

AnchorLine

the newsletter for supporters

Spring 2015

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retirement lane

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annual report

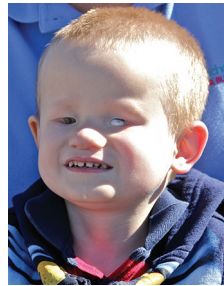
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alice's legacy

**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.**

PRESENTING THE CLASS **of** 2015

Anchors Away! On June 11, 2015, eleven of our preschoolers will throw their sailor hats up in the air as we celebrate their graduation. They are all brave, kind and sweet children who have taught us the meaning of patience, perseverance and joy. Their future is bright as they head off to public school. Congratulations, graduates and families!



Asher

loves his school, his teachers and therapists — and they all love him back. You haven't truly experienced preschool at Anchor Center unless you've had a squeeze from our Asher. He is a happy and charming boy whose giggle is infectious. Asher has many wonderful skills, perhaps one of the most notable is making people around him feel incredibly special.



Audrey

is an inquisitive explorer who is driven to discover how things work. She loves circle time, playing with her friends and always comes to school with a sweet spirit and a readiness to learn. We love you, Audrey!

Elly

can pull an audience in with a wave of her hand, a wink of her eye and her brilliant smile framed by her beautiful hairstyles. She has not an ounce of stage fright when it comes to performing and she loves to entertain everyone with her many talents. We'll miss Elly's kindness and flare as she continues her education in Wyoming.



Ivory

has made tremendous growth during her time at Anchor Center. She traverses the hallways, uses her words and we love to hear her sweet voice as she discovers how to use language. Her gentle smile and warm personality will long be remembered after she goes off to school!



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Happy Sails!

Wendy Woodard

For the past 21 years, Anchor Center has been a self-described second home for Wendy Woodard who originally joined our staff as a classroom aide. However, a love of working in the children's kitchen eventually became her mainstay position. "I've enjoyed every minute of this job," she declares. When asked what she's enjoyed the most, Wendy doesn't hesitate in answering, "Everything! The kids and the staff mostly. The actual working has been fun as well..."

Retirement lane is right around the corner for Wendy as she prepares to make relaxing at home with family her new full-time job.

Living with vision impairment herself, Wendy knows the challenges facing our children and has had a special connection with so many of our students. "It's so interesting to see the shape kids are in when they first



Wendy loves to chat with students in the kid's kitchen

come here and how well developed they are when they leave," marvels Wendy. "I will miss being a part of that. Anchor Center has given me a place to be."

We could not be more grateful for the years of dedication Wendy has shared with us and wish her nothing but the best as she heads into this next chapter in life!



Carol, then and now



Carol Puchalski

Carol began her professional voyage with Anchor Center 33 years ago when she joined our founding program team as a developmental psychology consultant. At the time, Anchor Center's "crew" consisted of just six staff members, including a director, teacher of the visually impaired, occupational therapist, physical therapist and a speech and language pathologist. Each staff member had previous experience working with children birth to 5 with vision impairment. "It was very rare to have an assembled group with these qualifications which included a background in vision," remembers Carol. Together this unique, multi-disciplinary team began building our programs and laying the foundation for our current staff

of over 30 professionals who are nationally recognized as leaders in the field of developmental education for visually impaired children. "It is mind boggling how far Anchor Center has come," exclaims Carol.

After being hired, Carol was pleased to learn more about her collegiate fraternity's founding link to Anchor Center. "There would not be an Anchor Center for Blind Children without the Delta Gamma Fraternity. The vision to start a center in Denver came from the handful of area DG alumnae who saw that this was being done in other parts of the country and believed strongly in the philanthropic *service for sight/aid to the blind* foundations of Delta Gamma. Once established, they put in countless volunteer hours to keep Anchor Center afloat."

Looking back on the past 33 years, Carol is grateful to have had her career shaped by all the children and families we serve. She holds a tremendous amount of respect for her colleagues from whom she has learned so much. What's in store for her next? "I don't plan to be retired from working," Carol shares. "Whether I continue in just developmental psychology or combine that with early childhood music — or do something else entirely is yet to be seen." Thank you, Carol, for your years of service and commitment to "do good"!

THE CLASS of 2015



Isabelle "Izzy"

is a leader in every way. Not every 5 year old has such a clear vision of what they want to be when they grow up, but Izzy has no doubt she will be a veterinarian. When not preparing for her future, Izzy can be found in the classroom expressing her love of learning, using her imagination and sharing her ideas with friends. We will miss Izzy's bright spirit, ideas and hugs!

Rayn

possesses a heart filled with compassion for others often expressing sympathy for how others are feeling and making an effort to provide comfort to them when needed. She loves to explore every room at Anchor Center and always loves to play a drum or shake a maraca. We wish Rayn many joyous moments to come!



Sawyer

holds the honor of often being the first child people meet at Anchor Center. This kind, polite young man greets every visitor with, "What's your name?" followed by an inquiry about any pets, children or interests they may have. We will miss his smile, laughter and questions.



Willow

possesses such enthusiasm for life, it often leaves us wishing we could bottle it. Willow's mind is always filled with stories and questions as she explores the world around her. This quality, coupled with her strong desire to be independent, will take her far!



James

is a curious and delightful conversationalist who has been part of the Anchor Center family since he was 7 months old. He has a wonderful sense of humor and a quick wit. His smile and sweet manner will be greatly missed as he moves on to kindergarten. We'll miss you, James!

Jayden

jumped, danced and laughed his way into everyone's hearts at Anchor Center over the past four years. He loves everything about our Motor Center for there's no doubt Jayden likes to move and he's going places!

Whether he's running down the hallway, riding a bike outside or traveling to Thailand to visit family, Jayden takes time to notice and absorb all that's around him. We wish him well on his next adventure.



Sean

is ready to take kindergarten by storm. He's a sweet natured friend who is happy when his friends are successful. Sean takes pride in his accomplishments and is eager to try new and challenging things. We are so proud of you, Sean!



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Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Annual Report to the Community

Anchor Center's 2013-2014 Annual Report to the Community is posted online at anchorcenter.org under the "Who We Are" link. We are deeply grateful for all of our supporters who share our vision and are recognized in the Annual Report. All of our activities and accomplishments are made possible by the generosity of friends like you! Thank you for choosing to make a lasting impact on the children and families we serve.



Dear Alice,

You've gotten up early every day for 19 years, worked nights and weekends and accomplished many great successes as evidenced by all that has been accomplished at Anchor Center since 1997. Starting August 1, you get to take some time for yourself! We will miss your wisdom and experience, but most of all, we will miss your support, encouragement and dedication to the children and the families served by Anchor Center.

Through the Years:

Milestones and Quotes from Alice

We are celebrating Alice's leadership through the years of her time at Anchor Center for Blind Children with milestones and quotes from her letters in Annual Reports.

- 1997** First ForeSight Golf Classic held at Sanctuary with the United States Association of Blind Athletes
- 1998** "It is impossible to share in words what Anchor Center is — we are a place; a philosophy; a mission; a dream; a group of families; a committed and caring corps of staff, board and volunteers; a community."
- 1999** Art of the Eye II, a traveling art show of 42 pieces done by artists with visual impairments was held.
- 2000** "The Anchor Center staff continued to demonstrate why they are nationally recognized for their expertise and abilities. We collaborated with the Colorado Department of Education and brought in experts in deafblind education of young children to work one-on-one with our staff, expanding our expertise and competencies."
- 2001** Anchor Center celebrated 20 years! "This is an important milestone as we remember back to our founders sitting around a kitchen table planning how we would serve four young children with visual impairments."
- 2002** "Our commitment to meeting the needs of visually impaired children and providing services to their families is stronger and more determined than ever."
- 2003** The annual Anchor Smash Tennis Event celebrated its 18th year with tennis and lunch hosted by the Greenwood Athletic Club.
- 2004** The first Sunset in the Country event was held in July of 2004 taking our Day in the Country event to a new level.
- 2005** Along with planning for the new building at Stapleton, we created a new logo that shows an adult in the background gently encouraging a strong child to independence and supporting their "Seeing Life Differently."



2006 “Julie McAndrews Mork Building at Stapleton: Our architects traveled to other programs, put on simulation goggles, and most of all, they listened and heard what encourages optimal learning. Our contractors loved the children and the project. They invited the children over for hard hat tours during the construction. They did not pour concrete until the joints were “cane tested” by the children.”



2007 “Move to Stapleton: Little fingers trace bumps on pages and realize they mean something. Messes are made in the art room. Tapping shoes and movement are sprinkled with light spilling onto the wooden red floor. Canes and tricycles explore the Braille Trail and Cane Walk Lane. Water fountains and bronze sculptures enhance the sensory garden experience. Hearts remain full. Hope is abundant. Laughter rings through bigger, brighter happier halls.”



2008 In January 2008 we teamed with The Gerber Foundation on a three-year research project to determine how vision impairments affect feeding development in children birth to age 3. This study was the first of its kind. Our staff have authored articles and attended and presented countless workshops and training sessions.

2009 “We hired our first volunteer coordinator! When we moved into the new building, we knew our exposure to the community would increase, but we had no idea just how much public awareness of our mission would grow.”



Alice throughout the years with volunteers, staff, donors and our children

2010 Our Lillis Internship Program continued to flourish — 17 students have gone through the program to date; Dr. King and his team at Children’s Eye Physicians completed 96 eye exams for a total of 217 exams since the program was started and the first COMPASS: Parents Guiding Parents group was formed.

2011 We fostered important collaborations with WonderBabies and No Barriers and many staff attended the Western Regional Early Intervention Conference in Ogden, Utah. Energy and focus was on early childhood issues faced by children with vision impairments.

2012 “We graduated one of the largest classes with 12 youngsters. The class was so big we returned to Clayton campus for the graduation celebration — a nice reminder of how far we’ve come, but how lucky we were to have been at Clayton for 18 years.”

2013 It was a year of celebrating 30 years! Events were held to honor everyone from donors, volunteers, past and present board members and, of course, all of the graduates and their families. Success stories were abundant, and memories were captured on video and placed in a time capsule that will be opened at the 40th anniversary celebration!

2014 Three decades of Anchor Center graduates prove excellent examples of all things truly being possible. As children and young adults, they are athletes, musicians, student council representatives, high school and college graduates, and even licensed counselors.



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Upcoming Events

June 9

Annual Meeting and Alice Applebaum's Retirement, Anchor Center Community Room, 7 p.m.

A celebration of Alice's 19 years of incredible leadership, review of 2014-2015 school year, and presentation of the Virginia Deal Williams Volunteer of the Year Award.

June 11

Anchor Center Preschool Graduation, 10 a.m.

June 24

ForeSight Golf Classic, Sanctuary Golf Course, Shotgun Start, 11:30 a.m.

Many thanks to our title sponsor, Energy Corporation of America, and our presenting sponsor, RE/MAX LLC, for generously hosting the 19th Annual ForeSight Golf Classic. Don't miss your chance to play at this exclusive, world-class course. We've only got a few spots left! To register a team or individual player, contact Savannah Wippel at 303-377-9732 ext. 145.



July 31

Sunset in the WILD 2015

Anchor Center is honored and thrilled to announce a new venue for our premier summer fundraiser. Sunset in the WILD (Country) will be held at The Wildlife Experience, in the Liniger Building at CU South Denver. For more information on table hosting and sponsorship opportunities, contact Dawn Schipper at 303-377-9732 ext. 142 or visit our events page at anchorcenter.org.

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