Zoey Riedel and her parents, Rebecca and Craig, have been active with the Achievement Centers for Children for several years. In the past, she enjoyed Camp Cheerful Day Camp and recreational activities at their Westlake site. They appreciated the quality of service, but didn’t think of the Achievement Centers after Zoey graduated high school and needed a place to grow.

Zoey has Rubinstein-Taybi syndrome (RTS), a rare genetic condition characterized by varied learning capabilities. “She learns differently,” said her mother, “Some things, she’s a whiz at and some things take extra time.” Rebecca’s search for an adult day program found most of them to be lacking structure. She said, “I can’t just say, ‘since Zoey is nineteen, she can’t learn anymore.’” The adult day programs they were finding weren’t challenging or encouraging development.

Finally, Zoey’s high school speech therapist recommended the Achievement Centers’ River Rock Adult Day Program at Camp Cheerful. “Finding it was like a godsend,” said Zoey’s father, Craig. Rebecca added, “It’s not school anymore, but some of the activities she does at River Rock mimic school—I’m a teacher and that’s what I was looking for.”

Rebecca and Craig say that since starting the program, Zoey asks to go to River Rock from the moment she gets up. “You ask her, ‘why?’ and she says she wants to meet her friends,” said Rebecca, “We are very grateful that Zoey is in a place that we feel comfortable with...a place where she’s safe...and, she’s happy!” At home, Zoey is talking more and her parents have seen her sense of humor blossom. “The River Rock program has her moving and engaged all day—has her socializing, walking and getting exercise, which is great...it’s a good fit,” said Craig.

“We are very grateful that Zoey is in a place that we feel comfortable with...a place where she’s safe...and, she’s happy!”

The staff at River Rock are just as thankful Zoey has found her place in the program. Director of River Rock, Alissa Piwinski, said about Zoey, “We couldn’t be happier that the program is such a good fit for Zoey, because Zoey brings joy and laughter into the program! Zoey JOGS into the building daily with the biggest smile on her face, immediately looking for her friends. We look forward to seeing her just as much as she looks forward to coming!”

To find out if your loved one is a good fit for our River Rock Adult Day Program, contact Alissa to discuss what our program offers: Alissa.Piwinski@achievementctrs.org or 440.238.6200 x224.
Another Achiever—Helping Our Achievers

Our therapeutic horsemanship program at our Camp Cheerful is always looking for quality volunteers—and we’re lucky enough to have a great crew of them! One volunteer in particular is such a bright light we’re compelled to tell his story. Gene Lovasy has volunteered in our program for 12 years and has given more than 3,000 hours of service. Gene leads riding sessions on Saturday mornings and has always been a program advocate outside of the barn. He continually helps with fundraising and special events and is an articulate therapeutic horsemanship “evangelist” throughout the community, always working to recruit volunteers and participants.

Gene told us, “One of the reasons I got involved with the program is because it offered the ability to work with kids and to help them improve.”

Well, Gene has certainly accomplished this—and so much more. Thank you, Gene, for your tireless volunteer work and your constant support.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Hannah.Hayes@achievementctrs.org

Starting the Year Right

Every donation to the Achievement Centers for Children is an investment in the future of a child with a disability. Early intervention is an essential building block for a child’s success. Your generosity helps provide critical intervention services to parents like Matt and Hayley, who brought their son, Camden, to the Achievement Centers when they noticed that he wasn’t reaching developmental milestones.

While Camden will require ongoing services, his parents have seen dramatic improvements. He can now roll over, crawl, sit up unassisted, walk, run, jump, navigate stairs and is developing fine motor movements. Because of the interventions he’s received at the Achievement Centers, Camden is set to hit his milestones well into the future.

“He’s just really thrived. We’ve seen a tremendous improvement in his development overall. We’ve been so grateful for all of the support that we’ve received as a family and we celebrate every one of Camden’s milestones,” said Hayley.

Your annual fund gift will allow us to provide our family-focused, holistic, results-driven services to more than 2,800 individuals with disabilities and their families. Please consider making your gift to help provide more services based on our clients’ needs, regardless of their ability to pay. In support of the many families we’ve served over the last 81 years, please go online or use the enclosed envelope to make an investment that is meaningful to you. The return on your investment is guaranteed.

Cameron and his parents, Hayley and Matt, before a physical therapy session at our Westlake office.
ADAPTED SPORTS—Seasons of Fun

Our first-ever adapted Tennis season had a successful kickoff with 25 players walking onto a tennis court for the first time in their lives. Ryan Holesko, manager of adapted sports, with Matt, one of his many athletes, before a game under the lights in Strongsville.

Adapted Tennis season had a successful kickoff with 25 players walking onto a tennis court for the first time in their lives. Ryan Holesko, manager of adapted sports, noted, “We focused on racket skills, hand-eye coordination and technique but our favorite part is hitting the ball overhand and over the net! Our players grew their skills every week and we look forward to partnering with the Center Court Tennis Club again next year to be able to offer this new and exciting program annually.”

Parents have been raving about ACC’s growing adapted sports opportunities. Cathy Kingsley, parent of adapted sports athlete, 19-year-old Adam, happily offered her opinion of the program, “Our son has participated in many of the adapted sports programs over the past several years and we have been thrilled with how much fun he has, how inclusive the staff and volunteers are and how much exercise he gets. We could not be happier with the program.”

We’re always looking for new program offerings, volunteers and ways to provide opportunities for our athletes to play. If you have an athlete who is interested in joining us, or new program ideas, please contact Ryan.Holesko@achievemctrs.org.

A Unique Approach to Therapy

Achievement Centers for Children’s (ACC) therapy services is well-known for collaborations between physical, occupational and speech therapies. We are also known for a model of intervention that uses different levels of intensity to speed up and optimize client outcomes.

Children and young adults receiving physical therapy at ACC typically have medical conditions that require skilled, hands-on approaches. Our physical therapists have expertise in a wide variety of areas and are able to provide evidence-based, individualized therapy. At ACC, therapy intervention is viewed on a continuum across the lifespan; from birth to young adult, with the recognition that over the years, a child’s need for therapy will change, as should the options for intensity of therapy.

Along with traditional, one- to two-times per week protocols, we can offer “bursts” of therapy, scheduled for one or two weeks at a time, or we can provide up to three hours of therapy a day for three to four weeks. There are also options for reducing therapy to monthly or bimonthly intervals paired with a home program for those who require less frequent, hands-on therapy. Flexible scheduling lets us alter the intensity of treatment as needed, which maximizes results.

We are pleased to announce that our physical therapy team has expanded and that we now have immediate openings for therapy in Highland Hills (216.292.9700 x244) and Westlake (440.250.2520 x289).

2022 ADAPTED SPORTS CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adapted Soccer</td>
<td>January–March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland Browns Football</td>
<td>June–July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland Guardians Baseball</td>
<td>August–September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adapted Tennis</td>
<td>October–November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland Cavaliers Wheelchair Basketball</td>
<td>October 2022–April 2023</td>
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Thank you to our generous Adapted Sports Program Sponsors

PARTNERS

GOLD SPONSORS

- The David and Jacqueline Clark Foundation
- Cleveland Guardians
- Padua Franciscan High School
- Vana Family Foundation
- Don and Chrissy Wostmann Charitable Fund
18 Years of Dedication and Support

Long-time Achievement Centers supporter, Bob Wells, recently answered a few questions about why he and his wife, Kim, have maintained a relationship with our organization for almost two decades.

ACC: You served as a board member for the Achievement Centers for Children for years. How did you get introduced to the agency?

Bob: I was introduced to the Achievement Centers by my employer, Sherwin-Williams. The Achievement Centers had close ties to many of our corporate officers and had recently opened the Breen Family Center, named for Jack Breen, our retired CEO, and his wife Mary. But it’s not why I served on the Board for 11 years, and why Kim and I continue to support your mission 18 years later. I joined ACC out of a desire to serve the community and stayed with the agency out of a love for what you do and how you do it.

ACC: What impressed you about our work and mission?

Bob: What impressed us most is the deep compassion and commitment of ACC’s staff and service providers for, and to, the children you serve, and their families. My most poignant memories were hearing from parents who just learned that their child has special needs. It is uncharted territory for them, and many compare the feeling to being in a dark tunnel. They don’t know what to do or where to turn. The Achievement Centers becomes their guide, offering the services and the expertise to help their child reach their full potential. They often refer to ACC’s “Circle of Care,” a comprehensive approach that encompasses the entire family, and it is one of many things that make ACC unique.

ACC: Why do you think supporting non-profit organizations like ACC is important to the community?

Bob: We believe strongly in the intangible benefits of giving. When you donate to a cause that’s important to you, you not only help them continue their essential work, you also enhance your own emotional wellbeing, express gratitude for the gifts you have received in life and teach the next generation to care about others. These feelings translate into both a stronger community and a more fulfilled life. I encourage anyone who hasn’t visited ACC in-person to do so.

For the health of our clients, supporters and staff, our Cheers to Camp Cheerful fundraiser turned into a drive-through event this last September. Those attending had an opportunity to jump out of their car to have their photo taken, then drive on to pick up their food (which was prepared by Chef Brad Gambrell, executive chef at Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland). A dessert truck was the next stop as attendees drove through Camp Cheerful while families and supporters cheered them on.

In addition, we held an on-line auction featuring autographed baseballs, spa packages, a variety of experiences and plenty of fun items for children. Cheers raised nearly $82,000. Many thanks to all our generous attendees for helping make our reimagined Cheers to Camp Cheerful a success!
Throughout the spring of 2022, Achievement Centers for Children (ACC) will be strategically planning for our next three years. This is an opportunity for us to reflect, provide critical feedback and design ACC’s future including a roadmap on how we will continue to meet the needs of our community. We will be asking our families and other stakeholders to provide critical feedback on how we can improve—and what future services we can provide. Please keep an eye on your email for a survey, we will appreciate your thoughts.

Recently, someone asked me what I have experienced during my first five months as ACC’s president and CEO. Well, I have witnessed first-hand the relentless and unforgiving challenges that the global pandemic continues to have on the individuals and the families we serve. The challenges and barriers are endless in accessing the critical services that a person with disabilities regularly requires.

Knowing the pandemic’s negative impact makes me even more in awe and inspired by what I have witnessed first-hand. I have seen our critical services in action within our autism schools, therapy services, adapted sports programming, adult day programs, camp services, therapeutic horsemanship and family support services. These high-quality services continue to be offered during the pandemic—often face to face and sometimes via computer or phone. Our staff meets regularly to assess how we can continue to ensure our services are effective, impactful, innovative and within CDC guidelines, so both participants and staff remain healthy.

It is a privilege for me to be part of the enormous strides and growth occurring as a child and family or an adult with disabilities partners with Achievement Centers’ staff. Together, we are navigating challenges, removing barriers and working tirelessly to provide quality services during these unprecedented times.

Please join us by lending your voice and feedback as we plan ACC’s next three years. We want to hear from you. If you have ideas, comments or suggestions for us, feel free to contact me: Bernadette.Kerrigan@achievementctrs.org

Welcome New Board Members and Associate Board Leadership

Our Board of Directors provides guidance to our agency, helping us make strategic decisions and offering support as we grow. We would like to welcome our new board members who joined us recently.

- Julie Duda, Vice President, Member Excellence, Deloitte, LLP
- Courtney Foster, Director, Cearsulting
- Bonnie L. Kristan, Office Managing Shareholder, Littler Mendelson, PC
- Emily E. Lord, Director of Business Development, Albert M. Higley Co.
- Brian Raker, Senior Tax Manager, Deloitte
- Dalithia Smith, Vice President and Chief Human Resource Officer, Oatey Company
- Michelle Ryan Stewart, Senior Vice President of Advancement, Playhouse Square
- Sean P. Ward, Managing Partner, Blue Point Capital Partners

Emily Lord has taken the role as President of ACC’s Associate Board. Our Associate Board is a dynamic group of young professionals committed to supporting the Achievement Centers through philanthropic and volunteer activities including A Most Excellent Race, volunteering for programs and promoting awareness of ACC programs and services.

Congratulations to you all! We look forward to your ideas, support and energy.

A NOTE FROM BERNIE

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OUR MISSION is to empower children and adults with disabilities and their families to achieve their greatest potential. We are a non-profit organization providing support, services and programs for children and adults with disabilities and special needs and their families.

Programs, currently being provided in a variety of ways, include education and autism school; physical, occupational and speech therapy; Intensive Therapy Clinic; family support services; recreation, camp, sports and adult day program.

A trusted partner unlocking the potential beyond disabilities

LOCATIONS
Highland Hills
Westlake
Camp Cheerful in Strongsville
Providing services on-site, via telehealth and remote learning

AchievementCenters.org
216.292.9700

Join us on
SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2022 for
A MOST EXCELLENT RACE
at the Achievement Centers for Children’s Camp Cheerful in Strongsville. Runners and walkers can raise money for ACC recreation programs.

AchievementCenters.org/race

Join us for the 38th anniversary
BLUE CHIP BLUE TEE GOLF TOURNAMENT
MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2022
at the beautiful Kirtland Country Club.

AchievementCenters.org/golf

Join in the Fun Mark Your Calendar!

From now until FEBRUARY 11, it’s our ACC SUPER BOWL FUNDRAISER!
Enter our Super Bowl Squares Game or ACC’s Ultimate Tailgate Party raffle or win a signed, framed Peyton Manning Jersey.

For details, visit AchievementCenters.org/SuperBowl