



A Publication of **Wendell Foster's Campus for Developmental Disabilities**

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Looking Back

Over the course of 2007 **Wendell Foster's Campus for Developmental Disabilities** accomplished several important goals to enhance the services we provide, as well as the lives of those we serve. The following are the achievements of which we feel so proud that we would like to share them with you, our supporters:

- ✓ Major programs (Intermediate Care Facility, Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility, Supports for Community Living) plus the dietary services department received deficiency-free licensure surveys
- ✓ New ICF/MR "module" training programs were implemented to provide fulfilling daytime activities for individuals in ICF/MR
- ✓ Initiated new outpatient Developmental Intervention program which serves 30 infants and toddlers (For more on DI services see page 2)
- ✓ Expanded outpatient speech therapy services to reach more children and adults
- ✓ Maintained regular weekly worship services on campus staffed by volunteers
- ✓ Engaged more Campus residents in paid work program at Hugh Sandefur Industries to bring total employed to one-third of individuals
- ✓ Former Governor and Mrs. Fletcher visited and toured Campus offering praise of the wide array of services
- ✓ Cottage Program Directors became licensed as Administrators
- ✓ Western Kentucky Assistive Technology Center expanded its outreach and credibility as a resource to 38 KY counties plus the Southern Indiana region
- ✓ Western Kentucky Assistive Technology Center obtained approval as a First Steps assistive technology products vendor
- ✓ Two CORF therapists earned Assistive Technology Practitioner Credentials bringing the total of accredited therapists to five
- ✓ Recorded hours for 120 volunteers
- ✓ Sponsored a regional autism training conference
- ✓ Sponsored regional ARC of KY parent training conferences on futures planning and KY services
- ✓ Continued planning and fund raising for the construction of the Sensory Park
- ✓ Provided leadership, in collaboration with Daviess County Public Schools, for new summer camp serving children with autism
- ✓ Planning for additional SCL homes initiated (To read more about Campus plans for SCL homes see page 3)
- ✓ Purchased a new wheelchair accessible van allowing each ICF cottage to use individual van

These amazing successes would not be possible without the dedicated support of donors, volunteers, staff and Board of Directors. We would like to take this time to thank those who have devoted their service and assistance to the Campus. Please take a moment to review our last pages for a list of this year's donors. These generous community members have supported the Campus this year and we extend our appreciation and invite you to continue the exciting journey with us as we look toward the next sixty years.

"Empowering People, Realizing Dreams"

Celebrating the Next Sixty Years: What's to Come with Wendell Foster's Campus and the Future of Services for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities...

Developmental Intervention Services

After years of serving individuals with developmental disabilities new knowledge has made it evident that one of the most effective tools to allow individuals to become participative society members who use their skills to work, learn, build relationships and develop esteem is early intervention. Discovering disabilities at a young age is imperative to providing apt services that will provide children with the opportunity to grow into highly-functioning adults. Today, many disorders and disabilities can be diagnosed when a child is in the pre-natal or infant stages.

Following diagnosis parents may elect to have a developmental interventionist (DI), like Wendell Foster's Campus' Amy Boswell, provide in-home "play therapy". A trained DI spends time with the child and the family using natural play items in a safe and familiar environment to develop social, cognitive, emotional and behavioral skills. Amy currently treats 30 children ranging in age from birth to three years in four counties.

Here, Amy is seen with Wilson Rose, age 35 months, who is seen for Developmental Intervention and Speech



services, introducing natural play. With Wilson, Amy uses natural play to work on communication skills, attention to task, appropriate play development, and behavior intervention. Wilson has made great progress in all areas and will be transitioning to preschool services in January.

Early intervention is crucial because children with different diagnoses can be put on schedules and routines earlier in life to facilitate future life transitions. Focus is placed on developing the skills they need in a safe and nurturing environment with the goal that they will begin to reach developmental norms and objectives .

Abby is also a patient of Amy Boswell seen for



developmental and behavioral intervention, as well as parent education. Abby has been showing excellent progress

and pairs this therapy with speech services from Wendell Foster's Campus.

At WFC, we feel that the future of services for individuals with developmental disabilities lies in early developmental intervention services. For that reason we will continue to work to expand the services that we provide to children and infants to ensure that these children receive our standard of excellence in treatment. The more we reach these younger individuals, the more we will be able to shape their futures to be bright and hopeful.

Western Kentucky Assistive Technology Program

Western Kentucky Assistive Technology Center (WKATC) is located in the Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility of Wendell Foster's Campus. Housing speech devices, magnifying machines, Braille makers, computer gadgets, interactive software, developmental toys and positioning tools, WKATC offers persons with disabilities and/or their caregivers an opportunity to get up close and personal with the most cutting-edge equipment to test their practicality and appeal. WKATC serves thousands of individuals in 38 Kentucky counties as well as the Southern Indiana region. Kris Hayes, Assistive Technology Coordinator, states that WKATC is very much a "candy store for individuals with disabilities and their therapists". The lab provides an opportunity for persons with disabilities, their therapists and caretakers to test-drive new products before purchasing them. "Having the ability to try out this equipment has substantial advantages," states Kris, "including saving time and money and ultimately advancing an individual's independence."

WKATC provides a service to individuals with disabilities and their families that allows them to access technological devices that can further enhance sensory adaptation, speech skills and cognitive ability. While visiting WKATC potential recipients can use accessible computers with touch screens and extension apparatuses to allow those with limited mobility to access computer navigation.

As the world of developmental disabilities evolves, more and more individuals desire to live at home or in semi-independent housing (similar to the Campus' Homes by Choice). Assistive technology is the instrument that bridges the existing gap to provide children and adults with the tools to foster the development necessary to live independently. In 2008 Kris hopes to continue to facilitate CEU training events for therapists and educators, increase the awareness of WKATC's resources and collaborate with the state's higher education institutions for inclusion of Assistive Technology instruction requirements for students in related fields.

The Transition: Why Expand Supports for Community Living (SCL)?

Five cottage-like homes sit on Sixth Street, these are home-sweet-home to individuals who have elected to reside in Wendell Foster's Campus *Homes by Choice, Supports for Community Living Homes* (SCL). SCL homes provide a smaller, more intimate living environment in which men and women live with two same-gender housemates, a much more personal approach to support than is possible with the *Intermediate Care Facility* in which individuals share their homes with fifteen other men and women.

SCL is distinct in that it creates the opportunity for individuals with disabilities and their families to have a choice... what type of choice? Transitioning into a community setting is a choice in and of itself for most men and women. And a large one, at that. For many it is frightening to move from the structured, scheduled environment in which they have always lived to a less restrictive, self-guided environment. Usually, the move is at once enticing and terrifying for individuals and their families. The Campus has attempted to make this transition a little smoother by locating the homes on Campus grounds to provide participants with nearby nursing staff in case of medical emergencies. Another

unique attribute of Wendell Foster's Campus' SCL program is the population supported within. Most of the men and women in SCL homes on Campus are more physically-involved than participants served by other providers. Other organizations serve individuals who are physically high-functioning, but may have behavioral issues, Wendell Foster's Campus has found its niche in the community by providing housing to individuals with exceptional physical attributes.

SCL provides individuals with the difficult and necessary choice of deciding for themselves what to do with their time, what to prepare and eat for their meals, and when and how to shop for personal items.

This beneficial freedom of choice for individuals, along with the nationwide movement towards community living, has encouraged Wendell Foster's Campus to construct another SCL home on Center Street in 2008 that will serve three more individuals with disabilities in a community setting.

SCL Coordinator, Julie Miller, states that one of the aspects of the SCL department of which she is most proud is the staff who "are not afraid to take folks out and change the world's view (of people with disabilities)."

New Standards of Support Involve Building Social Capital

By Bob Tarrants, ICF Vice President

My wife has a friend in Glasgow whose family was involved in a terrible automobile accident several months ago. Thankfully, all lived and are recovering... but not without the help and support of family, friends, their church family and total strangers in their community. From prayers, to food, to thousands of dollars for medical and living expenses, friends and strangers have helped this young family through the toughest moment in their lives. Why? Mainly due to the family's active role in the community, its government, and its various clubs and organizations for many years. They have built *Social Capital*.

Sociologists have defined Social Capital in various ways for generations, but the most recent and well-known of them, Robert Putnam, uses the term to describe "the impact of social ties and trust". How our lives are enhanced economically, emotionally, socially and spiritually by social ties with other people is hard to measure, but important just the same.

Recently, a colleague here at the Campus and I attended a conference in Indianapolis from the *Council on Quality and Leadership's Quality Measures 2005*. One of the main concepts of the event was building

social capital for individuals served and employed by our organization. The concept of building bridges between the community at large and the individuals that live and work at WFCDD has since been intriguing to both of us. How could we help each one of these individuals, regardless of what challenges they may have, to connect more meaningfully with Owensboro and Daviess County? How could we help them, and the Campus, build Social Capital? How will we know when we have?

In addition, what can we do to develop social capital within our staff? Creating a culture in which our employees have strong involvement in the community is another goal this year. In order for our staff to assist service-recipients build social capital, they must first truly understand the importance of community themselves. The Council on Quality is so committed to promoting involvement with the community that they allow employees two personal days a year to volunteer at organizations of their choice. The Campus hopes to begin to shape its employee management so that our staff is determined to help the individuals who live here build the same strong

social ties that they enjoy.

Although plans are still in the works we are all in agreement that it is vitally important to attempt to build a truly binding, stable relationship between the community and the adults and children we serve. Our first step has been the further evolution of the "Module" program. Dedicated instructors, a coordinator that understands the importance of Social Capital, and sufficient time and resources will allow for introducing and practicing the concepts and skills that will be needed as we build bridges for people in the community. Furthermore, the volunteer program has re-evaluated its presence, as well, to determine specific goals that involve matching the folks who live here with volunteer opportunities off-campus to assist local businesses, churches and other non-profits, as well as continuing to match them with community individuals who can provide lasting friendships and support. As we discuss and develop the next steps, we anticipate challenges, envision great possibilities... and look forward to amazing outcomes as we help each person build Social Capital with their friends, families, neighbors, and community.

CEO Corner



Terry Brownson, CEO.

It's hard to enter the holidays without reflecting on the year and counting our blessings. While we may be stressed by all of the holiday activities and expenses, we also seem to be aware of the many good things in our lives.

I recently read an article that noted some interesting facts:

- If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead, and a place to sleep... you are richer than 75% of the people in this world.
- If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace. . . you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.
- If you woke up this morning with more health than illness... you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.
- If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who can not read at all.

Such realities in our world certainly can make us pause and be grateful for the many things we have, sometimes with relatively little effort on our own part. Even in bad times, it could be so much worse.

Wendell Foster's Campus has been truly blessed during this past year. Many new people have learned of

and received our services through the growth of our outpatient, supported living, assistive technology assessment and equipment loan programs. Our long term residential service recipients have experienced new levels of training and opportunities for growth. Almost a third of the people who live on the Campus now have paid employment (and associated taxes). Our volunteer services program has grown significantly, offering many new friendships and valuable services for which the Campus would have had to pay. And new supporters have come forward with gratifying gifts in support of new initiatives and exciting developments in our service array.

As we look to the New Year, we anticipate the ground-breaking on the unique sensory park and garden that will become a "must-see-and-do" place for people with disabilities and their families from throughout our region. Another supported living home is to be constructed on Center Street to serve three more people who are ready to live more independently. And there are exciting new plans for greater involvement of those we serve in our community. Watch for people with disabilities offering increased volunteer service back to the community that has so graciously served them.

Wendell Foster's Campus is on the move. **"Empowering people... Realizing dreams"**. Thank you for being a part of our family. We hope you have a joyous holiday season!



*We would like to thank the following individuals for their support in 2007.
Without your generosity we would be unable to serve the thousands of men, women and children
that we touch each year. Again, thank you for journeying with us.*

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