

AnchorLine

the newsletter for supporters

Fall 2013

Issue #2

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inside:

vision corner

through our eyes

upcoming events

**Anchor Center
for Blind Children
teaches visually
impaired infants,
young children
and their families,
providing hope
and a nurturing
environment where
children reach their
highest potential.**

Walter's Story — Successes Near and Far

Walter's birth went as planned and his parents, Rebecca and Matt Norton, were thrilled to be welcoming their second child. Right after Walter was born, the nurses took him away to be weighed and examine him as is routine after any child birth. Rebecca was anxious to hold her son and didn't understand why it seemed to be taking so long to examine Walter. One of the nurses came back to the awaiting parents and told them news about Walter's eye condition.

"I knew something was wrong, a nurse came back to me, placed her hand on my shoulder and told us that his eyelids were fused shut, but that he was reacting to light," recalls Rebecca. "My husband and I were devastated."

When Walter was 12-days-old, he underwent the first of many surgeries to open his eyelids. The doctors discovered that he had Cryptophthalmus, a rare condition where the eyelids are not only fused shut, but are also fused to the eye surface. Walter would only be able to see light and dark. The doctors referred the Nortons to Anchor Center for Blind Children to receive services. Rebecca and Walter visited Anchor Center for the first time when he was 7-weeks-old.

"It was so wonderful to be around such kind and caring staff, as well as other parents who understood what we were going through. Most importantly, I noticed the other parents and children were happy!"

As you may know, we serve 400 children and their families throughout Colorado. When possible, children attend programs in our beautiful facility in Denver's Stapleton neighborhood. Others who may be medically fragile or have other challenges are seen at home. We also make several visits each year to outlying areas throughout Colorado. Walter's family lives in



*after his first surgery at
12-days-old*



Walter with sister Gwen



*playing in his "little
room"*



full of smiles



Walter's first Christmas at 9-months-old

continued, page 8

from the executive director



In the last issue of *AnchorLine* I shared news of many staff leaving us. Now, I get to introduce those who have joined our team. I know I will not do an adequate job of sharing how excited we are to have such competent and committed new team members, so please stop and introduce yourselves when you are here. Appearing in alphabetical order:

Chris Clark, Occupational Therapist in the Preschool Program, came out of retirement to join us two days a week. (Yes, it is the same Chris Clark who

was the first Executive Director of Anchor Center.) She brings years of experience, creative ideas and wonderful positive energy.

Pam Coen will be the voice you hear answering the phones on Mondays and Fridays, and managing the office in a job she shares with Gwen Borchert. Friendly with years of office management experience under her belt makes her an exciting new addition.

KT Colgan has met many of you as she has taken on the Manager of Volunteers position. In just a few short months we've seen her amp up the volunteer orientation, find creative opportunities for volunteers and establish strong relationships. High energy and enthusiasm are her trademarks.

Quinn McCall is our Sibling Care Assistant. Quinn is an expert with young children who are eager to keep him hopping.

Frieda Elisha-Hunter is our Physical Therapist in the preschool program. When she is not at Anchor Center she is at University Hospital working with babies. She has been in the field for a few decades, so we know our children are in great hands. Calm, unflappable and fun.

Lorraine Estrada joined our team as a Teacher of the Visually Impaired almost a year ago, but has not been properly introduced. She's a recent graduate of UNC in Greeley and has jumped right in assisting with all of our programs. She is always eager to help, an avid Broncos fan and planning a spring wedding.

Donna Halffield is an Occupational Therapist in our infant/toddler programs and has been here over a year. She, too, decided retirement is not as fun as being at Anchor Center. Her creativity, vast experience and care for the children and families along with her quiet but fun-filled demeanor have made her integral to our team.

Caroline Lemmens, teaching assistant and former volunteer, finally got her green card. We were thrilled when we were able to make her a paid member of our team. She is a recipient of the Virginia Deal Williams Volunteer Award for all the hours and expertise she has given. Only having baby Hannah kept her away while waiting for those papers. She is another one who steps up and gets the job done — always with a smile. She has a background in early childhood education in her native Belgium.

Pat Lewis is consulting with us as an Orientation and Mobility instructor with our preschoolers. She tells us she is unable to sleep because she's up thinking of new and creative things to do to get the children exploring with their canes. Pat also has many, many years of experience specifically with children with vision impairments. She has jumped right in and is helping our children learn to do the same, literally and figuratively.

Katie McLaughlin has in just a few months proven how valuable having a social worker on staff is. Katie is our first Parent Counselor and her work focuses on working directly with parents — giving them support and resources as well as a much needed sounding board. She has been a terrific addition to our family services team gaining the trust and respect of families from her first hello.

Dawn Schipper has quickly made our Special Events even more special. She came to us with great development experience, including knowing our fundraising software, and has an amazing attention to detail. Her writing skills and positive outlook fit right into an already amazing development team.

Please welcome the new crew members. Also, for those who do not know, **JC Greeley** has decided to retire in June 2014. We are picking her brain as our WOW (Wise Old Woman) for the next few months. We will, of course, be celebrating her retirement so watch for news. As for the staff, we're doing our best to imagine Anchor Center without her, and are grateful to have her for a few more months.

Alice Appuhn

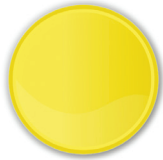
Your Support is a Blessing Year-Round!

As a Kaleidoscope Color Circle Sponsor for \$10 or more per month, your gift provides the therapy and education that children with visual impairments need. As a Sponsor, you will receive updates on children's activities through our newsletter as well as on our website. Sponsors are always welcome to visit a classroom to see first-hand how their gifts make an impact on the lives of these precious children.

For less than 50 cents per day you can make a huge difference in a child's life. Please help by becoming a monthly supporter and joining the **Kaleidoscope Color Circle** at a monthly giving level of your choice.



Blue Circle:
\$10 a month



Yellow Circle:
\$25 a month



Red Circle:
\$50 a month



PG 3

Delta Gamma Appreciation

In 1982, an inspired group of Delta Gamma sisters believed they could change the world of sight-impaired children in Colorado, and thus Anchor Center for Blind Children was born. Since then, thousands of children throughout Colorado have been given a path to personal success and fulfillment. This year alone, Anchor Center will serve nearly 400 infants, toddlers and preschoolers with visual impairments.

We want to acknowledge all the support and assistance we receive each year from the Delta Gamma Alumnae groups as well as the three Delta Gamma Collegiate chapters in Colorado: **Phi Chapter at University of Colorado**, **Beta Chi Chapter at University of Denver** and **Beta Delta Chapter at Colorado College**. Each year our lives are touched by the many DG women who participate

in our volunteer program, special events, Board of Directors and summer internship opportunities. Their commitment to "do good" has enriched our community the last 30 years and continues to impact the success of our future. Thank you, DGs for choosing to be a part of Anchor Center's history and believing in our potential for all the years to come!

For more information on how both collegiate and alumnae Delta Gamma groups can partner with Anchor Center, please contact Development Director, Kristine Wolfe, at kwolfe@anchorcenter.org. To see a video about what Delta Gammas are doing on a national basis, go to vimeo.com/69212463. It features Anchor Center as one of the four centers around the country that the Delta Gammas founded and continue to support.



National Delta Gamma representatives celebrate Anchor Center's 30th Birthday Party



*(left to right)
Delta Gamma
Alumnae
Mary Woodard,
Kathy O'Fallon,
Jane Spencer
and Dale Blaha*



Interns and Phi Chapter DGs, Carolyn Swisher and Payton Bernstine help sell keys at Anchor's Sunset in the Country

through



our eyes



PG 5





Blindness Awareness Month

October was Blindness Awareness Month and while many children who receive our services do not have or have not yet been determined with a formal vision diagnosis, Anchor Center most commonly works with children who experience Cortical Vision Impairment and Optic Nerve Hypoplasia.

Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) occurs when there is damage to the visual cortex, or to the posterior visual pathways, or to both places in the brain. The reduction of vision is due to neurological damage which hinders visual stimulation from being organized and interpreted by the brain. It is analogous to an imperfect computer chip which cannot fully process the input from the keyboard.

Optic Nerve Hypoplasia (ONH) refers to the underdevelopment of the optic nerve during pregnancy. The dying back of optic nerve fibers as the child develops in utero is a natural process, and ONH may be an exaggeration of that process. ONH may occur infrequently in one eye (unilateral) but more commonly in both eyes (bilateral). ONH is not progressive, is not inherited, and cannot be cured. ONH is one of the three most common causes of visual impairment in children.

When a child is referred to Anchor Center, most of the referrals come from an ophthalmologist or an agency. From there, one of our teachers of the visually impaired (TVI) conducts a functional vision assessment. The assessment gives our vision specialists insight into how each individual child learns and responds to sensory stimulation. Our primary goal is to provide our children and their families with the tools and strategies they need to reach their unique individual potential(s). We focus on what they *can* do and celebrate with them every step of the way.

Colorado Childcare Contribution Tax Credit Update

The tax credit is back for 2013! Every gift given to Anchor Center in 2013 qualifies. If you gave gifts to Anchor Center in 2011 and/or 2012 and declared them on your tax return for those years, you will also be able to claim those on your 2013 tax return in a *graduated* fashion:

- For contributions made in 2011, 2012 and 2013, no more than 50% of the total of the tax credits earned (plus any carry forward credits from years previous to 2010) may be claimed in 2013 (i.e. 50% of the 50% tax credit = 25% of donations made in those years).

- In 2014, no more than 75% of the total of the tax credits earned through contributions made in 2014 plus any accrued carry forward credits may be claimed (i.e. 75% of the 50% tax credits = 37.5%).

- In 2015, all total tax credits earned (50% of gifts given in 2015) plus all remaining accrued carry forward credits may be claimed.

Please consult your tax advisor with questions and see the **FYI Income 35** document from www.colorado.gov.

We are grateful for the generous corporate sponsorship of events and activities from:

AAA Waterproofing	Crown Trophy	Hayes Consulting	Sanctuary
Anadarko	DirectTV	Izze	SM Energy Company
Aspen Graphics	DOW Chemical	Jansen Strawn	Smalley & Company
ASR Companies	DRS Engineering Contractors	Joy Wine and Spirits	Stonebridge Companies
Atlantic Trust	EKS&H, P.C.	Lerch Bates	Target
BlueSky	Eldorado Water	Martin Family Foundation	Village Inn
Bradbury Family Partnership	Energy Corporation of America	New York Deli News	Waddell & Reed
BRC Real Estate	Enterprise Leasing	Occasions Catering	Wells Fargo
Callaway Golf	Ernst Engineering	Pie Consulting and Engineering	Whole Foods Denver
Children's Eye Physicians	Event Rents	Regency Realty Group	Xcel Energy
Chocolate Therapist	FirstBank	Republic National Distributing	
Colorado Garden Show	Fortis Law Partners	RW Specialties	
Continental Hardscape Systems	Four Seasons Hotel Denver	Samora	

Anchor Angel Circle of Giving is a continuous giving club with attractive benefits. Members of the "Anchor Angels" pledge to give a minimum \$1,000 gift for three consecutive years (just \$83.34 per month). Giving levels include:

Bronze Angel

\$1,000 gift for three consecutive years

Silver Angel

\$2,500 gift for three consecutive years

Gold Angel

\$5,000 gift for three consecutive years

Platinum Angel

\$10,000 gift for three consecutive years

Diamond Angel

\$20,000 gift for three consecutive years

By committing to a three-year gift pledge, Angels change the lives of children and make it possible for them to have a childhood full of wonder and hope.

To learn about these giving programs, please visit anchorcenter.org today!



Susan Raymond leads former student Maddie Stallman in exploring the sculpture

Upcoming Events

December 10, 2013

Colorado Gives Day

Donate at coloradogives.org/ anchorcenter and your donation will be increased by the FirstBank Incentive Fund.

February 7, 2014

Visions of Love

An evening event at Anchor Center, pairing fine wine and chocolate. Sponsorship opportunities available! Contact dschipper@anchorcenter.org.

April 2014 (tentative)

Angel and Navigator Party

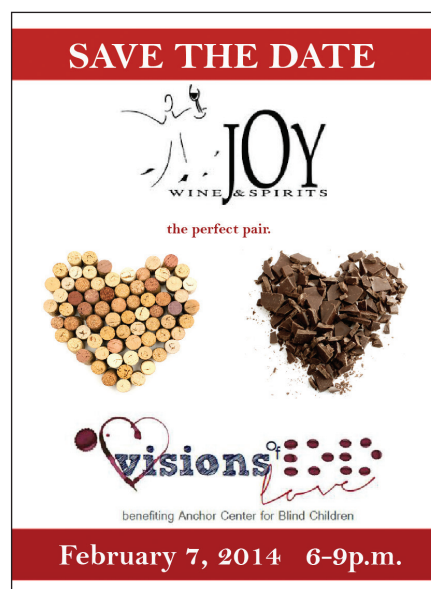
Anchor Angels and Navigators, keep an eye out for more information on the Angel Party and exciting new changes to the program! For more information about becoming an Angel, go to anchorcenter.org >> How You Can Help >> Angel Circle of Giving

June 19, 2014

Energy Corporation of America

2014 ForeSight Golf Classic

Sponsorships now available! Contact savannah@anchorcenter.org.



PG 7

Anchor Volunteer Unveils Fallen Warrior Monument

Recently, Anchor Center's valued volunteer and distinguished artist, Susan Grant Raymond, was honored for her sculpture design of The Fallen Warrior Monument, commissioned by the Fort Drum Civilian workforce in New York state. Her sculpture was designed to represent two themes — honoring the fallen warriors of the 10th Mountain Division (LI) and hope for the future.

Former Anchor Center student, Maddie Stallman, joined Susan for the ceremony along with her mom (and Anchor Center staff), Paula Landry, and our Executive Director, Alice Applebaum. Maddie got the opportunity for an up close and personal tour of the monument with Susan guiding by her side. Susan has been an active volunteer with Anchor Center for many years and her talented work can also be found in our Sensory Garden where she designed beautiful life-like bronze sculptures of children reading and at play. We are so proud of her accomplishments and to support her dedication which impacts communities both near and far.



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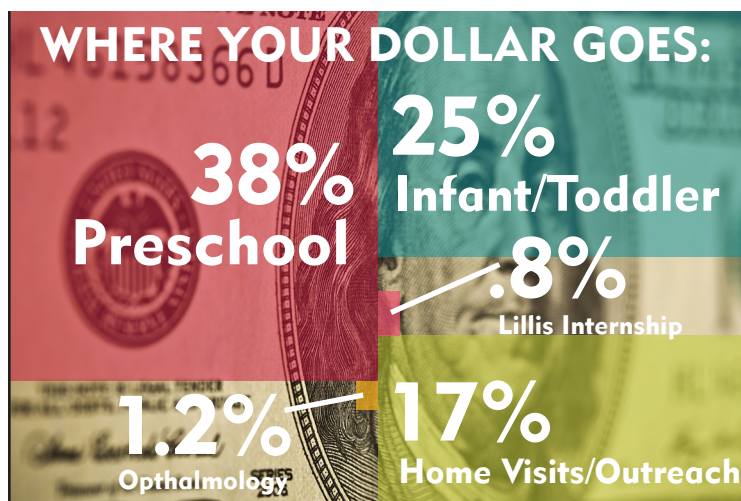
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Walter's Story, *continued from page 1*

Loveland and both of his parents work full time, so traveling to Anchor Center is difficult for them. Instead, Walter receives home visits twice a month from one of Anchor Center's Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI). Home Visits are an integral part of Anchor Center. Many children either live too far away or are medically unable to attend center-based programs. In this case, a TVI will visit the child in their home.

The primary goal of home visitation is to help families learn the best way to enhance sensory experiences and learning for their child. Our TVIs use Walter's own special toys to help assess how he responds to sensory stimulation how to adapt to his home environment by only seeing light and dark. Walter is developing normally and continues to make huge developmental strides! "We have learned a tremendous amount and Walter is thriving. We are so very grateful for the home services from Anchor Center."

Your support helps build a strong foundation for young children with vision impairments and their families as they grow in competence and confidence. Thank you for believing in us. Because of you, stories like Walter's are made possible!



78% of every dollar donated goes to support our programs



Follow us on Facebook!

Become a fan to get updates on what's happening at the Center.

Help us go green — please send us your email! To stay current and receive updates not sent via snail mail please send your address to kwolfe@anchorcenter.org.