



# Children's Therapy Center

## A Story of Success: Elizabeth Urbaniak

To people such as Elizabeth Urbaniak, a 23-year-old college student at Saint Ambrose University, the Children's Therapy Center is more than just a place to go in order to receive therapy.

"As a child, not only did they help me with therapy, they were also there to give me emotional support and to help answer any questions that I may have had" said Elizabeth.

Elizabeth was one of the many children, with conditions such as Spina Bifida, whom the Children's Therapy Center has helped over the years. Elizabeth was born with Spina Bifida, and became a patient at the center when she was only six-months-old. There, the center helped her with her condition, which effects her walking, and presents some neurological and learning issues. Elizabeth continued to be a patient at the center into her early teen years.

Now, Elizabeth is a full-time student at Saint Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. She enjoys living independently in the college

dorms, as well as participating in clubs such as Circle K, Phi Eta Sigma, and University Choral. In the summer, Elizabeth stays busy by working at the Arsenal through a program called "Federal Jobs for Students with Disabilities."

**"It feels great being able to give back to the people who gave so much to me as a child."**

Elizabeth received her Associate of Arts in 2006 from Black Hawk Community College. Currently, she is studying PR and Marketing, and anticipates graduating with her Bachelor of Arts in December of 2008.



Elizabeth, doing homework in her dorm room at the Saint Ambrose University campus.

Not only is Elizabeth a full-time student, she is also an avid supporter and volunteer of the place that gave her opportunities and encouragement throughout her adolescent years.

"It feels great being able to give back to the people who gave so much to me as a child," Elizabeth said with a smile.

Elizabeth now volunteers at events such as the Telethon, which occurs every spring. She is a VIP volunteer, meaning she is responsible for collecting pledges pre-telethon, as well as answering phones the day of the event.

Elizabeth, a now independent college student, still faces challenges because of Spina Bifida. By volunteering her time and support to the Children's Therapy Center, Elizabeth hopes her contributions will help other patients of the center continue to overcome similar obstacles, and fulfill their dreams the way she continues to aspire.

Children's Therapy Center  
of the Quad Cities

Celebrating the Child

Winter 2007



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## Putting Our Money Where Our Mission Is

In our most recent fiscal year, the Children's Therapy Center was able to provide 12,058 units of physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy to local children, and to generate \$68,000 more revenues than expenses for the year. The seeds of this success were planted in 2002, when the then Easter Seal Foundation Board of Directors made the decision to remain a local program and became the Children's Therapy Center of the Quad Cities. This success blossomed under the leadership of the local Board of Directors and the support of the Quad Cities community.



**George McDoniel,  
Executive Director of the  
Children's Therapy Center**

It has been a goal of the Children's Therapy Center to increase the level of services to local children, while at the same time, balance the budget for the year. In fiscal year 2006-2007, this goal was achieved. This achievement is the result of more effective billing and collections, and of more productive grant writing and special event fundraising. Board members, staff members, consumer families, volunteers, and many caring people in our Quad Cities community contributed to the success of the Children's Therapy Center this past year.

One of the first decisions made by our volunteer Board of Directors following the success of this past year clearly demonstrates the strong commitment of the Children's Therapy Center of the Quad Cities to local children in our community. The Board of Directors accepted the recommendation of three of its committees (made up of Board members, staff members, consumers, and community volunteers) to add three therapy staff in the new fiscal year. These three therapy staff members will add 90 hours of therapy services for children with developmental disabilities or with developmental delays in the Quad Cities area. Truly, the Children's Therapy Center of the Quad Cities puts its money where its mission is!

This is not only the time to celebrate the increase in services, but also a time to reaffirm our collective commitment to helping young children in our community. Children who receive needed therapy services now at a young age have a much greater chance at becoming independent and more productive adults later. Our entire community benefits when young children receive the services they need.

We at the Children's Therapy Center invite you to join us in our effort to help young children in our community. Your involvement will make a positive difference not only for a child, but also for our Quad Cities community.

George McDoniel  
Executive Director

## Services Provided

The Children's Therapy Center of the Quad Cities, NFP is a federally qualified, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization. We are dedicated to our mission of providing direct therapy and assistance to children and adults in our community, helping them to attain the highest level of independence possible.

### Occupational Therapy

- Fine Motor Development
- Sensory Integration Evaluation & Treatment
- Therapeutic Listening Program
- Neuro-Developmental Treatment

### Physical Therapy

- Neuro-Developmental Treatment
- Assistive Technology

### Speech Therapy

- Speech-Language Therapy

- Oral-Motor Therapy
- Feeding Therapy

### Other Services

- Camp Independence
- Special Therapy Programs



## Volunteers

Non-profit organizations such as the Children's Therapy Center wouldn't run efficiently without the help of its volunteers. Volunteers at the center work to:

- Increase the ability of the center to benefit people
- Respond to the center's problems by doing what needs to get done
- Expand the delivery of services

**"Volunteers are 'people helpers' who reach out to their communities—responding to needs wherever they exist."**

in ways that benefit the children, as well as the whole community

- Direct human resources to provide help where it's needed most

Volunteers, in general, are able to help shape a better future. Volunteers are

"people helpers" who reach out to their communities—responding to needs wherever they exist.

*\*On behalf of the center, we would like to thank all our volunteers who help to make our events and services possible. Thank you for your contributions of time, support, and energy. Your desire to make a difference is reflected in the continued growth and opportunities our center provides.*

*Thank you,  
The Children's Therapy Center*

## Commitment to Care

In the past year, the Children's Therapy Center of the Quad Cities provided 12,058 units of physical, occupational, and speech therapy to local children.

Of those 12,058 units provided, 48% of these services were not

reimbursed.

This compares to the year 2002, when the Easter Seal Foundation provided 8,332 units of therapy.



These numbers reflect a 44% increase in

therapy units provided.

It's clear that our

decision to remain a

local organization was right

for the children of our

community.

# Three New Therapists Join the Center September 1, 2007



Our new therapists are: Sarah Polich, Christy Hansen, & Tricia L. Kostner-Nicholson.

The Children's Therapy Center is proud to announce the addition of three new therapists to our center. The new therapists are: Christy Hansen, MOTR/L; Tricia L. Kostner-Nicholson, M.S. CCC-SLP; and Sarah Polich, PT, DPT, ATRIC.

"With more therapists, we will be even better equipped to continue to support our mission of providing direct therapy, dedication, and assistance to our clients."

We decided to hire more therapists in order to meet our increasing need for the services offered by our center. With more therapists, we will be even better equipped to continue to support our mission of providing direct therapy, dedication, and assistance to our clients.

## Meet Our Therapists

### ***Christy Hansen, MOTR/L;***

Christy received her Masters of Occupational Therapy from Saint Ambrose University. Christy has Level II Fieldwork experience through working with Trinity Outpatient Rehabilitation Services from January 2007- March 2007. Also, Christy has experience in Level II Fieldwork from the Children's Therapy Center in April 2007-June 2007, as well as OT experience at Unified Therapy Services, located in Dubuque, Iowa, from July 2007 through the present.

### ***Jean Herzfeldt, OTR/L;***

Jean focuses on Fine Motor, Sensory Integration and Therapeutic Taping. Jean completed her Bachelors degree in Occupational Therapy from the College of St. Catherine in 2002. She received extensive training using the Neuro-Developmental Treatment approach with babies and children who have neuromotor impairments.

### ***Tricia L Kostner-Nicholson, M.S. CCC-SLP;***

Tricia received her Masters of Science in Speech- Language Pathology from Rush University. Tricia has experience with children who have severe behavioral issues, cleft palate, and early intervention. Tricia also participated in research and presented on childhood apraxia of speech.

### ***Sarah Polich, PT, DPT, ATRIC;***

Sarah received her Doctor of Physical Therapy from Saint Ambrose University in 2004. Sarah's experience includes: one year pediatrics, three years as a PT, and experience in hippotherapy and as an aquatic specialist. Additional experience includes a five day Neuro-Developmental Treatment course on the assessment and treatment of babies.

### ***Sara Stout, MA, CCC-SLP;***

Sara received her Masters of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Northern Iowa. Sara has over ten years of experience with pediatric services in many areas of specialized training focusing on communicative and feeding disorders.

### ***Carrie Swanson, PT, MPT;***

Carrie received her Masters of Physical Therapy from St. Ambrose University. Carrie has specialized pediatric training in assessment and treatment of babies with torticollis and the use of electrical stimulation with the pediatric population. Carrie also received extensive training using the Neuro-Developmental Treatment approach with babies and children who have neuromotor impairments.

### ***Kim Utsinger, PT, MPT;***

Kim received her Masters of Physical Therapy from St. Ambrose University. Kim has 8 years of experience in Physical Therapy. She also has specialized pediatric training in many areas including assessment and treatment of high risk infants, spasticity management in children with cerebral palsy, and use of taping and electrical stimulation with children who have neuromotor impairments. Kim also received extensive training in the Neuro-Developmental Treatment approach.

## New Board Member– Jodi Claeys

Jodi Claeys, owner of Claeys Auto Supply and controller for Dave's Floor Trends, found out how important it is for children with special needs to have a center to turn to, when her son, Greg, was born 26-years-ago.

Greg was born with neuroblastoma cancer. He had his first surgery when he was six-months-old, and his last tumor was removed when he was three-years-old. During this difficult time, Ms. Claeys was a volunteer for the Quad City Candle Lighters. Gratefully, Greg was declared cancer free at the age of three. After volunteering, with the Quad City Candle Lighters, Ms. Claeys

hoped to one day become involved with another organization that helps children with special needs.

Ms. Claeys became interested in the Children's Therapy Center six-months-ago, when she was asked if Dave's Floor Trends would donate carpet for the Chuck Long Sports Auction. At this time, she asked the center if there was anything else she could contribute. Not long after this conversation, she was asked to join the Board.

Ms. Claeys not only offers professional skills to the Board, such as accounting, ownership and

controller skills, she also offers a personal aspect as well. Being a mother of a special needs child, she knows "the need doesn't stop when the child is declared cancer free."

Ms. Claeys is impressed that the money raised by the Children's Therapy Center remains local. She finds that membership on the Board is the most rewarding when she is able to see results due to the help that the children receive. Being a mother of two, as well as having to face the difficulties in her own child's past, she recognizes the importance of the center, and is glad to be a part of changing children's lives.

## New Board Member– Cindy Groene

Cindy Groene, born and raised in Rock Island, has a background in health care, 12 years of insurance experience, and currently is the Director of Regulatory and Government Affairs with United HealthCare for the Central Region.

"It's rewarding to see the good work that's been done, and then to be asked to help continue this good work for the children in our community."

For these reasons, Ms. Groene's husband, Bob Groene, couldn't help but mention her to W.K. Juncker, Director of Resource Development at the Children's Therapy Center, as a potential candidate for the Board of Directors.

Upon presenting Ms. Groene to the Board, it was decided by all that she would be a "good fit."

When asked about the Board, Ms. Groene stated, "It's rewarding to see the good work that's been done, and then to be asked to help continue this good work for the children in our community."

Ms. Groene eagerly anticipates that the work, which has previously been established, will continue to help more and more kids. As a new Board member, she'd like to see the spirit of the center continue to grow.

## Board of Directors

### President:

Ginger Long

### Vice President:

David M. Thies

### Secretary:

Dan Donahue

### Treasurer:

Vernon Stackhouse

Jodi Claeys

Sandra Seeley-Copley

Missy Dippel

Sandra Fuller

Cindy Groene

Jon Honsey

Terri Martin

Mike Mickle

Christopher Moen, M..D

Marcy O'Brien

Angie Peterson

Larry Pozzi

Dawn Taghon

Marilyn Urbaniak

Natalie Wilson

## Planning Your Gift

By establishing a planned giving program, the Children's Therapy Center has created an important opportunity for you to invest in the human needs and future of our community. Such investments are tailored to meet your own financial goals.

All types of contributions, money or property, are sought and welcomed. Gifts of all sizes are essential for our goal to be met. Individuals, clubs, organizations, businesses, corporations, etc... may make a gift of any type or amount.



These contributions are sought and may include:

- money
- stocks and bonds
- real estate
- life insurance policies
- bequests through wills
- memorials
- monthly pledges
- trusts
- gifts of remainder interest
- tangible personal property

## Endowment Fund: The Gift that keeps on Giving

The importance of establishing an Endowment Fund to secure the future of the Children's Therapy Center has been discussed on numerous occasions during our past Board of Director meetings. During our May 2007 Board meeting, Barbara Melbourne, of the Community Foundation of the Great River Bend, presented to the Board and emphasized several important benefits of an Endowment Fund to an organization such as the Children's Therapy Center.

Endowment Funds, such as our Endowment at the Community Foundation of the Great River Bend, provides a permanent source of support in perpetuity. Unlike annual fund donations— which are vital to the day-to-day operations— gifts toward the Endowment benefit the Children's Therapy

Center, and the people we serve, forever.

Over time, the earnings from this Endowment Fund will provide a steady stream of resources, enabling us to— among other things— accumulate funds for renewal and enhancement of facilities and equipment; carry out long-term planning; respond effectively to unmet needs

**“Unlike annual fund donations— which are vital to the day-to-day operations— gifts towards the Endowment benefit the Children's Therapy Center, and the people we serve, forever.”**

in our community; and meet any unexpected shortfalls in normal operating support that can occur from time to time.

Benefits of an Endowment include:

- Securing a permanent source of funds for enrichment of programs & stability of programming
- Increased giving opportunities for interested donors
- Eliminating costly & time-consuming audit & tax reporting requirements
- Improving investment opportunities & lowering costs
- Gaining access to Foundation staff with endowment development expertise

For more information about the Children's Therapy Center Endowment Fund, Please Call: W.K. Juncker at (309) 762-9552 Ext. 16.

## 2007 Grantor's List

- ~Amy Helpenstell Foundation
- ~Community Development Block Grant- City of Moline
- ~Community Foundation of the Great River Bend
- ~Deere & Company
- ~Doris & Victor Day Foundation
- ~Home Builders Association of the Quad Cities, Inc.
- ~Independent Physicians Association of the Quad Cities
- ~Junior Board of Rock Island
- ~Le Claire Manufacturing Company
- ~Mel McKay Charitable Trust
- ~Moline Foundation
- ~Wilbert J. & Carol A. Keppy Charitable Foundation
- ~Rauch Family Foundation
- ~Riverboat Development Authority
- ~Rock Island Community Foundation
- ~Rock Island County Medical Society Alliance
- ~Scott County Medical Society Alliance
- ~Target
- ~Trinity Regional Health System Community Benefits Grant

## Staff

**Executive Director:**  
George McDoniel, MA

**Speech-Language**

**Pathologists:**

Tricia L. Kostner-  
Nicholson, M.S. CCC-SLP  
Sara Stout, MA, CCC-  
SLP



Laura Teitsch and Cara Saul,  
members of the Office  
Support Staff at the center.

**Physical Therapists:**

Sarah Polich, PT, DPT,  
ATRIC  
Carrie Swanson, MPT  
Kim Utsinger, MPT

**Occupational Therapists:**

Christy Hansen, MOTR/L  
Jean Herzfeldt, OTR/L

**Henry County Case  
Worker:**

Nancy Noord, MS

**Resource Development:**

Rachel Amacher  
W.K. Juncker

Cara Saul

**Business Office:**

Sandy Simeons  
Laura Teitsch

## 2008 Upcoming Events

Chuck Long Sports Auction- March 8th, Isle of Capri - Reservations Required

Kiwanis Jazz Festival- April 19 & 20

Telethon- April

Cans for Children- May 30, 31, & June 1, at all Iowa Quad Cities HyVee Stores.

Quad Cities Polo Club/ Children's Therapy Center Polo Match- August 9

Mississippi Valley Bass Clubs'/Children's Therapy Center Bass Tournament- August 16

For Information on these events please contact:

W.K. Juncker- Children's Therapy Center of the Quad Cities/ 309-762-9552 ext. 16



## Children's Therapy Center of the Quad Cities

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Celebrating the Child



### **Our Mission:**

**To assist persons with disabilities to achieve their highest level of independence. To this end, the Children's Therapy Center of the Quad Cities provides pediatric therapy services including: physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, information and referral, as well as the opportunity for children and adults to attend Camp Independence.**