

KIDS talk with Kids

CENTER

FOR PEDIATRIC THERAPIES



**In Our Fall 2019
Issue:**

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Success &
Impress**

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Sandy Burnette**

**Volunteer
Showcase**





From the Desk of the Executive Director

Brittany Lutke



Fall and Future Events

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Staff Feature

Sandy Burnette's journey from motherhood to Speech-Language Pathologist



A Standout Volunteer

Learn more about Meredith Brown and her commitment to Kids Center



Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for our future fundraising efforts

From the Desk of Executive Director, Brittany Lutke

Dear Friends and Family,

The holiday season makes me reminisce of childhood memories and all we have accomplished over the past year together. This newsletter could be many more pages long- it is hard to narrow down to a few highlights!

We are fortunate to be thankful for so much. I'm grateful for the people I get to work with daily, for the children and families we serve that give us frequent doses of joy and hope, and to our generous supporters like you that believe in our kids and the good work happening at both campuses. We could not continue to do what we do without the support of our community.

We experienced change and drove growth in 2019, and we will continue this path into 2020. Often change is inevitable but one thing that remains the same at Kids Center is how we care for children. We see their ability and help them live their best life by providing highly skilled therapy in a personalized way. Our entire staff and volunteers go above and beyond to make Kids Center the organization that it is.

Join us in 2020 as we help more kids than ever before. Wishing you and yours a happy, healthy holiday season and into the new year.

Gratefully,



Brittany Lutke, Executive Director

Kids Center for Pediatric Therapies is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit governed by a Board of Directors:

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Don Greulich, Director Emeritus
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Fall Is Leaves And Candy And Turkey
By Max Camacho

I go to bed
it is the last night of summer.
I wake up.

I gaze at my window
orange, red, yellow, leaves
are falling off the trees.

I then go outside fall is here!
fall is here! I yelled to my parents
early in the morning.

My parents say go back
to bed
it is two in the morning.

Can you go
back to bed
for a few more hours?

I go to bed for a few more hours
wake up eat breakfast
then go outside.

I crunch the rainbow color leaves
with the squishy foam
on the bottom of my shoe.

I jump in the leaves like
I am a swimmer jumping
off the diving board.

It is Halloween Night and I
am on cloud nine
about going Trick or Treating.

I go into my neighborhood
I go around Trick or Treating
by going house to house.

My mom says we are going to a different
neighborhood
to get a
tremendous amount of candy.

Then I eat my cherry
starburst
I also got a strawberry starburst.

Now it is Thanksgiving
a time to celebrate the feast of 1621
with the well mannered Pilgrims
in the civil Wampanoag Tribe.

I am going to watch Football games
and eat some very superb
turkey and rolls.

The day is over oh well
Thanksgiving is over
for another year

Fall

Candy

Turkey



"Since first coming to kids center in 2011, Max, 11, has worked hard to accomplish many things. His talents include basketball player, flexible thinker, and has become such a good friend to others! It is especially wonderful to see him use his gifts with language to write such a beautiful piece of literature. I am one of many who are beyond proud of this amazing kiddo!" - Julia Shaw, Occupational Therapist

2019 Fall Events and Future

The 2nd Annual Gala took place at the Louisville Marriott Downtown on October 12th. With 300 in attendance, the event included a wide variety of auction items, exclusive raffle items, gourmet dinner and an impactful video showcasing families and their services received at Kids Center. The guest emcee of the evening, Shannon Cogan, of Wave 3 News, led guests through the formal program while many attendees danced the night away to the music of Burning Las Vegas. The Gala raised just over \$170,000 to support services at Kids Center! Proceeds from the evening allow for children and their families to receive life-changing therapy. We hope you'll be our guest at the 3rd Annual Gala in October 2020.

The 16th Annual Fashion Show showcased 60 kids and their abilities on the morning of Saturday, November 16th. Two separate Kohl's locations helped the participants and their families pick out outfits to wear for their stage performance at the Southeast Christian Southwest Church. The "Pie your PT" intermission show was a fun addition to the program this year. Children receiving therapies voted with dollars on a chance to pie their Physical Therapist at the event!

White Castle's was kind enough to provide sandwiches and chips for the rehearsal while Kids Center contributed cupcakes and cookies for the post-event celebration. Images captured that day can be found on Kids Center's Facebook page.

Upcoming event: 15th Annual Champions Breakfast

Date: Tuesday, February 18th

Location: University of Louisville Shelbyhurst Campus (Founder's Building)

RSVP: Online by visiting

www.kidscenterky.org/breakfast

Event sponsorship and table captain

inquiries: Contact Amanda at 502.584.9781 x 160



Champions
for Kids **CENTER**
FOR PEDIATRIC THERAPIES

15th Annual Community Breakfast

Enjoy breakfast while learning how Kids Center helps families in our community and how you can help a child live their best life!



Top Image: Emmett Smith

Bottom Left: Jonathan Helwig, Tova Levin, Sydney Doctor, Malisa Lester, and Jonas de Souza

Bottom Right: Kristin Hamrick, PT and Levi Gorman

Sandy Burnette

From motherhood to Speech- Language Pathologist.

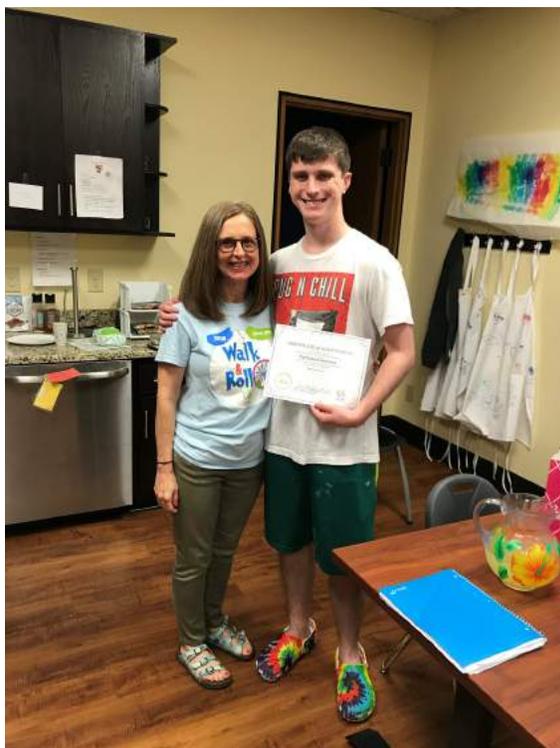
Prior to becoming a Speech-Language Pathologist, Sandy Burnette ran her husband's financial planning office while also maintaining a household along with three children. Sandy and her husband, Dave, originally met in their hometown of Fairfield, Ohio. The couple soon became Louisville residents after their nuptials in 1983 and the family picked up and moved in 1993 to Rochester, Minnesota with their young children. Sandy and Dave's youngest son, Lee, began their medical journey at only 13 months. He soon began using American Sign Language as a mode of communication and progressed so quickly that his therapist recommended using Cued Speech (visual representation of the English Language) instead.

Their next move took them to West Palm, Florida where Lee was enrolled in special needs educational courses at the age 2. The Burnette family then moved to North Carolina where Lee began using Cued Speech for the second time at age 4. Mondini Malformations (abnormality of the inner ear that is associated with sensorineural hearing loss) was the official medical diagnosis and when he turned 6 the hearing capabilities that remained, were slowly deteriorating. He then received his first cochlear implant. Sandy vividly remembers the day young Lee turned on his implant, "He was able to hear his own footsteps and water from the faucet for the very first time" Sandy said.



" I CAN'T IMAGINE DOING ANYTHING ELSE."

— Sandy Burnette



When Lee turned 14, he wrapped up most of his therapeutic needs and Sandy decided it was time for her to further her own education. She attended University of North Carolina at Greensboro where she received her Bachelors in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and immediately after obtained her Masters in Speech-Language Pathology. Upon graduation, Sandy chose her post-graduation role to be a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) at the Pediatric Speech and Language Services, Inc. in North Carolina and worked there for nearly three years. Not only was Sandy academically gifted, but Lee was accepted into an academically gifted program at the age of 16 despite his hearing loss.

Sandy and Dave found themselves back in Louisville in 2014 to be near their grandchildren. She stumbled upon Easter Seals (what is now Kids Center) and interviewed with Amy Allen, a fellow occupational therapist and employee of Kids Center for Pediatric Therapies. Sandy is incredibly respected and adored by both staff and her patients. She brings a unique skill set to care for those with hearing impairments, and her peers turn to her for guidance in this specialty. Her thoughtful planning for those in her care shows her talent and passion for everything she does. We are lucky to have you on board, Ms. Sandy!

What Can Your Donation Do?

Find out how your money supports the therapies our kids receive every day!

Education

\$50

Covers the cost of handwriting camp for a child learning to write.



Participation

\$150

Moves a child one hour closer to riding a bike for the first time.



Self-care

\$600

Covers four hours of therapy, enough to teach a child to tie a shoe.



Stability

\$1,000

Fills the cost of care gap for one child for six months of therapy.



Future

\$5,000

A contribution to Kids Center's endowment can ensure another 60 years of life-changing therapies.



Consider leaving a legacy... so your cherished values live on.

Volunteer and Cheer

Learn about Meredith Brown and her many years of philanthropic work

Meredith Brown



Since 1966, Meredith has felt the calling to be a part of something bigger than herself. Her calling began with Kosair Hospital and the Louisville School for Autism in 1966. In 1971, Meredith became enamored with Kids Center for Pediatric Therapies (which was previously Cerebral Palsy KIDS) and began a weekly participation commitment due to her interest in helping children of all abilities. "I've always felt the need to give back, and I feel like I'm pretty good at it", she says.

Volunteer of the year

Philanthropy and volunteering gives Meredith two joys. First, she enjoys watching the gradual progression of the children she works with. Secondly, her growing patience is a powerful trait she's been able to carry over into her personal life as a grandmother of four. Her favorite part of volunteering is Social Skills Group that is held every Wednesday at Kids Center's East Campus location. Meredith says, "Through social skills group, parents give feedback that their child was able to introduce themselves on the playground." She expresses that this group allows for self confidence and a safe setting to just be yourself.



Heart of gold



Although her interest with Kids Center began with volunteering, Meredith has chosen to give back in another way as well. She recently created the Social Skills Group Grant; this funding will provide essential resources to fuel the kids both in and outside of group. "My hope is that Kids Center continues to provide the support for both the children and families. It's such a warm, casual place. "For anyone interested in volunteering, donating or general interest in the therapies we provide, Meredith highly recommends, "Schedule a visit and come see the kids. That's how my love for the Kids Center all began."

2020 EVENTS CALENDAR



Champions Breakfast

*Pledge your support at an informative and heartwarming event
Tuesday, February 18th at 7:30 am
UofL ShelbyHurst Campus*



BBQ and Bourbon

*A casual fundraising cocktail party with BBQ, bourbon, and live music
Friday, May 8th at 5:30 pm
Kids Center Central Campus*



Walk and Roll

*Start a team and raise money to support our kids
Saturday, May 9th at 8:30 am
Kids Center Central Campus*



Kids Center Gala

*A fun night with drinks, dinner, auctions, and dancing
Saturday, October 17th 6:30 pm
Louisville Marriott Downtown*



Fashion Show

*See our kids take center stage as fashion models for the holidays
Check our website for exact date, time, and location for 2020*

**For more information visit
www.kidscenterky.org/events
or call 502-584-9781**

Tribute Gifts

The individuals in bold were recognized with tribute gifts in the time since our last newsletter.

To make a gift in honor or memory of someone, go to kidscenterky.org/donate or call 502-584-9781

In Memory Of

William Veith

Heather Lucas
Teresa Yost
Kristi Moad
Marilyn Fielding
Lisa and Tim Grady
Tom Noonan and family
Donna Klingsmith
Mary Lou Klingsmith
Daryl and Nancy Stobaugh
Joel Todd and Ann Marcum
William and Joyce Schneider
Mary Anne Flesch and family
Bobbie Klingsmith Brown and family

Gerri Badenhausen

Ellen Timmons
Eric Welenken
Byron Nugent
Judith Asman
Brundage Jewelers
Sally Perkins
Margaret Sullivan
Lathoriel Badenhausen
Nancy Campbell
Leonard Wood
Kimberly Hite
Phyllis Howerton
Patricia and Richard Spore
Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Smith
Nancy and Edward Kimmel
Kenneth and Marianne Reutlinger

Andy Latkovski

Keller Riede
Chris Northcott
Carrie Birchfield
Pamela Griebs
Paul Shockley
Kevin McAdams
Barbara Willis
Susan Kinny
Emerita Postlewait
Victoria Preston
Thomas Wilson
Mary Braun
Saint Barnabus Men's Basketball League

In Honor Of

Bonny Folz

Nancy and Ronnie Young

Amy Duthie

Steve and Anna Lee Mershon

Ellie Lengyel

Steve and Anna Lee Mershon

Holiday Closures



Upcoming Center Closures

Wednesday, January 1 – New Year's Day

Monday, January 20 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, May 25 – Memorial Day

Kids CENTER

FOR PEDIATRIC THERAPIES



Help Kids Live Their Best Lives!

Through speech, physical, and occupational therapies, we help over 1,400 children annually with developmental delays and disabilities. To be happy and productive community members in the future, they need to receive the skilled therapies that Kids Center provides now.

Because of you, children will take their first steps when it didn't seem possible. They will start singing and talking when they had been nonverbal. They will celebrate their progress, made possible by you.

Please give at kidscenterky.org/donate

