



THE BEACON

issue 4 | 2020



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CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 7 Labor Day **LLH CLOSED**
- 11-13 Miles for Milestones
- 14 **LLH CLOSED**
- 23 Community Luncheon **RSVP ONLY**

OCTOBER

- 5 Volunteer Training at 12pm
- 10 Mini-Laps
- 15-16 Fall Break **LLH CLOSED**
- 28 Community Luncheon **RSVP ONLY**

NOVEMBER

- 11 Community Luncheon **RSVP ONLY**
- 16 Volunteer Training at 12pm
- 25 -27 Thanksgiving **LLH CLOSED**

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Anne McCoy

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BE SOCIAL WITH US
@LITTLELIGHTHOUSE @llhtulsa

WHAT A WILD FIRST HALF OF 2020!

I can actually say that I am thankful for some of the outcomes resulting from the initial shock and ongoing adjustments associated with COVID-19. Here are just a few...

- Discovering that only God can fill the deep places of fear and lack of control that COVID-19 has uncovered. Here are some of the phrases that have surfaced among our Little Light House staff as we have focused on God during these difficult months:

Happy in the Hard There is a place of happiness in the difficulty similar to what is found in **Psalm 23:5** - *You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies [enemies can include hard circumstances]. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.*

Worship While You Wait While we are waiting for things to return to some degree of normalcy, we can make a choice to worship God and thank Him for the good He has brought to our lives. **Psalm 42:11** - *Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.*

The Storms Don't Stop But Neither Do The Rainbows God always has hope and His promise of redemption awaiting us. **Lamentations 3:22-23** - *The Lord's faithful love does not cease; his compassion does not fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

- The amazing creativity exhibited by our Little Light House staff, starting with the decision to turn our HUGE Garden Party event into a wonderful virtual celebration in one month! This event brought in more funds than ever before and engaged nine different countries! Next was the beautiful and determined effort by our Children Services staff to change from teaching in person to virtual learning almost overnight. I wish I could show you all the wonderful learning and therapy videos developed by our talented teachers and therapists for their classrooms' online learning.

- Learning more deeply the meaning of team among the LLH staff. Focusing on working as a team can be hard and especially in trying circumstances; God, however, calls us to work in unity, love and respect. **I Corinthians 13 TPT** reveals the way:

*Love is large and incredibly patient.
Love is gentle and consistently kind to all.
Love is not easily irritated or quick to take offense.
Love is a safe place of shelter, for it never stops believing the best for others.
Love never takes failure as defeat, for it never gives up.*

- A very deep appreciation for you! The Little Light House students and staff have needed your love and support, and you have given it! All of us are so grateful to still have our jobs and our wonderful student programs. This is because of your generous support; it is very humbling to us. Thank you! Thank you for remembering us with love and action.

Yes, God has brought good to the Little Light House out of this time that has shaken our world. He has shown His faithfulness, much of that being through you, our Little Light House community.

**Thank you and God bless you,
Love,**

Anne and Little Light House students, families, and staff



Anne McCoy
Little Light House Executive Director

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

MATTHEW NANTZ

BY DAD, BOB NANTZ



Our son's name is Matthew and he loves going to school at the Little Light House. From our family's very first visit, it was absolutely clear that there was something special at LLH. We knew it and he did too. We could actually *feel* a presence of peace and love before we even saw or spoke to anyone. He was a different boy on his first visit. That presence of peace and love has not waned in all the time Matthew has been here.

The administrators, teachers, therapists, and volunteers have been beyond amazing. They've

patiently worked with Matthew and helped him develop. They are also loving yet firm, and help him grow in areas even when he doesn't want to. They are dedicated and very knowledgeable about any topic we think to discuss. Not only were they loving and patient with Matthew and all the other children, they were the same with us. We were over-protective parents with lots of questions and concerns asking questions that we know had been answered many times before, and we always received a patient and gentle reply. As I think about it, this wonderful place wasn't just a blessing to Matthew, LLH was



a blessing to us too. I suspect many parents of LLH children would agree.

What we've noticed this year is that he understands a lot more than we ever thought and is becoming quite the little...“person”.

We are so thankful for all the donors who have made it possible for Matthew to attend LLH. So many people and companies have given their time and their wealth: many more than we will ever know this side of Heaven. I thank God that he has moved in the hearts of people and guided their hands to deliver this special ministry of love to these amazing children.

As Matthew's father, if there is any one thing I am most thankful for it is this: I know that Matthew is loved here. All of God's special children are loved here.

As we move forward into the next season of life, we do so with courage. Matthew's name means “Gift from God”. We always keep that meaning in our hearts as we know that God gave us a good thing when He gave us Matthew. Rattana and I, as well as our children, are becoming more like Jesus because of him. We realize that God didn't “do this to us”, he gave Matthew to us...for us. We thank the Little Light House for continually reminding us of the wonderful gift that is Matthew.

SUCCESSSES ACHIEVED WITH TWO YEARS AT LLH:

- Happy to walk to class in the morning by himself
- Started to engage with peers in class
- Shows initiative in play
- Willing to follow commands to finish tasks even when he doesn't want to
- Come out of his shell/shyness
- Loves end of class because he knows it's time for Mr. Thomas to begin vacuuming
- Willing to touch items and explore different activities during therapies and classroom explorations with food and textural items
- Communicates his wishes and desires through LAMP. For example, he knows how to tell us that he wants to dance to music on Spotify



Join us for a brand new fundraising event, Miles for Milestones! A virtual bike, run, walk event to raise money for the students of Little Light House so we can continue to provide free education and therapeutic services for children with special needs.

Even though we can't be together, we can still come together virtually to support the Little Light House!

You read that right, virtual. Due to the recent recommendation by the CDC, Laps for Little Ones has been modified this year to a Bike, Run, Walk Virtual Event.

VIP RUNNER
\$75

Go above and beyond to help the students of Little Light House. As a very important person, you will receive a swag bag including a t-shirt, sticker, and additional LLH swag!

PARTICIPANT
\$35

Support Little Light House BY raising money and support the students through biking, running, or walking! You will receive a participant swag bag including a t-shirt and a sticker!

OUT OF TOWN
FREE

Don't live near Tulsa or live out of state? Participate in Miles for Milestones for free as an Out of Towner! While you don't receive a swag bag, we appreciate you supporting the Little Light House!

FUN RUNNER
FREE

Do you want to help raise money for the Little Light House but don't need a swag bag? You can participate as a "For Fun" participant and support the Little Light House!

REGISTER TODAY LITTLELIGHTHOUSE.ORG

ALUMNI with Keith Boyd SPOTLIGHT



Tell us about yourself and your family.

The Little Light House really jump-started my life and I feel like my family learned how to engineer stuff, I'll give one example, toys. Most special toys costs a stupid amount, but, my parents are awesome by finding fine motor tools so we didn't have to spend a crazy amount like, say \$150, on a \$4, normal toy just at the store.

What are your interests?

I love to hunt and fish, in fact, I have an antelope I shot back in October of 2018 hanging in my room.

What's your story?

I have quadriplegia cerebral palsy that causes me to not walk, use my hands and talk. I started going to the Little Light House in the fall of 2006. Man I was spoiled for 5 years! My PT (at that time) brought the Little Light House to our attention, so my Mom toured the facility, and I got on the wait list.

What do you remember from your time as a student at LLH?

My best memory from the Little Light House has got to be my muddy pig day. Lol! They were so muddy including myself! I was so filthy that day!

How did LLH benefit you?

The Little Light House, like I said, has given me hope, joy and my godly heart. They gave me a voice through a communication device that has really opened a world to me to express my wants and needs to the outside.

Help me understand your talker. How does it work?

So basically there's a black bar (also known as a CI) that runs across my computer screen that reflects light, back on to the screen.

What is frustrating about communicating with a talker?

The frustrating part of it is it's so sensitive with its calibration. Sometimes it takes 1 minute or an hour based on my muscle tone that day. The positive of it is I can do stuff like what I'm doing now thanks to the technology today.

What can others do to be good conversationalists with you?

I don't mind if you guess, but if you get it wrong the first time, just be patient. I'm working as fast as possible.

What are your dreams for the future?

My dream job is to be a radio DJ for K95.5. I love communications. Without people like me, people wouldn't know what's going on in the world.

HELPING KIDS BE KIDS

A brand new podcast dedicated to helping parents better understand their children and give them the resources they need.



A Resource Worth Waiting For

★★★★★

I am so happy that the Helping Kids Be Kids Podcast finally exists, but I have to say it was worth the wait! With an extremely intentional host, topics that desire to be discussed, willing and vulnerable guests full of knowledge and insight...this resource was created for such a time as this and will provide great hope! I believe it will be a light in a dark world, while helping to educate, equip and empower. Way to go, Little Light House team—you knocked this one out of the park!



At the Little Light House, we are always dreaming up innovative ways to instill confidence and hope. When Retrospec Films encouraged us to use their studio to create a podcast, the concept captured our imaginations. I have dreamed of hosting a podcast. I began praying about how God might want me to be involved. As the year unfolded, and we moved into distance learning, it became clear that this was a God inspired idea. The timing is perfect! I was invited to be the host, and Helping Kids Be Kids was born.

With few resources for parents of children with special needs, it can be stressful, frustrating, and isolating. With the Helping Kids Be Kids podcast, parents and caregivers can find solutions to help them understand their child, build confidence, and enjoy parenting. Our conviction is that God designed parents to be experts on their children. That's why we are passionate about empowering parents to be confident caregivers. Within the Little

Light House community, our families have powerful testimonies and encouragement. Our staff have expertise and insights. Our friends have skills and resources. Furthermore, our biblical principles and trans-disciplinary team create a framework for an integrated, Christ-centered approach.

For me, it is a sheer joy to sit with guests as they authentically share their stories. We laugh. We cry. We heal. We grow. Through conversational-style weekly episodes we freely share the wealth of wisdom God has given us with an ever-increasing audience. It's exciting to imagine how many kids and families will benefit!

Join us on this journey. To listen, go to Apple Podcast or any where you stream podcasts. New episodes every Tuesday. Help us spread the word about Helping Kids Be Kids, the Little Light House parent resource podcast.

Christina





WHAT IS THE CREW?

The Crew is a passionate and determined group of monthly givers on a mission to discover solutions that change the future of kids with special needs and their families. It is a community centered around change, empowerment, and improving lives through monthly giving. When you join this community, you will receive monthly impact reports, highlighting breakthroughs the Little Light House is making in Tulsa and around the world. These reports will empower you to be an ambassador, helping kids be kids wherever you go.

WHY GIVE MONTHLY?

We are constantly bombarded with things to remember throughout the day and sometimes the most important things slip through the cracks. When you join The CREW, your donation becomes automatic and you can rest easy knowing you are changing the lives of children with special needs, their families, and the community.

CREW member
Major Matt McCord



I joined The Crew because I wanted to keep Little Light House at the forefront of my mind every month. Previously, I would give sporadic gifts throughout the year, but it was important to me that the wonderful people who make up the Little Light House could better plan around my consistent monthly giving. I am absolutely certain that every dollar I commit positively impacts the lives of God's most precious children.

JOIN TODAY www.littlelighthouse.org/the-crew/ and get a FREE "Helping Kids Be Kids" T-shirt.

MINI-LAPS 2020

OCTOBER 10TH

This year for Mini-Laps we celebrate our Hometown Heros! Keep an eye on your email or follow us on social media for up-to-date notifications on Mini-Laps 2020.

If you are interested in sponsoring Mini-Laps this year please contact Amy Keil at 918.664.6746 or email events@littlelighthouse.org



HONORARIUMS

Charles Baker
Liam Epperson
Pam Bell
Solomon Siegel
Emma Biersdorfer
The Chesser Family
Debbie Blackwell
Saylor Crose
Erin Booher
Matthew Meyers
Keith Boyd
William Walsh
Kathleen Buehrle
Lucy Vandrell
Jordan Cox
Poppy Cox

Cheryl Cox-Vokes
LLH Staff & Teachers
Judith Davis
Kristine Elyse
Davis King
Marilyn Goeddey
Benjamin Jones
Deborah Graves
Joshua Bougie
Susan Gray
Shelly Ledbetter
John Hamill
Liberty
Darrell Hazle
Brady Dick
Carol Holt

Keith Boyd
Robert Long
Patrick Conner
Robert Mentzel
Kristine Elyse
2020 Graduates
Megan Neely
Gracie Ledbetter
Karen Redfern
Jean Winfrey
Johnanna Rush
Kate Tucker
Brian Salvesen
Brooklyn Chandler
Terry Smejkal
Morgan Smejkal
Elizabeth Soderfelt

Aaron Soderfelt
Beth Soderfelt
Sarah Sullivant
Janet Sparkman
Jeremy Wayne Sparkman
Kirk Van Vleet
Delilah Amora Brenton
Katie Warne
Gracie Ledbetter
Matthew Wilks
Jonah Hough
Noonie Yarbrough
Kate Tucker
Joy Yoder
Rowan Stice

MEMORIAMs

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Ellen Jewell
H W Hornstra
Paula Blackstock
Michael Leibold
Kathleen Allen
Jana Sharum
Beth Benware
A. Jane Ives
Martha Golden
Beverly Hickey
Susan Brown
Daniel Neuenswander
Ann Bunnell-Hornstra
Clarey Sharum
Ann Bunnell-Hornstra
Carol Matheuszik (le Janssen)
Ann Bunnell-Hornstra
Phyllis White
Helen Burchfiel

Mike Burnside
Hunter Burnside
Anonymous
Libby Claycombe
Kenneth Collins
Cheyenne Collins
Judith Davis
Jeffery Warren Davis
Robin Postier
Lorenna Eva-Maire Enloe
Ervin Postier
Lorenna Eva-Marie Enloe
Bridget Hynes
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Roman Harrison
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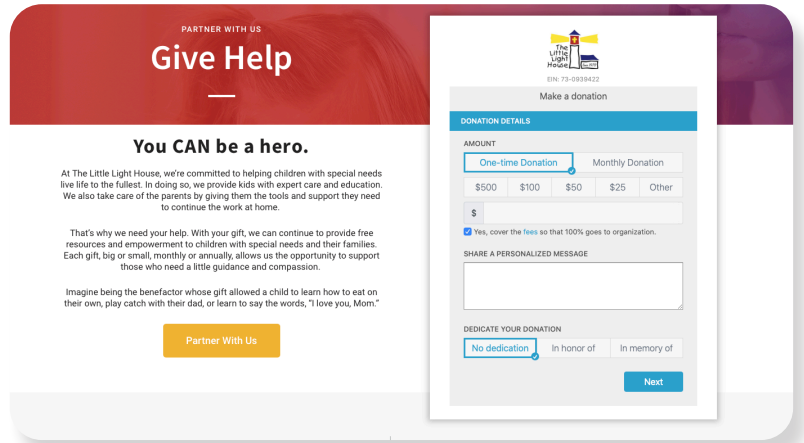
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A CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



Non-discriminatory Policy

The Little Light House, Inc is a non-profit Christian Developmental Center for children with disabilities, age birth to six years of age. The Little Light House does not discriminate on the basis of religion, sex, color, race, national or ethnic origin, or medical diagnosis (unless the diagnosis affects the child's ability to attend school on a regular basis) in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, and other school administered programs. Some behavioral conditions may be evaluated on individual basis. The Little Light House assures that all children's records will be maintained as confidential.