts with your friends.

4. Volunteer your time through our many opportunities including adapted sports, therapeutic horsemanship, and special events. Share your experiences with family and friends.

5. Enjoy and support our fundraising events. Save the date for our “A Most Excellent Race” on Sunday, June 28.

6. Become a monthly giver. Donations of any amount given on a regular basis are greatly appreciated and help provide ongoing services to families of children with disabilities.

DONATE ONLINE AT AchievementCenters.org/give/donate

OUR MISSION MATTERS!

The programs and services of the Achievement Centers for Children make a big impact on the over 2,500 individuals with disabilities we serve each year. Many people are looking for a way to invest in our agency and commit to our mission of empowering children and adults with disabilities and their families to achieve their greatest potential. An easy way for anyone to provide meaningful support for our work is through a gift provision in a will or naming the Achievement Centers for Children as a beneficiary of an IRA or insurance policy.

Including simple language in a will or other estate document ensures that our important services will be available for children and adults with disabilities now and in the future:

“I give and bequeath the sum of $_________ to the Achievement Centers for Children, a not-for-profit organization incorporated in the State of Ohio, at 4255 Northfield Road, Highland Hills, Ohio 44128, for its unrestricted use.”

To learn more about including ACC in your estate plans, please contact Deborah Osgood at 216-292-9700 ext 224.

2019 ACC Award to Amy Hardy

Congratulations to Amy Hardy, Licensed Social Worker in our Family Support Accent program. Amy has been with the Achievement Centers for 13 years in several roles, and is now our Referral Specialist where she assists families interested in our programs and services. She meets with parents and caregivers in the outpatient therapy department to provide advocacy, parent education, emotional support, and community referrals/resources as well as collaboration with their ACC team. Amy has two basset hounds, enjoys nature, and practicing yoga.

Help us congratulate Amy on this well-deserved award!

BLOSSOMING BLOGS

Our new blog section of our website features insightful articles from our professional staff as well as a “Special Perspectives” section for guest bloggers. We are excited to have two very special clients that have written blogs as part of their speech therapy plan. We hope you’ll read Alex and Ella’s personal articles on a variety of topics. Visit AchievementCenters.org/blog.

Achievement Centers for Children
A trusted partner, unlocking the potential beyond disabilities.

HIGHLAND HILLS
4255 Northfield Road
Highland Hills, OH 44128
216-292-9700

WESTLAKE
24211 Center Ridge Road
Westlake, OH 44145
440-250-2520

CAMP CHEERFUL
15000 Cheerful Lane
Strongsville, OH 44136
440-238-6200

DONATE ONLINE AT AchievementCenters.org/give/donate
OUR MISSION is to empower children and adults with disabilities and their families to achieve their greatest potential.

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
Help support our mission . . . join us! For details, visit AchievementCenters.org

A MOST EXCELLENT RACE
Sunday, June 28, 2020
Beaumont School in Cleveland Heights
- Timed 10K and 5K races
- One mile and 5K walk
- Family activities, DJ, and refreshments

For more information, visit: achievementcenters.org/race

BLUE CHIP BLUE TEE GOLF TOURNAMENT
Monday, August 3, 2020
Kirtland Country Club

CHEERS TO CAMP CHEERFUL
Dinner and Silent Auction at Camp Cheerful
Saturday, September 19, 2020

SPARKLE, SHIMMER AND SHINE GALA
Saturday, November 14, 2020
Intercontinental Hotel