

Transforming lives of those with motor disabilities

Director's Column: 20 Years of Achieving Dreams Together

We are proud to be celebrating our 20th year of providing conductive education programming here in West Michigan. What started as a dream held by Chuck and Sue Saur to provide high quality conductive education locally for their son Dan, has become a staple service within our community—a legacy that has created the opportunity for over 500 students with motor impairments and their families to feel the powerful and life-long impacts of conductive education (CE).

Throughout our journey, we have been strengthened by our partnerships. We are grateful to Aquinas College, who in 1999, collaborated with what was then known as the International Pető Institute, to establish the first-ever conductor-teacher training program within the United States. The leadership and long-term vision of former Aquinas President, Harry

Knopke, Ph.D., and then Dean of School of Education, Jim Garofalo, Ph.D., paved the way for creating a sustainable CE program model within the US.

Reflecting back, I would like to thank each of you for your role in our story. For our students and families, thank you for inviting us to be a part of your lives, progress, and achievements. For our staff and Board Members, past and present, thank you for your tireless dedication to our mission. For our supporters, we are grateful for your generosity and willingness to invest in our students. I hope I can thank you all in person at our annual benefit on October 9th. In the meantime, I look forward to what the next 20 years have in store for CLC—thank you for being a part of it.

Andrea Benyovszky, Ph.D.

Meet Savanna...

My name is Savanna Spencer. I'm 18 years old and from Tennessee. I have a disability called cerebral palsy which means my body doesn't work as well as others. But that doesn't stop me from doing stuff. When I was younger, my mom found the Conductive Learning Center (CLC). I've been going there for 10 years. When I first started, I couldn't even use a walker, but now I can... which is so cool!

The program is in Michigan, so when I go there I stay in a hotel with the other CLC kids. Not only is it a great conductive education (CE) program, but it's a good way to meet people who are going through the same thing as you. I am getting stronger, but I've also made friends from all over, even Canada. So many memories, like at the hotel we feel like we are in the sweet life of Zack & Cody because we goof off around the hotel. Another thing about CLC is that CE started in Budapest, Hungary so there are visiting Hungarian teachers, which is so cool. CLC has changed my life for the better.

I'm so glad my mom found it. It's more of a family than anything and I love it.



Savanna Spencer, CLC student since 2008



Summer Camp 2018 – A Magical Kick-Off to our 20th Year

This summer marked the start of our twentieth year of providing conductive education services to children and young adults in West Michigan.

Our camp season began in May with our college-aged students and continued with an additional four week-session beginning on July 9th for students ranging in age from three to nineteen. Thirty-five students traveled from near and far to kick-off CLC's milestone year with 11 conductor-teachers providing 4160 hours of conductive education to our dedicated families.

During the July session, the program-wide theme of "Magic" was celebrated throughout the school—a suitable choice for honoring two decades of extraordinary work and dedication from our students and their families, as well as the steadfast commitment and vision of our Board and staff.

In July, students participated in one of our four programs. Our younger participants enjoyed diving into the magical wonders of nature, while our older groups became experts in performing their own magical feats. Students of all ages worked to master new skills across the developmental domains. From learning to take steps to becoming more independent with important self-care activities, students throughout the school tested their own limits and were able to reach new and exciting goals.

At the end of camp, the students showcased their hard work and creativity by performing at Aquinas College. The show highlighted each student's set of unique skills while providing an opportunity for our school community to celebrate all that we have accomplished together.

Until next year, we will be dreaming of yet another magical summer at CLC!

Sponsor a Child Today!

There are many families hoping their children can take advantage of the services CLC has to offer, but need financial support. Please consider sponsoring a child today! Visit our website to learn more about how you can help transform the life of a child at CLC.

www.conductivelearningcenter.org/sponsor-a-child





CLC Roars into its 20th Year

What do jazz bands, flappers, and CLC supporters have in common? They were all important parts of our 20th Summer Camp celebration, of course!

On July 26th, students, staff, families, as well as new and long-time friends of CLC came together to celebrate the kick-off of our 20th year of providing conductive education services within the Grand Rapids community while also serving students from 39 additional states, as well as international participants.

The event, which featured a Roaring 20's theme, was held at Aquinas College. Party-goers donned their favorite period attire and brought their dancing shoes for an unforgettable opportunity to celebrate 20 years of achievements. The evening featured activities for all ages including live entertainment and awards for the best dressed, as well as a short program highlighting CLC's journey throughout these past two decades. The evening provided an excellent occasion to reflect on our past while looking forward to the exciting opportunities that lay before us as an organization. Cheers to the next 20 years!



6
COUNTRIES

40
STATES

more than
500
STUDENTS

20 YEARS BY THE NUMBERS



New Auction With A Twist

CLC's annual fundraiser, An Evening of Celebration, is just around the corner. If you haven't already reserved your spot, now is the time. We are pleased to introduce our new and exciting Auction With A Twist. This portion of the evening will take place during the opening social hour. It will be a fun and fresh way for attendees to directly learn about the mission while working together to support the needs of the school.

Each twist table will contain one or more items that have been specifically chosen to meet the developmental needs of each age group served at CLC. With your support, we can help students obtain access to these much-needed learning tools. Be sure to arrive for the social hour to join in the auction fun.

To learn more about the Auction With A Twist, Live Auction, or to purchase tickets to the event, please visit www.conductivelearningcenter.org/celebrate.

AN EVENING OF
CELEBRATION



Achieving Dreams Together

Mission Statement

To provide opportunities for preschool and school age children with motor challenges to achieve optimal physical, cognitive and social independence through the application and promotion of conductive education principles.

CLC is a 501(C)3 Organization

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