

# INSIDE THE CENTER

SERVING CHILDREN & FAMILIES OF THE CHICAGO SOUTHLAND SINCE 1963

SUMMER 2010

Good Shepherd Center

## Annual Good Shepherd Center Celebrity Golf Outing – June 18

After a long winter of shoveling snow and hoping your car starts, the first thing that comes to mind for many is...golf season! With this in mind we would like to welcome you to join us for our Second Annual Good Shepherd Center Celebrity Golf Outing. It will be held at Ravisloe Country Club in Homewood on June 18th with a shotgun start at 9:00 AM.

When you enter the gates at Ravisloe and see the Spanish Mission-style clubhouse and beautiful landscape, you know you've arrived at a historic place. In fact, Ravisloe Country Club is one of the ten oldest golf courses in the State and was a private club until last year. Ravisloe offers a country-club atmosphere and 18 elegantly crafted and strategically engaging holes brought to you by a virtual "Dream Team" of golf architects, including the legendary Donald Ross and esteemed Dave Esler.

In addition to a beautiful course to enjoy, we will also be sharing the day with two Chicago Bear legends, **Steve McMichael**, who is the

Head Coach of the Chicago Slaughter indoor football team and **Doug Buffone**, a radio personality for WSCR sports radio. These guests will not only be golfing on the course that day, but will be available at the dinner and auction to sign autographs and take pictures.

Bears items will be available to purchase at the event including 8 x 10 color photos to have signed by our celebrity guests.

The day includes 18 holes of golf, the Celebrity Circle Reception/Auction, and lunch for



only \$110 per person. This also includes a continental breakfast, hotdog and drink on the course. Hole Sponsors are \$150 and discounted at \$525 with a foursome. Lunch and Celebrity Circle Reception admission/no golf is \$35. Event Sponsors are welcome at levels from \$1,000 to \$4,500. The top two sponsors will golf with Steve McMichael or Doug Buffone. Auction items and prize donations are most welcome.

This is a great way to support the children and families of Good Shepherd Center. Please be sure to contact Cheryl Assise at 708-335-0020 extension 20 today. Registration and sponsorship forms can also be found on our website [www.gscenter.org](http://www.gscenter.org).

We hope to see you on June 18th!



# From the Director

**Brendan McCormick, Executive Director**

This summer marks my 10th anniversary of working at Good Shepherd Center. During this time the agency has certainly gone through many changes, some good, and some bad but in both situations we always learned from the experience and continued to work to improve our services. While many do not like change, the one place we can all agree needs to change is how the politics of Illinois shape the lives of the people in this state.

Every Legislator in Springfield knows that our State is in financial crisis, to the point of a depression, yet they seem to have forgotten to do their job of finding ways to amend this situation. By this point most all of us agree that our Legislators must find areas to make cuts in spending, while also securing new revenue to fund the many, much needed community social service programs. Unfortunately we are still waiting for this to occur at this late date in the fiscal year.

Once again, our Governor announced a proposed budget for next fiscal year which includes cuts to many programs that assist children and families in need. This has been the case for as long as I have been at Good Shepherd Center. From all indications, our Senators and Representatives, Democrats and Republicans, appear ready to approve this budget without working toward a mutually agreed upon answer for the problems that we all face. This is wrong and as citizens of this state we must all make sure that our Legislators know that we disapprove!

How can you do this?

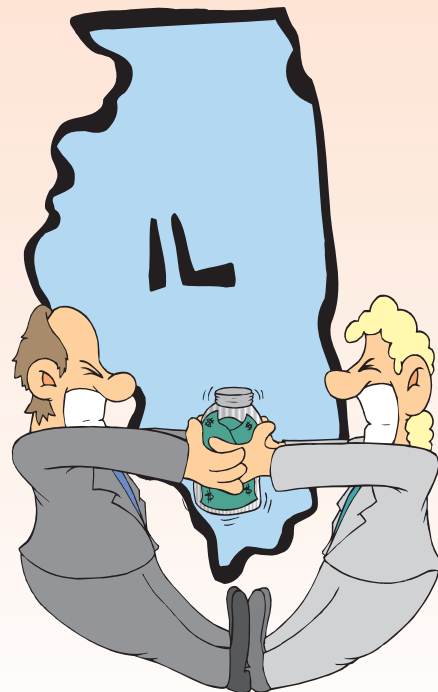
- Contact your Legislators and make them aware that they represent you and your family. Let them know how cuts in services would affect your family so that when cuts are made, they will be able to put a face to their decisions. If you are unsure of who your Legislator is simply go to <http://www.elections.state.il.us/DistrictLocator/selectsearchtype.aspx> and type in your home address.
- Attend local Legislative Forums to assure that Legislators from your area know that you are paying attention to the job they are doing in representing you.
- Contact your local paper's editorial board to submit your opinion on more cuts in the budget for children with and without developmental disabilities.

As always, the staff at Good Shepherd Center is here to assist you in your advocacy efforts any time you need, all you have to do is ask. By taking no action you are stating that it is fine with you if they continue to cut services for you and your children, thus they will continue to do so.

Above all, make sure your legislators know that you feel politics must be put aside for the greater good. If they choose not to act in a reasonable way by passing a budget that positively affects you or your community, you will remember this November when you step into the voting booth. We need Legislators to do their job of taking care of the people they serve, especially those that cannot care for themselves!



*Good Shepherd Center hosted five governmental/advocacy trainings for families in various districts over the past several months. Executive Director Brendan McCormick (left) presented tips on advocating for people with disabilities. The Chicago Heights training introduced State Senator Toi Hutchinson (center) and State Representative Anthony DeLuca who also presented on effective ways to work with legislators.*



# Staff Profile

## Pat Heath

Pat Heath started out as a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant with a degree from South Suburban College in 1982. She went back to school and graduated in 2003 with a Master's degree in Occupational Therapy from University of Findlay in Ohio. Pat specializes in pediatrics. Good Shepherd Center has been fortunate to have Pat working in the Early Intervention programs for eleven years. According to Pat, "I like working with children and at Good Shepherd Center, I have the opportunity to work with all kinds of kids. My first love is the little ones as I can truly help

change their lives. Early Intervention makes a huge difference."

Pat and her husband Jim have three children. Sean is their oldest, who has served in Iraq twice and is still in the Army. Their daughter Gail is an attorney in the state of Maryland. They adopted their daughter Amber, who has special needs, when she was 4 1/2. Amber celebrates her 30th birthday this month.

Pat enjoys many hobbies including kayaking, reading, travel and swimming.



## Focus On Occupational Therapy

Often, when people first hear the term "Occupational Therapy", they think it is about finding a job! That is not at all what it is! "Occupational" refers to the occupation of a person's life. This varies, depending on the stage of life the person is in. For instance, the occupation of a person who has suffered a stroke may be to increase the use of the affected side and to improve the ability to engage in various self-care skills. Occupational Therapy may be seen in a wide variety

of settings, including hospitals, schools, homes, geriatric facilities, and hand clinics, to name a few. From preemies to seniors, many people benefit from Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy uses various activities, with the primary focus on increasing independence in whatever "occupation" the person is involved in at the time.

At Good Shepherd Center, Occupational Therapists work with children to help them in numerous ways. Some areas include fine motor, visual-motor, dressing, feeding, and sensory processing skills. For a child, his/her occupation is play. Many therapeutic activities are play-based, and the child does not even realize he/she is "working" to improve a specific area. By adapting toys or activities when needed, the child is able to be successful, increase his/her developmental growth, and improve his/



her self-esteem. These are all very important aspects in the child's "occupation" of life.

Occupational Therapy is also a key therapy for children with sensory processing disorders (how children interact within their environment and the people around them.) These children need assistance in regulating their sensory-system, and through Occupational Therapy these issues can be addressed.

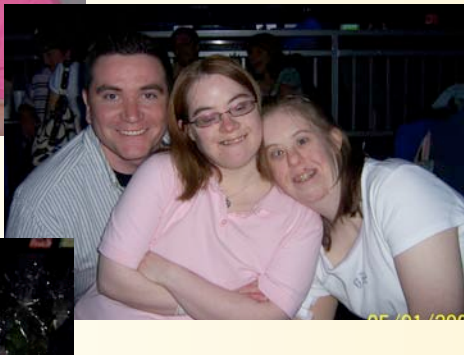
To find out more about Occupational Therapy Services at Good Shepherd Center, please call **708-335-0020 x 10**.



# 19th Annual Candlelight Bowl & Raffle – Tons of Fun

A great time was had by all at Good Shepherd Center's Annual Candlelight Bowl on February 27, 2010 at Oak Forest Bowl. Nearly \$12,000 was raised to benefit the individuals and families of Good Shepherd Center. Bowling and a silent auction kept everyone busy while waiting for the big raffle winners to be drawn.

Many thanks go out to the Aileen S. Andrew Foundation as the Event Sponsor, and the many individuals and companies who donated to the silent auction. The event wouldn't be possible without the dedicated Good Shepherd Center staff and volunteers who made everything run smoothly.



## Annual Cash Raffle Winners

- \$1000 Winner—Vernola Thomas
- \$500 Winner—Mr Dybas
- \$250 Winner—John Budzinski
- \$100 Winner—Julie Janicek



## Candlelight Sponsor & Donors



- Allied Insurance
- American Modern Insurance
- Art In Vision/Mike Visser
- Aurelio's Restaurant/Homewood
- Best Western Oak Forest
- John Budzinski
- Chicago Bears
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- Computer & Network Specialists, Inc.
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- In-Print Graphics/Oak Forest
- Joliet Jackhammers
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- Yvonne & Derek Kratz
- Jeffrey Lamorte
- Alan Lefkowitz
- Brendan & Lorraine McCormick
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- Martha & Dennis O'Boyle
- Becky O'Neill
- Pinky's/Hazel Crest
- Ravisloe Country Club
- Realms of Ruin Paint Park
- Linda & Dennis Rockett
- Shedd Aquarium/Chicago
- Silver Lake Country Club
- Sid's Greenhouse
- Frank Stanicek
- Alice & Bryan Starkey
- Doris & Ed Sweeney
- Vernola & Wayne Thomas
- Paula & Tom Tomaszewski
- Trader Joe's/Orland Park
- Josh & Katie Tyler
- Marilyn Tyler
- Shannon Visser
- White Fence Farm
- Windy City ThunderBolts

# Respite News

Good Shepherd Center's In-Home Respite Care Program provides short-term, intermittent care for persons with developmental disabilities in their natural, guardian, or foster family home. Professional respite staff offers care for individuals of any age with special needs. Siblings under the age of 18 are included. The objective of the program is to provide temporary relief for the primary caregiver. The majority of this program is funded from the Department of Human Services, so there is no charge to qualified individuals and their families.

The Department of Human Services continues to fund Good Shepherd Center's In-Home Respite Care until **June 30, 2010**. At this time, funding for Respite Care in the next fiscal year has not been approved. The Respite Department is urging all families to write to their legislators. When writing, it is helpful to submit a personal account of the following:

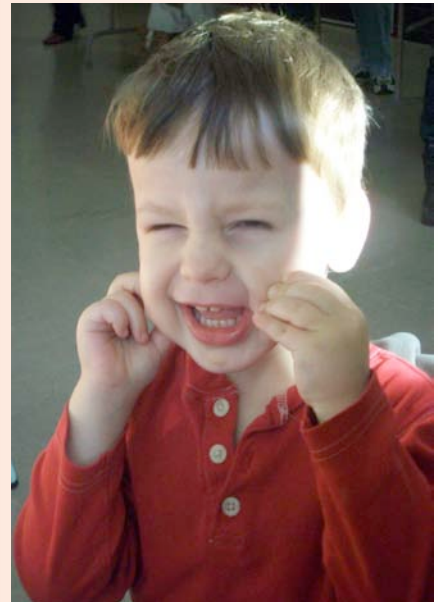
- Positive stories of personal growth for individuals with disabilities; as well as positive results for the family due to the availability of In-Home Respite Care.
- Stories detailing negative impact of the elimination or reduction of respite for families and individuals (i.e. caregiver would have to quit school, church functions, siblings' functions etc.)
- Economic impact issues (i.e. caregivers couldn't work, attend school etc.)

To locate your legislators, go to:

[www.elections.state.il.us/DistrictLocator/SelectSearchType/asp](http://www.elections.state.il.us/DistrictLocator/SelectSearchType/asp)

The good news is that any family wishing to enroll in In-Home Respite Care can still do so, and is encouraged to do this as soon as possible. Any questions about our program please call Dawn Dixon at 708-335-0020 ext 22.

If you know of anyone interested in becoming a Respite Care Worker who has experience working with children with developmental disabilities, please contact Vernola Thomas at 708-335-0020 ext. 23.



## Board of Directors

*Josh Tyler • President*  
*Jay Ruklic • Vice President*  
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*Doris Sweeney*  
*Lee Ann Tai*  
*Tom Tomaszewski*  
*Nancy Wilson*

## Good Shepherd Center Mission Statement

Good Shepherd Center, a community advocate for children and adults with and without disabilities, provides support, service, and education to empower individuals and families to lead exceptional lives.

501 © (3) Organization

## New Good Shepherd Center Website

Check out our new website at

[www.gscenter.org](http://www.gscenter.org)

Website compliments of

**Sandi Jones**

Computer & Network Specialists, Inc.  
17900 Dixie Hwy, Ste 15, Homewood  
708-922-0050

[www.CNSpecialists.com](http://www.CNSpecialists.com)



## ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Please let us know if we need to correct your address, add an email address, or add/remove you from our mailing list.

Call (708)335-0020 x 10

or email the change to:

[lrockett@gscenter.org](mailto:lrockett@gscenter.org)

# Parent Institute Day

## A Conference Advocating for Strong Children and Strong Communities

We are never too old to learn... a testimony to everyone who attended the 19th Annual Parent Institute Day Conference on Friday March 26th at Prairie State College in Chicago Heights. This conference, the largest bilingual conference in the Chicagoland area, was packed with more than 40 individual workshops in English and Spanish. Parents, educators, healthcare and childcare workers participate in this conference to learn more about issues from child behaviors to health, discipline, disability information and much, much more.

The inspiring Keynote Speaker for the English program was Psychologist Dr. John Farrell, highlighting the best selling book *The Five Love Languages of Children* by Gary Chapman. According to Good Shepherd Center Executive Director Brendan McCormick, "The information shared at this keynote really works! I used the information I learned with my kids and it proved very helpful in communicating with them!" The Spanish Keynote Speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch, flew in from Las Vegas to wow the crowd on Hispanic community traditions, the value of history and the importance of development and growth of the community. Ms Kickbusch is from the Educational Achievement Services and is a nationally renowned speaker, author and the highest ranking Hispanic Woman in the U.S. Army Combat Support Field.

Rave reviews from attendees and exhibitors make this event something to remember for next year. Whether you're looking for continuing education credits or interested in learning more about parenting and relating to children, this conference has something for everyone. For more information on topics and presentations for the 2011 conference, please contact Maggie Keane at [mkeane@gscenter.org](mailto:mkeane@gscenter.org) or 708-957-2600. For vendor space and sponsorship information, contact Cheryl Assise at [cassise@gscenter.org](mailto:cassise@gscenter.org) or 708-335-0020 x 20.



We'd like to thank our generous Event Sponsors for their support



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Chiro One Wellness Center  
Costco Wholesale  
Division of Specialized Care for Children @ UIC  
Duo's "Nearly Nu" Shop  
Discovery Toys - Jill Connors  
El Valor Cooperation  
Family Time Magazine  
Good Shepherd Center  
Harmony Health Plan of Illinois  
Health on Earth Wellness Centers, UC  
Illinois Action for Children

Illinois Attorney General's Office  
Pace Suburban Bus  
Parents Association for Cerebral Palsy Children, Inc.  
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Suburban Access, Inc.  
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Usborne Books and More

### Thank you Workshop Sponsors

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In Memory of Louise Schweinfurth, founder of Good Shepherd Center

# Thank You

Many thanks to the following individuals, corporations and service groups, who have donated to Good Shepherd Center during the period of January 1 to April 30, 2010. Candlelight Bowl donors are listed on page 4. Parent Institute Day donors are listed on page 6.

## Memorials

*Donald Alpers*

*Virginia & Dave Alpers*

*Ruth & Donald Alpers*

*Lois Alpers*

*Christine Ryden*

*Cathy & Robert Thompson*

*Lucille Campbell*

*Laverne & James McManemy*

*Virginia Shipman*

*Doris & Edward Sweeney*

*Nancy Molander-Price*

*Doug Price*

*Elisa Ann Shipman*

*Kathleen & Samuel Carothers*

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*Nancy Larocque*

*Agnes Pisano*

*Geraline Pearson*

*Suburban Service League*

*Bridget & David Van Eekeren*

*Shannon & Michael Visser*



*Sam Balark (left) from AT&T was one of the first donors to Good Shepherd Center's Second Annual Golf Outing coming up on June 18th. AT&T will be a Breakfast Sponsor for this popular event.*



## From the Board President

### Josh Tyler

It is truly an honor and a privilege to have been named the President of the Board of Directors. I am very excited to continue to be a part of Good Shepherd Center and I have enjoyed my new position as well as the responsibilities that go with it. The Board is committed to assisting Good Shepherd Center and to help maintain the organization's already impeccable reputation as a premier service organization. It is also our goal to keep moving forward, look for new opportunities and never be satisfied with just being "good enough". In the next few months the Board will be discussing issues and policies and taking actions to ensure that Good Shepherd Center continues to grow and prosper.

Community Partner Program  
17512 Carriageway  
Hazel Crest, IL 60429  
(708) 957-2600

[www.goodshepherdcenteronline.com](http://www.goodshepherdcenteronline.com)

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*Serving Children & Families Since 1963*  
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### Good Shepherd Center is Going Green

Send us your email address and we will send you our quarterly newsletter via email. Help us save resources and get the same great news about happenings at the Good Shepherd Center.

[cassise@goodshepherdcenteronline.com](mailto:cassise@goodshepherdcenteronline.com)



# THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST

AND AFFILIATES

Many thanks for your generous donation in support of Good Shepherd Center and the individuals and families served.



**United Way  
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