

KIDS talk with Kids CENTER

FOR PEDIATRIC THERAPIES

In our Spring 2020 Issue:

A Letter from the Director, Brittany Lutke

Kids Center enters its 62nd year of operation with a new year and a continuous mission to help more kids.

Get the details: p. 02



KIDS CENTER BY THE NUMBERS

Learn more about the varying programs, reach, mission and proud experience that make up all that is Kid Center.

Read on: page 3

PATIENT SPOTLIGHT: GABRIELLE RUNYON

Take a look into Gabrielle's can-do attitude and how her diagnosis never kept her from achieving her goals.

Her family's journey: page 5

KIDS CENTER EVENTS

Our 2020 Calendar of Events shared with you. These in-person events are tentative pending the recommendations made during the COVID-19 crisis.

More details: page 7



From the Desk of the Executive Director

Kicking off 2020 in an unprecedented way



Catching up with Kids Center

See the highlights since February 2020



Spotlight: Gabrielle Runyon

Read about this amazing young lady and all of her abilities



Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for some fun events to benefit Kids Center

Kids Center Board of Directors

Christa Gambert, President

Jennifer Fries, Vice President

Tova Levin, Secretary

James E. Brown

Jerry Blevins

Joe B. Cooksey

Sydney Doctor

Kenny Moyer

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Tim Thompson

Chad Donohue

David Ernstberger

J.R. Greulich

Ben Gries

Brian Karst

Dr. Ron Lehocky

Shellie May

Harry Wall

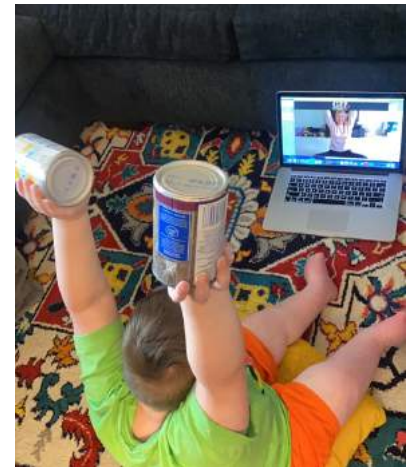
John S. Wathen

Wade Yeoman

Don Greulich, Director Emeritus

Martin Welenken, Director Emeritus

A Letter to Our Supporters



While we can't be together physically, we are continuing with our mission like never before. Staff has implemented telehealth at a rapid pace and are connecting with almost all patients despite the COVID-19 social distancing recommendations. Patients and their families have adapted to this new method quickly and we are thankful for your patience during this time.

We can't deny that we were looking forward to celebrating with you as we carefully consider the re-opening of our centers and in-person therapies, but we will be back stronger than ever thanks to our many supporters and advocates around the state and beyond.

There is much for us to be thankful for as we await a return to normal. We have a lot to look forward to: our continuous mission of supporting and serving more kids than ever. We will be here for you and your family when the timing is right.

Stay well,

Bridgette Little



Why give to support the kids at Kids Center for Pediatric Therapies?



Programs



Specialized pediatric physical, occupational, and speech therapies in a child-friendly outpatient center



Our Orthopedic and Spasticity Clinics offer a multidisciplinary setting for coordination of care



Our Feeding Clinic addresses feeding difficulties—like dependence on a feeding tube—in the context of other therapeutic interventions



Extended programs provide creative, innovative camps outside of traditional therapy models

Proud Partners



Reach

Therapy hours each year

23,345

Kids served each year

1,000+

Appointments each week

900+

Clients ages 0 to 5

41%

Clients ages 6 to 17

54%

Clients ages 18 to 21

5%



Mission



To help children with special needs live their best life by maximizing their abilities. We strive to constantly improve and innovate, providing the most appropriate and current therapeutic interventions regardless of a family's ability to afford the full cost of care.



Experience

62

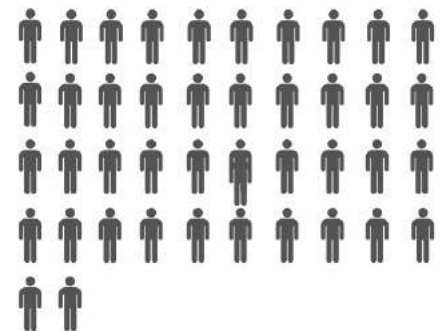
Years Kids Center has existed

100%

Therapists with advanced degrees in fields

42

Therapists on staff



Catching up with Kids Center

Champions Breakfast



The 16th Annual Champions Breakfast was filled with 240 guests eager to learn more about the good work happening at Kids Center. The captivating video shown that morning highlighted Eleanor Hartlage's willingness to "do hard things" and view her first unassisted steps. Dr. Ron Lehocky was given the "Heart for Kids Award" for his incredible dedication to the Center's mission along with his generous donations through the "Heart Pin Project". To learn more visit: www.kidscenterky.org/how-to-help/heart-pin-project/

Texas Road House Grant



Kids Center was a recipient of a generous \$1,000 grant from Texas Roadhouse. This funding was used to create the long-awaited project -- a meditation garden at East Campus. During the project, the amazing group of 15 volunteers pulled weeds, trimmed bushes, installed a water feature, potted plants and set stone pavers, which allowed for the space to be entirely accessible by all abilities. We are so thankful this hard-working group chose to work with Kids Center and created an amazing space our center will enjoy for many years to come. If your business is interested in a service project similar to this, please contact: development@kidscenterky.org

"Sensational Kids, Sensational Families"



There is nothing easy about raising a child, especially a sensational one. If you're seeking a handbook on how to support a child with special needs -- especially a child impacted by sensory processing disorder (SPD) or other nervous-system dysfunctions -- look no further. This memoir, written by Rebecca Duvall Scott and Hannah Ragan, Kids Center Occupational Therapist, combine the perspective of parent and therapist to create a truly insightful survival guide for both parents and caregivers. Now available for purchase on Amazon. Visit the following link to learn more about their upcoming book signing event: www.facebook.com/events/135572991021881/



**SPOTLIGHT:
GABRIELLE RUNYON**
Living Life Without Limits

On September 13, 2003

Like most expecting parents, Trey and Aurlisa, began their parental duties long before the arrival of their first child. Reading baby books, the do's and don'ts of parenting and everything in between. Before they knew it, the two were welcoming the safe and healthy birth of their first child, Gabrielle Runyon.

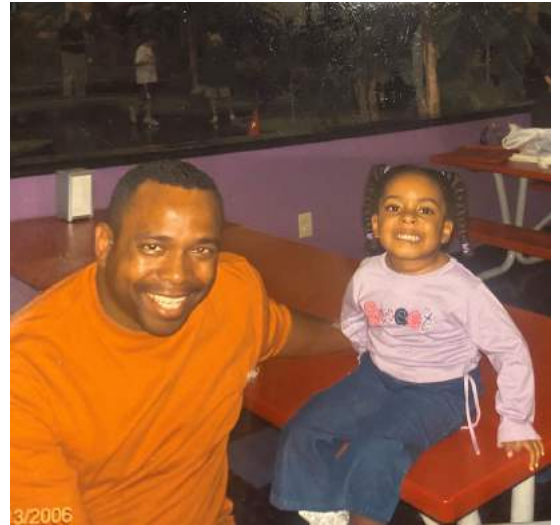


It was around 6 months that Gabrielle wasn't meeting certain milestone markers. Aurlisa specifically remembers that her daughter, "wouldn't hold her bottle and hated tummy time." Like any concerned parent, they visited their pediatrician, stated their worries and were met with a "don't stress" mentality. Naturally, parental intuition kicked in and Aurlisa and Trey decided to take Gabrielle to First Steps. First Steps is an early intervention program for children up to age 3. The family was then recommended to a local neurologist. The following instructions are the kind no parent wants to hear. The doctor said to make her comfortable and she would be lucky to make it to her 2nd birthday. This triggered an internal fight within the Runyon family and their fight brought them to find the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Just shy of Gabrielle's 1st birthday, she was given the spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), a disease affecting the motor nerve cells in the spinal cord and lack a particular protein necessary for muscle development.

The entire family began their "life without limits" journey and enrolled Gabrielle at only 9 months of age with Physical Therapist, Becky Hall, through First Steps. After years of therapy, Gabrielle had her first major surgery at just 5 years old, a spinal infusion procedure, conducted by Dr. Meyer, to help lengthen her spine.

With the help of other physicians, Gabrielle's family realized her initial diagnosis went a bit deeper. She was then diagnosed with Type 2 SMA (a genetic neuromuscular disorder that affects the nerve cells that control voluntary muscles). It can cause severe weakness, scoliosis and other secondary issues. Luckily there have been medical discoveries to help slow the progression of the disorder. In 2018, Gabrielle began receiving Spinraza injections. This treatment has proven to give Gabrielle wonderful effects like stronger vocal chords, hand strength, endurance and has gained independence. Gabrielle states the medicine, "helps me do things I never thought I would be able to do" and has been, "nothing short of a miracle".

At age 16, Gabrielle's therapist, Becky, took the retirement leap and found the perfect therapist to pass the baton to, Lynn Lukins of Kids Center. The two therapists had known each other and met through Home of the Innocents where Gabrielle participated in weekly water therapy session with Becky. Gabrielle has now been with Kids Center over a year and sees Lynn every Thursday while she is also working towards occupational therapy.



“What anchors us is our relationship with our physical therapists. They provide a more personalized layer of care”

- Aurlisa Alwood,
Mom of Gabrielle

Gabrielle graduated with honors and is now an official DuPont Manual High School alumni. She plans to study psychology at the college of her choosing. Gabrielle participated in Manual's choir, plays Power Soccer at Home of the Innocents and has worked at Kentucky Kingdom over the summers.

Gabrielle, along with her family, will be one of our key speakers later this year as we celebrate Kid Center's 3rd Annual Gala. Come and learn more about her journey as she's surely one of the most positive people the center has ever been fortunate to treat.



Upcoming Events

Walk and Roll

Walk and Roll with Kids Center to celebrate over half a century of helping kids live their best lives. Create your own team, spread the word and begin raising awareness and funds in support of Kids Center's mission -- to never turn a child away regardless of their ability to afford life-changing therapies.

When: Saturday, August 1, 8:00 AM

Where: Central Campus Parking Lot
982 Eastern Parkway

Fundraising Link:

www.justgiving.com/campaign/walkandroll2020



3rd Annual Gala

The Kids Center Gala will be held at The Louisville Marriott Downtown on Saturday, October 17th, 2020. Adults 21 and over are invited to purchase tickets and tables for this event, which will include great food, drinks, silent and live auction items, and dancing—all for a great cause.

Sponsorship opportunities available by contacting Kids Center at 502-584-9781 ext. 160 or development@kidscenterky.org

When: Saturday, October 17th, 6:00 PM

Where: Louisville Marriott Downtown

Purchase Tables or Tickets: <https://one.bidpal.net/kidscentergala2020>

