

The CARING TOUCH

The Gregory Kistler Treatment Center For Children, Inc.

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Fall 2007

McEvoy's Get in the Game at the Kistler Center

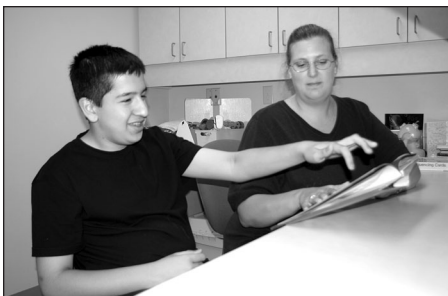
by Donna Payne

Life is a game filled with give and take and everyone wins at the Kistler Center. Andrew McEvoy entered the game at age 4 when he was diagnosed with autism. His dad, Gerry, the manager at Sutherlands, jumped in six years ago as a member of the Kistler Center Advisory Board. They have different roles to play but both have home-field advantage. The Fort Smith facility is the only one of its kind specializing in pediatric occupational, physical, and speech therapy in this region.

Occupational therapists and speech-language pathologists have worked with Andrew several times a week since he was 4. He can tell you what he wants, think fast enough while playing a board game to know what he needs to roll, beat the pants off of you at Scrabble and replace the road map on an out-of-town trip.

"He can remember every turn and every exit number," said Gerry. Although that comes in handy, that type of skill is what makes communication with people so difficult. "He's so focused on the details, he's not looking at what's in the foreground," Gerry said.

Shirley and Gerry McEvoy have four children: Maureen, 26, who works at Sparks Regional Medical Center;



Speech-Language Pathologist, Kristy Gordon, helps Andrew increase his vocabulary by identifying pictures in a book.

Kathryn, 22, a Bost employee who is headed to medical school; Gerry Jr., 17, a football player at Southside High School; and Andrew, a seventh-grader at Ramsey Junior High.

Gerry is originally from Dublin, Ireland, and came to Arkansas to run track for the University of Arkansas. That's where he met and married Shirley, also an Arkansas student. Gerry has worked on and off for Sutherlands since 1982. He joined the Kistler Center Board of Directors in 2002 and has been Board president for the past three years.

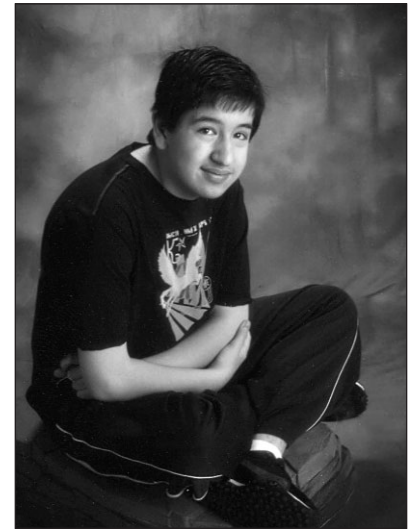
Andrew was born in 1994 while the McEvoy's were living in San Diego, Calif. Like many autistic children, Andrew's early months were quite typical.

"We have a library of videos and you can see how interactive Andrew is. Then two to three months later, on the next video, it's gone. He's rocking, staring, not responding to his name," Gerry recalls. "We had no indication anything was wrong until he was about a year-and-a-half old".

Andrew's regression concerned his parents but at that time, there were very few resources for parents to educate themselves.

"The pediatrician never brought it (autism) up," Gerry said. Instead, they were told Andrew was slow to progress because of all the things his siblings did for him.

According to the Autism Speaks website, 1 in 150 individuals is diagnosed with autism and it is four times more likely to strike boys than girls. Autism impairs a person's ability to communicate and relate to others. It is also associated with rigid routines and repetitive behaviors, such as obsessively arranging objects or



Andrew McEvoy

following very specific routines. Symptoms can range from very mild to quite severe.

Autism spectrum disorders usually can be reliably diagnosed by age 3, although new research is pushing back the age of the diagnosis to as early as 6 months. Research indicates that intervention can result in significant improvements for many young children.



(see article inside)

continued on page 2

McEvoy's Get in the Game at the Kistler Center *continued*

In 1996, the family returned to Fort Smith. With the help of their new pediatrician and strong recommendations from other parents, the McEvoy family became a part of the Kistler family.

Initially, the McEvoy's were impressed with the physical layout of the Center and all it had to offer. But before long, they began to realize the heart and soul of the Kistler Center.

"The greatest part of the Kistler Center is the staff, the services they can provide locally are so impressive," Gerry said. "If a child needs multiple visits per week, they don't have to go out of town. They have such a high standard and make sure every child receives services".

Among other activities, Gerry participates in quarterly meetings with the Kistler Center Board of Directors and receives reports on the operation of the Center, finances, communications and a total rundown from the executive director Jennifer Kistler. "We have a great leader in Jennifer," Gerry said. "She addresses

every detail of running the Center with such energy. She does it all." But for all the Kistler Center does, he knows there is more to do and that the Center is up to the task. "There is a latent need in our community of children who don't receive

services because their parents don't know about the Kistler Center," Gerry said.

And as long as there is a child who needs to "get in the game," the Kistler Center will welcome them to the team.



Andrew works on following complex directions using time, location, and sequencing concepts with the help of (left) Lynn Bain, Occupational Therapist and Crystal Stenback, Speech-Language Pathologist.

FRIENDS OF KISTLER'S KIDS

March 9, 2007 - August 31, 2007

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April & Mark Wear

FRIENDS OF KISTLER'S KIDS

March 9, 2007 - August 31, 2007

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Weldon, Williams & Lick
Donna & Greg Whitsitt
Zero Mountain, Inc.

IN HONOR OF

Carter Lessley
Roberta & James Farmer
Chris Pointer
Velma Taylor
Cleo Watts
Marcus Blaylock
Velma Taylor
Willie Bradshaw
Debbie & Don Bradshaw
Kathy Farmer
Cleo Watts
Trey Gerald
Joanie & Gary Gerald

IN MEMORY OF

Don Autry
Reita & Lee M. Coots
Dorothy Marie Bernes
Cleo Watts
Bonnie Clark
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IN-KIND

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American Airlines

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Bedford Camera and Video
John Bell, Jr.
Dr. Wes Borengasser
Carmen's Candlerly
Lin Chen
Chili's
Chuck E. Cheese's
Lisa Clayton
Coca Cola Bottling Co.
Comcast Networks
Dick Cosner
Cox Media
Cucu's
Brandon & Mashiah Cuttrell
D & D Tattooing
Discovery Network
e-Magination group
Garner Abattoir & Meat
Processing Plant

Griffith Meat Market
Red Hannaman
HARDEE'S
Douglas Hasley, CPA, P.A.
Hiland Dairy
Hiram Walker
Holiday Inn City Center
Mr. John's Salon & Spa
Juan's
Dr. Steven Kilpatrick
Jennifer Kistler
Lairamore, Inc.
Patricia Lappin
Jimmy Leach
Lifetime Television Network
Sandra Lovell
Reid Maddox
Movietown
Sarah Noebels
Office Depot
OK Foods
Donna Payne
Preferred Office Products
Pure Heart Studios
Randalla's
Brooke Reeder
Regions Bank
"Reliv" by Dave Adams
Virginia Ricketts
Riggs Rental Services
Rightmind Advertising

Riverside Outlet Store
Sam's Club
Shane Vaughn
Sharum's Garden Center
Dr. Robert Skinner
Kathie Smith
Dr. Steven Stiles
St. Edward Mercy Fitness
St. Edward Mercy Health Network
Billie & Andy Sudigala
Truck Loads for Children
Turner Networks
UAFS Athletic Department
UAFS Graphics Department
USA Network
Wal-Mart Super Center on Zero
Wal-Mart on Midland
Sommer & David White

The Michelle Kistler Memorial Endowment Fund

Sacred Heart of Mary
Catholic Church

VOLUNTEERS

Lynn Bain
David Boyd
Gene Bruick & friends
Twyla Burt
Ming & Joe Chidester
Sharon DeWitt
Megan Ewing
Adele & Jim Glensky
Larry Goss
Krista Hannaman
Audra Harper
Bryan Harper
Angela Hyman
Shauna Hyman
Stephanie Hyman
Jenny Kilgore
Betty Kistler
Knights of Columbus
Kohl's A-Team
Debbie Kraus
Sarah Kraus
Leda Lee
Trish & Corey Marquis

FRIENDS OF KISTLER'S KIDS

March 9, 2007 - August 31, 2007

Gerry McEvoy
Gerry McEvoy, Jr.
Jane McGowin
Bryan McFarland
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Paula & Ed Payson
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Julaine Pearson

Kristin & Ryne Perdue
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Kristen Ricketts
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Edwina Schwarz
Mary Shermer
Craig Smith
Ralph Smith

Candice Stevens
Willie Stevens
Crystal Stenbeck
Billie & Andy Sudigala
Susan Weaver
Joyce Wolf

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!



Betty and Wayne Kistler's 6-year-old son was struck by a car in 1962, which resulted in a severe head injury that would eventually take his life. They were faced with the task of traveling hundreds, sometimes thousands, of miles to find medical treatment for Gregory. Gregory's condition improved to the point he was able to attend school, enjoy fishing trips, and take walks. But in his teen years that improvement began to slip away and he died in 1979. His memory lives on through the Center.

Five years before Gregory's death, Betty and Wayne had the anticipation of a new grandchild. Their youngest daughter, Jennifer, gave birth to Michelle in 1974. Unfortunately, their anticipated joy was mixed with pain. Michelle was born with spina bifida, more commonly known as open spine. Michelle enjoyed life and never complained. She maintained a cheerful disposition and strove to accomplish many milestones: she graduated from high school, learned to drive a specially adapted van, and worked successfully at a part-time job while committing much of her time volunteering to help others. Sadly, Michelle died from complications of a bone infection in 2003.

What was born out of one family's need, 30 years ago, has grown to become an outpatient treatment center known throughout the region as the premier pediatric facility. Center staff have earned a reputation throughout the region for their compassionate professionalism and personal commitment to providing the highest quality care, not only to the children, but to the entire family. Parents, grandparents, siblings, and other caregivers are included in treatment when appropriate to facilitate continuity of care in all settings.

The children who receive physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language therapy at The Gregory Kistler Treatment Center span a wide range of diagnoses and needs. Some children need assistance with the basics of daily living, such as feeding and sitting up, while others may have problems with balance and coordination. The child's diagnosis and individual needs determine the frequency and duration of treatment; most receive therapy regularly for a period of months to several years. Over 500 children currently benefit from our services, while more than 4,000 children and families have received help at the Center since its beginning.

At the Kistler Center, a child is never turned away due to the financial circumstances of his or her family. All that is required for a child to benefit from treatment at the Center is a referral from their physician. The Gregory Kistler Treatment Center is the only facility of its kind specializing in pediatric occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language therapy, aquatic therapy, and augmentative and alternative communication in this region.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Celebrity Classic - 13th Annual September 28 - October 7



Monday, September 24

Volunteer Orientation 6 p.m. at the Donald W. Reynolds Cancer Support House

Friday, September 28

Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament
7 p.m. at Bowling World

Saturday, September 29

16th Annual Survivors' Challenge 5K Run (RRCA Grand Prix Series Race) and 2K Wellness Walk at 8 a.m. (Check in starts at 7 a.m.) at Riverfront Park
WALK WITH THE KISTLER GROUP FOR FREE!

Saturday, September 29

Bowling Tournament 7 p.m. at Bowling World

Sat. & Sun., September 29 & September 30

Celebrity Classic Criterium (Cycling) 8 a.m. in Historic Downtown Van Buren

Friday, October 5

Community Day for Celebrities 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Celebrities Visit Beneficiaries in the Community

The "Celebrity Spirit Gala" In Memory of Mac McGehee 6:30 p.m. at Fort Smith Convention Center

Gala - Open to Public - Dance to "UltraSuede"
8:30 p.m. - Tickets \$50 per person

Saturday, October 6

Celebrity Tennis Classic 8:00 a.m. at Fort Smith Athletic Club
"TENNIS BALL DROP" & Exhibition at noon

Sat. & Sun., October 6 & October 7

Celebrity Golf Classic at Eagle Crest Golf Course in Alma and Fianna Hills Country Club in Fort Smith
Tea off at 9 a.m. both days

Our 2006 Wellness Walkers!



Candy Bar Sales October - December

"World's Finest Chocolate" gourmet candy bars in a variety of flavors this year. We will have 40 bar cases with milk chocolate with almonds, milk chocolate and caramel, milk chocolate crisp and plain milk chocolate. Each bar includes a coupon for a free Big Mac. These delicious candy bars are available at the Center or from volunteers within the community for only \$1 each.



Knights of Columbus 22nd Annual Oktoberfest

Friday, October 12th, 5:30 pm - 11:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 13th, Noon - 11:00 p.m.

Columbus Acres on Brooken Hill, off Hwy. 71 South Polka to the beat of German band, **AlpenMusikanten**, from 7-11 p.m. Friday; 3-5 p.m. and 7-11 p.m. Saturday.

There will be performances by local groups and dancers Saturday starting at 1 p.m. Kids' games, vendors offering authentic German food, and arts and crafts are a few of the fun things lined up. Bid in a silent auction and enter to win two **Northwest Airlines** tickets to anywhere in the continental U.S. Admission is free and donations are accepted at the gate. This event is held at Columbus Acres, Fort Smith.

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 996



Official Airline Of
Oktoberfest



Arkansas Volunteer Month

Each year in Arkansas, the Governor has proclaimed the Month of September as Volunteer Month across the State. For more information, please contact Nicole Perkins at **501-682-7540**.

National Philanthropy Day

November 15, 2007 - Thursday Established by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, National Philanthropy Day is a time to honor all who change the world through a giving heart. The staff and board of directors of the Kistler Center celebrate and appreciate all our donors each and every day of the year.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

A Night in the Caribbean
Saturday, May 3, 2008

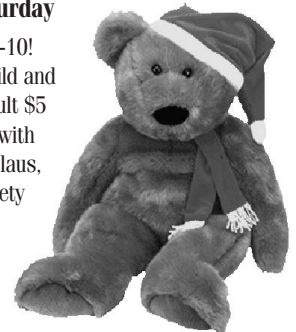


30th Anniversary of The Kistler Center!

Teddy Bear Tea

December 1, 2007 - Saturday

Great Fun for children ages 2-10!
Admission is \$15 for each child and one adult, each additional adult \$5 and includes a 5 x 7 portrait with Santa, story time with Mrs. Claus, lunch, goody bags, and a variety of seasonal entertainment. There will be wonderful donation drawing prizes & "Beary" nice door prizes.



Holiday Inn City Center

Cell Phone Drive

On-going

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



The Kistler Center will receive a monetary donation for each working cell phone 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.

All donations are tax-deductible. Consult your tax advisor to determine the value.

To donate, please bring your used cell phone to the Kistler Center, Jim Grizzle Tire Co., Moore Dental Care, Rhodes Chevrolet, or Sutherlands. Don't forget to erase the address book and any personal information.

Printer Cartridge Collection Drive

On-going

A great way to help raise funds for the Kistler Center with little effort and no cost!

Collect used Canon, Dell, HP, and Lexmark printer cartridges from friends, family, and your office to help Kistler's Kids. To donate, bring your cartridges to the Kistler Center, Moore Dental Care, Rhodes Chevrolet, or Sutherlands. Please put cartridges in a plastic bag.

The Kistler Center will receive \$2 for every used cartridge collected.

To request a collection box for either of our on-going events, call Kathie at 479.785.4677.



For more information, contact
Kathie at 479.785.4677

SHARING THE SPIRIT

KRISTEN RICKETTS

Kristen Ricketts, Physical Therapist, recently joined the Kistler Center staff. She graduated from Arkansas State University in May, 2004, with an Associate Degree as a Physical Therapist Assistant and in December, 2006, with a Master's Degree in Physical Therapy. Kristen began volunteering at the Kistler Center while in high school and set a goal to work at the Center someday. Later, Kristen interned at the Kistler Center - first as a Physical Therapist Assistant student and again while studying to become a Physical Therapist. Kristen lives in Fort Smith and enjoys scrapbooking, reading, and spending time with family.



LAVONDA HENSLEY

Lavonda Hensley graduated from Carl Albert State College in May, 2001. She interned at the Kistler Center while obtaining her degree as a Physical Therapist Assistant. Lavonda received therapy at the Kistler Center as a child. While in high school, she decided that she wanted to work at the Kistler Center someday and help others as she had been helped. Lavonda lives in Roland with her husband, Rick, four-year-old son, Austin, and two-year-old daughter, Taylor. She enjoys hiking, reading, and spending time with her family.



VICKY MCHUGH

Vicky recently joined the Kistler Center as typist for our therapy staff. In this role, she is responsible for preparing and distributing evaluation reports and other correspondence and for responding to medical record requests. Vicky lives in Fort Smith and enjoys exercising and spending time with friends.



October is Physical Therapy Month!



JENNIFER KISTLER

Jennifer Kistler, Executive Director, received the Community Leadership Award in Healthcare from the Leadership Fort Smith Alumni Association. This award is presented annually to an individual who leads

an effective and meaningful community initiative and who contributes to the quality of life in the Fort Smith region.

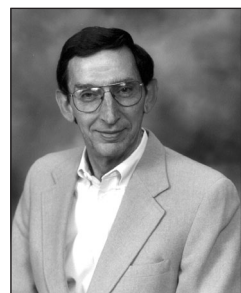
Honorable Jim Spears made the announcement at the award ceremony stating, "Kistler's leadership has given the community and the area access to quality care provided by a variety of professionals for physically and mentally challenged children."



Jennifer is a registered nurse, an advocate for children and families, and is a member of the Association of

Fundraising Professionals, Arkansas Volunteer Coordinators Association, Roundtable Alliance, and Leave A Legacy Arkansas. She has also been involved with the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy, the Fort Smith Regional Playground for All Children, Inc., and was founder of the Spina Bifida Association of Fort Smith.

In 2005, she was the recipient of the "Fire Keeper Award" presented at the annual "Woman to Woman" event by the Women's Center at Sparks. The Arkansas State Volunteer Coordinator's Association in 2006 also selected her as the "Boss of the Year".



LEO ANHALT

Advisory Board member, Leo Anhalt, was recognized for his contribution to the building industry by the Associated Builders and Contractors' Western Council Arkansas Chapter in a recent ceremony.

Leo started SSI, Inc. in 1969. In the early 70's he was part of a steering committee that established the Arkansas Chapter of the ABC in 1975. He became the second president of the Arkansas chapter in 1976 and in 1994 he became the national president.

Leo has served on other ABC committees including chairman of the Apprenticeship Committee, chairman of the National Education Committee, 14 years as an

Arkansas chapter board member, a second stint as president of the state chapter, and member and vice president of the National Executive Committee's Region 3. Bruce Cross, past president and chairman of the state chapter as well as its current attorney stated, "Leo's business is an important and large business in the state of Arkansas. His contribution to the chapter and its well-being and going forward with the philosophy of the association has been instrumental."

CHARITY ROWDEN

Charity Rowden interned at the Kistler Center from June to August 2007. She earned a Master of Science degree from the University of Central Arkansas in August, 2007, and immediately joined the Kistler Center staff as a



Speech-Language Pathologist. Charity lives in Van Buren and enjoys swimming, reading, and spending time with her friends and family.

KRISTY GORDON

Speech-Language Pathologist, Kristy Gordon, interned at the Kistler Center from October to December 2006. Kristy joined the Kistler Center staff shortly after her graduation from Northeastern State University in May 2007. Kristy enjoys crafts, shopping, and spending time with her family. Kristy lives in Bokoshe, Oklahoma, with her husband, Ron, and daughters Addison 5 and Brayli 3.





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.



Kids Helping Kids!

Emily Brooks, Cook Elementary Student Council President, presents a \$500 donation to the Kistler Center's Development Coordinator, Kathie Smith, on May 30, 2007. The student council raised approximately \$14,000 and donated to several area children's charities.

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.

Have You Considered An IRA Gift?

If you are looking for a special way to give to your favorite charity, the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA) may be just the answer. The IRA charitable rollover provisions provided by the PPA are in effect until the end of this year.

The advantages of giving IRA assets before the close of 2007 are:

- Those age 70 1/2 or older who make charitable gifts directly from their traditional or Roth IRA can do so tax-free.
- Donors may give all or a portion of their mandatory IRA withdrawals up to \$100,000 this year.
- Donors over 70 1/2 who are not able to itemize their tax deductions can give directly from their IRA and achieve the same benefits as if their gift was fully deductible.
- Donors over age 70 1/2 who are receiving Social Security income may make gifts directly from their IRA without increasing their adjusted gross income and possibly subjecting their Social Security income to higher levels of taxation.
- Those whose retirement assets are in other plans, such as a 401(K), may be able to transfer assets to an IRA and then make their charitable gifts.

Don't miss your chance to reap these tax advantages and help your favorite charity at the same time. These IRA provisions are currently set to expire by the end of 2007. Contact your financial advisor for complete details.



WISH LIST

- Baby Einstein CDs - any kind
- Connect Four board game
- Don't Break the Ice board game
- Easy Liner Shelf Liner grip top, grip bottom
- Personal CD player(s)
- Small child bike helmet
- Small desktop non-fluorescent study lamp
- Small table top fan with child proof vents
- Socket Boppers - like boxing gloves
- Socket Boppers Bop Bag - any character
- Swim masks for pool therapy
- Teflon coated scissors - adult size
- Trouble board game
- Wireless keyboard & mouse x2

*For more information,
call Jennifer at 785-4677*

