

# The CARING TOUCH

The Gregory Kistler Treatment Center For Children, Inc.

Volume 17, Number 1

Spring 2007

## Justin's Story - Accomplishing His Dream

**In memory of Justin Fujibayashi, 1981 – 2006,  
as told to Ralph Smith by Justin's dad, Carter.**

Carter, tell me how you became acquainted with the Kistler Center.

"I'll have to go back a few years. Justin was born in 1981, and his mother was diabetic. We found out about it several months before he was born. He was born about five weeks premature, but because she was diabetic he weighed 10 pounds. He was large, even though he was premature. He had a lot of respiratory problems since his lungs were not fully developed.

Justin was in the neonatal center at Evanston Hospital near Chicago. We stayed in Chicago, since both of us had pretty good jobs. In 1986, we moved to Arkansas where my maternal grandparents lived to help my sister take care of them. We sold our house and moved down here when he was five years old. He was having extreme difficulty walking. We found out when he was a year old that he had asthma, not cystic fibrosis as we had initially thought. Then, there came the many years of treating the asthma. When Justin was one year old, he was still having difficulty walking. At about two years old he was walking while holding on to something and was sleeping in a fetal position. We had taken him to several specialists in Chicago and they thought he



*Justin - age 7*

would just out grow it. They called it the 'floppy child syndrome'. Right after we moved here, one of my sister's close friends asked me how long Justin had had cerebral palsy. I did not know at the time what that was. This was back in late 1986. Surprised and confused by her question, I took Justin to a doctor she recommended and he in fact did diagnose him with cerebral palsy. He made an appointment for us with a doctor at Children's Hospital in Little Rock. There, a CT scan showed that he possibly had suffered a stroke between conception and one year of age. The stroke left part of his right side with limited ability. The hospital as well as my sister recommended we check out The Gregory Kistler Treatment Center.

We took him there for evaluations by physical and occupational therapists, and they felt that they could help him. At first, he received therapy several times a week at the Center. He was walking on his toes on his right foot and his right arm was drawn up across his chest. They did exercises to strengthen his arm and leg. When he was about eleven years old, his right leg was found to be about an inch shorter than his left. The doctor recommended surgery on his leg to keep his foot flat to help him walk. This allowed him to walk with a flat foot and he gained about a quarter of an inch more in length in the right leg.

He received occupational therapy at The Gregory Kistler Center all the way up through the sixth grade. At that time, he began treatment at school. A therapist would treat him at the school in Greenwood, and did that until about the eighth grade.

The Kistler Center made us realize that Justin didn't have to continue to be handicapped. He could run around by the third or fourth grade. He played on the soccer and baseball teams and even went out for football. He was just as active as the other boys and without the Kistler Center, he certainly wouldn't have gotten that far.

Justin showed a great ability to draw from an early age. He drew with his left hand. His work kept getting better and he was very creative. He ended up graduating high school with honors.



*Justin, Greta, & Henry - November 2006*

He married a girl he knew in school, his best friend Greta. She went to U of A in Fayetteville and he was going to UAFS and working for Malco Theatres at the mall as a projectionist. After he graduated with a degree in Commercial Art, he moved to Fayetteville. When she graduated, they married and moved up north of Topeka, Kansas. They had one child, Henry, and were expecting a second



*Justin - age 6*

*continued on page 2*

## Justin's Story - Accomplishing His Dream *continued*

before his untimely death in December, 2006. Justin was able to live out his dream to be able to draw for a living. There was a movie production company in Dallas that wanted to hire him for some story boards. He was to graduate from Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, with a degree in Fine Arts the Friday after the week he was killed by a person who was driving the wrong direction on an exit ramp from a divided highway after she left a bar."

**Editor's note: Although Justin's story does not leave us with the totally happy ending that we would desire, there is room for joy. Joy in remembering a life well lived, with the help of knowledgeable care that focuses not on limitations, but on possibilities. Justin did accomplish his goal in life and was a happy, productive and loving son, husband, and father.**

## PLAINLY SPEAKING

Cerebral palsy is a broad term that encompasses many different disorders of movement and posture. These disorders are caused by a brain injury that occurs before birth, during birth, or within the first few years after birth. The injury does not damage the child's muscles or the nerves connecting them to the spinal cord – only the brain's ability to control the muscles. Depending on its location and severity, the brain injury that causes a child's movement disorders may also cause other problems. These problems can include mental retardation, seizures, language disorders, learning disabilities, and vision and hearing problems. Because cerebral palsy influences the way children develop, it is considered a developmental disability.

There are many types of cerebral palsy and more than one method of classifying it. Cerebral palsy is a condition that affects muscle tone, the amount of tension or resistance to movement in a muscle, resulting in high tone, low tone, or fluctuating tone. There is a classification system based on the location of the brain injury, and another based on the location of the movement problems.

Although children with very mild cerebral palsy occasionally recover by the time they are school-aged, cerebral palsy is usually a life-long condition. Many factors can impact the long-term affects of cerebral palsy, including a child's attitude toward cerebral palsy, family support, and the medical, educational, and therapeutic care the child receives.

The Kistler Center staff use an interdisciplinary approach toward cerebral palsy and developmental delay, through which physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists work together to ensure the most comprehensive treatment for each infant and child. Parents and caregivers are included in therapy sessions, and family support is a significant part of the care provided by the Kistler Center.

## FRIENDS OF KISTLER'S KIDS

September 8, 2006 - March 9, 2007

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September 8, 2006 - March 9, 2007

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A Closer Look

AOG

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Dr. & Mrs. Doug Brown

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Burton Pools and Spas

Lisa Clayton

Coca Cola Bottling Co.

Cox Communications

Cricket

Melody Deaton

e-magination group

Empire Liquor Staff

Fort Smith Radio Group

Holiday Inn City Center

Lucille Gattis

Guesthouse Inn

Hardee's

Douglas Hasley, CPA, P.A.

Hertz Car Sales

Holiday Inn City Center

Jiffy Print

Dr. Steven R. Kilpatrick

K-MAC Enterprises

KWHN/Big Dog

KTCS

Dr. Tim Lawrence

Law's Drug Store

Learning Oasis

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Network

St. Edward Mercy Gift Shop

Sutherland's Central

UAFS Season of Entertainment

Shane Vaughn

Walrod's Hardware Store

Wal-Mart Super Center on Zero

Wal-Mart on Midland

Western Arkansas Ballet

Dr. Mark Willis

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## *The Michelle Kistler*

## *Memorial*

## *Endowment Fund*

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Betty Cummings

Carl Giglione

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*In Memory of Wayne Kistler*

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## *In Honor of Alex Payson*

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Knights of Columbus

Northside High German Club

NSHS Sophomore Council

Old Fort Dandies

Rick Parrish

Carol Payton

Alan Pinter

Patrick Pinter

Jay Poppe

Jean Ann Roddy

Denise & Jim Sauls

Edwina Schwarz

Ralph Smith

Willie Stevens

Trish Walker

Joyce Wolf

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## **Corrections**

If we have reported your gift incorrectly or failed to include your gift, please call the Kistler Center at 785-4677. Thank you for your support!



# SPEND A NIGHT IN THE CARIBBEAN...

## WITHOUT LEAVING TOWN!



Join the fun at **A Night in the Caribbean** to be held at Golden Ventures on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and get a great deal on silent and live auction items while supporting the children of the Kistler Center. A variety of items will be auctioned by auctioneer Gerald Hyman, including weekend getaways, fine art, and tickets for two to the Caribbean on **American Airlines** on **American Airlines**.

At just \$60 a ticket (\$45 of which is tax deductible) you can enjoy great food, including Bahaman-basted roast pork by Chef Mickey Sellard and a cascading fountain of chocolate with a variety of fruit and other goodies to dip in the chocolate. An open bar will be available throughout the evening.

**Zero Mountain, Inc.** is sponsoring the award-winning musicians of the **Barrio Band**, who will perform their unique blend of American, Caribbean, and Latin Jazz. Funky front man Al "Papa Rap" Lopez will even throw in a little Hip Hop Salsa. This is a musical experience you won't want to miss – **bring your dancing shoes!**

There will be an opportunity to enter and win in the Drawdown event that evening. A Drawdown is a donation drawing in which the last name drawn wins. In this case, half the cash pot will be the prize while the other half benefits the Kistler Center. Cash Drawdown

tickets will be available at the event for \$20 each or for \$15 each if purchased in advance with reserved event tickets.

Seating is limited, so make your reservations early. Special corporate tables are available for businesses or groups of eight, with multi-media advertising for the corporate sponsor, special gifts, and eight Drawdown tickets included. **Please call Kathie at the Kistler Center for information and to get your reservations, 785-4677.**

## SHARING THE SPIRIT



### Crystal Stenback

Crystal Stenback earned a Master of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of North Dakota in May, 2006. Shortly after graduation, she moved to Arkansas to be close to her husband's family and began her career at the Kistler Center. Crystal enjoys eating out, shopping, and being outdoors. She lives in Ozark with her husband, Adam, and one-year-old son, Weston.



### Sarah Pond

Occupational Therapist, Sarah Pond, interned at the Kistler Center from September to December, 2006. She graduated from Texas Woman's University in December, 2006, with a Master of Occupational Therapy degree and recently joined the Kistler Center staff. Sarah, who grew up in Fort Smith, says, "I knew from the time I was in college that I wanted to work at the Kistler Center". Sarah lives in Fayetteville with her husband, Caleb, and enjoys spending time with family and taking walks with her dog, Sadie.

**April is Occupational Therapy Month.**

**April 15-21 is National Volunteer Week**

**May is Better Hearing and Speech Month.**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## 4th Annual Bluegrass On The Border March 31st at the Fort Smith Convention Center

The 4th Annual Bluegrass on the Border kicks off the Bluegrass year of events in this area. Bluegrass bands **Louisiana Grass**, **Hurricane Creek**, **BlueGrass Thoroughbreds**, and **Central City Grass** will be performing, as well as comedian **Don (Bandy) Fowler**. Two shows are scheduled for 1 and 6 p.m. with a supper break at 4 p.m. A lucky attendee will win a guitar during the 6 p.m. show. The guitar, compliments of **The Music Shoppe** in Poteau, is autographed by all the bands.

Advance tickets, good for both shows, are \$12 and available at the Kistler Center. Tickets also are available at the door for \$15 and are good for both shows. Children 10 and under are admitted free. Purchase by credit card available for advance tickets only. Doors open to the Convention Center at noon.



The sponsor hotel this year is the **Holiday Inn City Center** in downtown Fort Smith. Call 479-783-1000 and ask for the special "Bluegrass" rate. For more information, call Kathie at the Kistler Center or Kenny Shupert at 479-452-7276 or 479-883-1933.

The event is sponsored in part by **Weldon, Williams & Lick, KUA, Fort Smith Visitor's Bureau, Crabtree RV Center, Medisav Pharmacy, The Music Shoppe in Poteau, Lairamore Corporation, Putnam Truck Country, ABF Print Shop, Merrill Lynch/Donaubauer Group, SSI, Inc., Holiday Inn Civic Center, Bedford Camera & Video, Greg's Too, Hamburger Barn, Action Inc, Big Country 107.3, Benefit Bank, Frank Roe Furniture, and Smith Chevrolet Cadillac.**



## All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast April 1st

What a yummy way to help raise money for the Kistler Center! Enjoy freshly made pancakes, sausage, biscuits & gravy, and your choice of beverage on Palm Sunday, **April 1st from 8:00-11:00 a.m.** for only \$5. Children 12 and under can begin their day with a great breakfast for only \$2. **Sponsored by Sacred Heart of Mary Church**, the event address is at McNerney Parish Center, 1301 Frank Street in Barling.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**  
*A Night in the Caribbean*  
**Saturday, May 12, 2007**



## 4th Annual Burger King – Receipt Drive March 18th to April 30th

**Burger King wants you to "Have It Your Way" and help Kistler Kids too!**

The Kistler Center will receive 10¢ for every receipt of food or drink purchased at any Burger King restaurant in Fort Smith, Van Buren, Alma, and Poteau. Just place your Burger King receipts in the collection box at the counter or ask the drive-through associate to place your receipt in the box for you. An additional collection box is available at the Kistler Center. The event is sponsored by **Neubauer Restaurants Corporation.**



## 20th Annual Classic Truckers & Cruisers Show June 9th and 10th

Classy trucks, colorful cars, shiny motorcycles, and mighty big-rigs will cover Columbus Acres for a two-day judged event. Among others, there will be trophies for Best of Show, Manager's Choice, Top Three; and for the fourth year,



the **Michelle Kistler Memorial Award** will go to the best big-rig. Registration is \$20 before May 30th and \$25 the day of the show. Admission donations will be collected at the gate. Bring your family for a day of fun – there will be kids' activities Saturday afternoon and concessions will be available throughout the weekend. The 2nd Annual Womanless Beauty Pageant will be held Saturday night at 7 p.m. and is open to any male contestant.

If you would like to become a member of the Classic Truckers & Cruisers Club or to volunteer at the show, please call Donna Hicks at 452-7299. Sponsored by the **Classic Truckers & Cruisers Club.**



## Cell Phone Drive & Printer Cartridge Drive On-going

**Take that old cell phone out of retirement and put it to work! Participate in the used cell phone drive.**

Instead of throwing out that old printer cartridge, bring it into the Kistler Center. Collect cartridges from your friends, family or at work and help raise money for the Center. The Kistler Center will receive a monetary donation for each working cell phone and printer cartridge donated. The better the phone, the more money we will receive. Older model phones may not generate any funds, but they will be recycled properly. We will receive \$2 for each used printer cartridge donated (Dell, HP, Lexmark or Cannon). All donations are tax-deductible. Consult your tax advisor to determine the value. Donation receipts may be generated at [www.cellulardonation.org](http://www.cellulardonation.org) for the cell phones. To donate, please bring your used cell phones and printer cartridges to the Kistler Center, Moore Dental Care, Rhodes Chevrolet, or Sutherlands. Don't forget to erase the address book and any personal information. Please put printer cartridges in a bag to keep things neat and clean. Thank you! **For more information, contact Kathie at 479.785.4677**







## *The Michelle Kistler Memorial Endowment Fund*

In loving memory of Michelle Kistler, the Board of Directors of The Gregory Kistler Treatment Center For Children, Inc., has established an Endowment Fund. This endowment, through its earnings, will be used to help fund needed therapy to more of our special children so the Board of Directors can continue the philosophy of never turning a child away for financial reasons. Additionally, as the Kistler Center's Board directs, some earnings may be directed to operational activities to sustain and grow the Kistler Center's ability to provide the most up-to-date occupational therapy, physical therapy, and/or speech-language therapy possible for children. Contributions may be made as a single gift or spread over several years.



## WISH LIST

### For oral-motor activities

Animal crackers  
Containers of dry kool-aid mix

### For hand activities

Floam  
Koosh balls  
Tangles

### Other

Bumbo seat  
Copy paper  
Double A batteries  
Electrical tape  
Razor scooter

## One Size Fits All



Have you been searching for just the right gift? One with special meaning? Then consider making a donation to the Kistler Center in honor of a friend or family member. That "gift" will not only mean a lot to the recipient, but it will also mean continued care for children in need.

## *Special Letters From Our Friends*



My Interview went well & I was accepted into UCA's OT school!

*For the kind things you've done,  
for the happiness you've given,  
thank you.*

To everyone at Kistler,  
Thank you all so much for being such wonderful people! I thoroughly enjoyed job shadowing with you all. I love what you guys & the Kistler center stand for! You all were so kind & patient with all of my questions & you shared so much with me!

*thanks!  
Ashly Sims*

