

*Transforming lives of those with motor disabilities*

## Director's Column: Celebrating 20 Years and a Strong Foundation for the Future

Did you know that in the summer of 1999, forty families traveled to Michigan from all over the United States and beyond to participate in a conductive education summer camp that laid the foundation for the Conductive Learning Center? Since that time, CLC has served over 800 families from 41 different states.

While we are preparing to celebrate our 20th Summer Camp this July, we look back at all the hard work and achievements that have defined CLC. These moments are filled with tears of first-time parents, triumphant first steps in the classroom, thousands of volunteer hours from board members and countless words of encouragement from dedicated conductive teachers and staff. Of course, these moments would not have been possible without the support of our donors and the generosity of the Grand Rapids community.

Many students from that first summer are now in college and are preparing for the start of their professional careers. After their last exams of the semester, they will head to CLC for a four-week reunion with their old friends and conductor teachers as they work towards the newest challenges they will set for themselves. Grown adults that first graced our classrooms as toddlers will return to CLC because it is part of who they are. They are coming home, and we are thrilled to be part of their next chapter.

We have an exciting vision for the next 20 years, and if you want to learn more about how you can become a part of it, please contact us at [info@conductivelearningcenter.org](mailto:info@conductivelearningcenter.org) for more information.

*Andrea Benyovszky, Ph.D.*



Kennedy is learning how to walk with her walker.

## Meet Kennedy...

*by Kirk and Krystal Kingsley*

We visited the CLC last spring to have Kennedy evaluated for the Conductive Education Evaluation Project. Following enrollment in a four-week session, it was obvious that Kennedy needed the CLC to maximize her potential despite having cerebral palsy. For our family, funding would be our biggest obstacle. How would we cover the cost?

I shared with a friend that I would apply for grants and scholarships, but was this enough? She was willing to sponsor Kennedy and encouraged us to prayerfully ask others to do the same. We put together 50 packets requesting support and hosted an art sale in our backyard. We were blown away by the support of our community! Our exact need was met.

The CLC is exactly what Kennedy needs! She has flourished in the rich, challenging, intensive environment. We are so proud of her many accomplishments including: sitting independently in a chair and on the floor; eating soft textured foods rather than only a smoothie-based diet; and placing full weight on her bare feet and taking steps.

Remembering her past six months is amazing, and we joyfully anticipate her future at CLC.

# SHOW YOUR SPARAT



## National Conductive Education Day: Letting the World Know We Can!

For the 9th year in a row, our students and staff, as well as families and friends of the Conductive Learning Center joined forces with the Association for Conductive Education in North America (ACENA) to celebrate National Conductive Education Day. In preparation for this special event, CLC hosted a school-wide “Spirit Week” where themes like “Crazy Hair Day” and “Character Day” gave students of all ages the chance to show-off their style, creativity, and CLC spirit.

A special highlight of the week was on Thursday, February 15th, when we hosted a community-wide celebration for National Conductive Education Day. The morning kicked off with an opening ceremony announcing the first ever CLC Ambassador to the Grand Rapids Community. This was followed by an Open House, as well as a special lunch for visitors and parents that was hosted by our Young Adult Group. During the meal, students and families reminisced and shared their favorite CLC memories.

To wrap up the celebration, the whole school joined in the fun to enjoy cake and time together. Thanks to everyone who played a part in these festivities. If you missed out on this year’s celebration, fear not—we have plenty of opportunities to get involved in the coming months.

## Sponsor a Child Today!

There are many families hoping their children can take advantage of CLC, but need financial support. Please consider sponsoring a child today! Visit [www.conductivelearningcenter.org](http://www.conductivelearningcenter.org) today to learn more.

## ‘We Can’ Campaign

The Conductive Learning Center participated in the first ever #ICan #WeCan social media campaign to build awareness about conductive education, highlight what student participants can achieve, and celebrate with other CE centers about the impact conductive education has on those with motor impairments.

This campaign was launched to coincide with Conductive Education Day on February 15th, making it a powerful and internationally recognized event.

Check out #CEDAY2018 on your favorite social media platform to see our hardworking students in action!



CLC students proudly show how they can overcome challenges.



# SAVE *These* DATES



## Annual 5/3rd River Bank Run

This year, CLC is again an official 2018 Charity Partner. All money raised will be used for CLC's "Champion a Child" scholarship fund. If interested in joining "Team CLC," please email the address listed below.

May  
12



## Celebration of our 20th Summer Camp and End of the Year Party

Join in the festivities as we recognize 20 years of accomplishments and friendships! Keep your eyes open for more details about this event.

June  
1



## CLC's Annual Gala and Fundraising Event

There will be an auction coupled with a dinner. Stay tuned for future updates!

Oct.  
9

For more information about any of these events, please contact:  
[info@conductivelearningcenter.org](mailto:info@conductivelearningcenter.org)



## Students Take the Stage: Showcasing Skills During the Holiday Performance

Where in the city of Grand Rapids can you find a wren, mole, and a big cuddly bear? On stage at the annual CLC Christmas Play, of course! On December 22nd, students and staff gathered to perform the story of "Bear Stays Up for Christmas" based on the children's holiday tale written by Karma Wilson.

Board members, families and friends of CLC gathered at the school to watch the performance in a classroom that had been transformed into a wintry wonderland. Students shared the story of a determined bear who called on the help of his friends to stay awake for the magic of Christmas—all while showcasing skills they had learned in the conductive education classroom.

The event concluded with a special visit from CLC's very own Santa who led the group in a sing-a-long featuring a number of holiday favorites. Don't miss our students' next big show on August 3rd as the culmination of our 20th Summer Camp.

## Thank You, Santa!

The CLC staff would like to extend an extra-special thank you to long-time CLC supporter, Gary Leddick, for sharing the magic of the holiday season with our students and families. We can't imagine a CLC Christmas event without you. Thanks, Santa, for the gifts of your time and talent!



Dr. Harry Knopke, Dr. Andrea Benyovszky and Robert VanDongen present Gary Leddick with a thank you for his support.

# Congratulations, Cathy!

## Cathy Boyer Named First-Ever CLC Ambassador

Cathy, a longtime, selfless advocate for our students and their families, has served on the CLC Board since 2002. “The Conductive Learning Center is a place where hope lives and miracles happen for motor challenged children,” says Cathy. “I am proud of how our Conductive Learning Center and their staff consistently go above and beyond to help children with motor disabilities. It has been an honor for me to have been involved with this program and I look forward to promoting their mission in the coming years.”



Cathy Boyer accepts CLC Ambassador Award.

## 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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