



# CONDUCTIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

*"Where children with motor disorders gain independence and confidence"*



## Director's Column: *"We're Moving Forward Together"*

As we continue through our 20<sup>th</sup> year of serving students and families in West Michigan, we are excited for the possibilities that the future holds for CLC. With our eyes set on moving forward, we can't help but reflect on the strength of the partnerships that have bolstered our mission and the friends and supporters that have walked together with us on this journey thus far.

We certainly would not be who we are today without our continued partnership with the András Pető Faculty of Semmelweis University in Budapest. We are honored to continue to be the only program in North America that is supervised by this mother institute of conductive education, and we are thrilled to continue to welcome guest conductors to work beside our local staff – sharing their talents and expertise with our students and families.

We are also thankful to continue to have a strong relationship with Aquinas College – who 20 years ago, under the leadership of then

President Harry Knopke, Ph.D., and Dean of School of Education, James Garofalo, Ph.D., believed in the power of conductive education and fostered our growth until we were able to stand as our own, independent organization.

In this newsletter, you'll find highlights from our annual National Conductive Education Day festivities. We were honored to recognize both our out-going CLC Ambassador Cathy Boyer for her continued support of our students and families and to announce Marge Potter as our 2019 Ambassador within the Grand Rapids community.

We are incredibly grateful to each and every one of you for your role in helping us move forward, and we are excited to take these next steps together.

Andrea Benyovszky, Ph.D.



Faith, CLC student since 2018.

## Meet Faith...

*by Monique, mother of Faith*

Faith has always had the determination and stubbornness to do new things, but she would become easily frustrated. It wasn't until we came to the Conductive Learning Center that I saw her full potential. CLC gave her the tools she needed to overcome her most difficult obstacles. Since being here, she has stood up by herself, she's using her left hand, and, with some help, she's walking out the door. These were things the doctors told me she would probably never do.

Thanks to the Conductive Learning Center, my hopes and dreams for Faith are becoming reality. Faith has become the person she was meant to be: happy, silly, smart, brave, and hopeful. All thanks to the Conductive Learning Center.

We still have work to do, but I know she will be able to conquer the world.



Aquinas graduate and conductor-teacher, Andrea Swiger ('05), shares practical experience with POHI student, Winter Fricke, in the Early Childhood classroom.



Representatives from the Aquinas College School of Education and the Dominican Center at Marywood share in our National CE Day celebration.

## Aquinas POHI Program Reinstated

We are happy to announce that the POHI/Conductive Education (CE) Program at Aquinas College has been reinstated with the next cohort of students beginning in September of 2019.

Aquinas is one of only two schools in the state of Michigan offering a POHI degree and remains the only conductive education teacher training program in North America. Upon completion of their studies, candidates receive a Bachelor of Arts in Education with a State of Michigan K-12 POHI endorsement and a K-5 elementary teaching certification. Additionally, they receive a certification in conductive education from the András Pető Faculty of Semmelweis Medical University in Budapest, Hungary – which provides an internationally recognized conductor-teacher credential.

The POHI curriculum with the certification in CE was designed by Aquinas College with the assistance of the András Pető Faculty. In the last 20 years, professionals from the András Pető Faculty have delivered the conductive education courses, as well as the majority of biomedical

classes that are offered on-site in Grand Rapids. In addition to the theoretical coursework, students in the POHI program have the opportunity throughout their eight-semester study to gain practical experience by fulfilling weekly laboratory school requirements (a minimum of 10 hours/week for each semester) at the Conductive Learning Center. At the end of the program, students are also required to complete both Elementary and POHI/CE Student Teaching placements – a total of 18 weeks of full-time student teaching experience.

With current students slated to complete their student teaching during the upcoming summer camp and school year and the promise of additional students to begin their studies in the fall, the future for conductive education is bright and blossoming in West Michigan.

Do you know someone who is interested in learning more about the POHI program? Please encourage them to contact Liz Jorgensen, Aquinas College Education Program Advisor, at 616-632-2436 for more information.

We are thrilled to announce that CLC's 20 year journey is coming full circle as we welcome Aquinas College President Emeritus Dr. Harry Knopke as our new Board Chair. Dr. Knopke played a foundational role in establishing the conductor-teacher training program in 1999 during his presidency at Aquinas, and we are thankful for his vision, leadership and commitment to the students and families that we serve.

Exciting news from the Board is on the horizon. Be sure to keep an eye out for announcements highlighting CLC's new opportunities for moving forward.



# National Conductive Education Day

On February 21<sup>st</sup>, supporters of conductive education from all over the country joined together to celebrate National Conductive Education Day. These efforts were coordinated through the Association for Conductive Education in North America (ACENA). This organization is the representative body for programs and professionals providing conductive education services throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. From its inception, CLC has consistently had a strong staff representation on the ACENA Board and has been instrumental in the founding and sustaining of this important organization.

To mark this occasion at the Conductive Learning Center, families, friends, and supporters from the greater Grand Rapids community came together to celebrate. This year's event was one of our largest yet, and we were thrilled to share our program with a number of special guests. To kick off the celebration, we sent our gratitude to our 2018 Ambassador, and we then introduced

and welcomed our new honoree for the year. As the celebration continued, the students of the Early Childhood group performed a special song that shared what they have learned at CLC. Following this memorable performance, the Young Adult students also took time to relay their stories - focusing on how CLC has helped them "Move Forward" and achieve various milestones in their lives. Highlights included numerous topics such as learning to walk, improving overall strength and stamina, and making friends. Next, Board President Harry Knopke Ph.D., shared how the past 20 years have provided a strong foundation for our growth, and announced upcoming events that will help us continue moving forward into the future. To end our celebration, cake and fun was had by all. We would like to thank everyone who participated and helped to make this year's event one to remember.

We can't wait to see what this next year will have in store for CLC. We hope you'll be a part of it!



Newly announced CLC Ambassador, Marge Potter, and friend Jackie Taylor.

## CLC Welcomes its 2019 Ambassador

CLC is excited to announce our 2019 Ambassador: Marge Potter! When asked what she will do in this role, Marge said, "The board, the community, students, and parents are embarking on a new era by building a new physical structure to benefit all those associated with the CLC. I would like to help make people understand the benefit that will be realized by such growth."

### Thank you, Cathy!

As our first Ambassador, Cathy Boyer has been a wonderful advocate for the organization as she continued to build awareness of conductive education in the community. "Because the CLC program is considered to be the finest in the country, it has been an easy job to talk about the miracles that happen every day," she said.

Marge shares a moment with CLC students.



CLC students demonstrate their strength and determination for moving forward.



Standing from left: Harry Knopke, Ph.D., *CLC Board President*, Andrea Benyovszky, Ph.D., *CLC Director*, Robert Van Dongen, *CLC Board President Emeritus*, Kent Riddle, *CEO*, Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, Rick Keyes, *President and CEO*, Meijer Corporation, Peter Albertini, *CLC Board Member*, James Garofalo, Ph.D., *CLC Board Member*, Bill Shefferly, *CLC Board Treasurer*

Sitting from left: Sheila Knopke, Jackie Taylor, Marge Potter, *CLC Board Member and Ambassador*, Susan English, Ph.D., *Aquinas College Dean of School of Education*

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We'd like to share a huge thank you to everyone who came to join our National Conductive Education Day celebration this year! We are so thankful for our Board Members, professional partners, and community supporters who play an essential role in our mission of providing education-based rehabilitation programming for our students and families through conductive education.

## Sponsor a Child Today!

There are many families hoping their children can take advantage of the services Conductive Learning Center 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 Conductive Learning Center.

<https://conductivelearningcenter.org/sponsor-a-child/>

## Mission Statement

To provide opportunities for individuals 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.*

## Save the Date

TEAM  
CLC  


### Amway River Bank Run

May  
11

This year, CLC is once again an official 2019 Charity Partner.

All money raised will be used for CLC's "Champion a Child" scholarship fund. We hope you'll join us!

<https://runsignup.com/clcgr>

## AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION

### Annual Evening of Celebration

Oct  
8

You won't want to miss the opportunity to be a part of this special fundraising event to support our students and families.

Stay tuned - exciting details to follow!

For more information about any of these events, please contact:

[info@conductivelearningcenter.org](mailto:info@conductivelearningcenter.org)