

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF LITTLE LIGHT HOUSE

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THE BEACON

THE GRADUATE EDITION

**SLIDING
INTO
THE
FUTURE**





 Anne
McCoy
Executive Director

Hello Dear Little Light House Community,

In these unprecedented times we still have so much to celebrate...just let me tell you about our Little Light House graduates!

It is hard for me to believe that the time has come for 38 of our precious children to start the next, new exciting stage of their life.

On Thursday, May 14, we held our very first virtual Graduation Ceremony for our 2020 Graduates. We kicked-off our celebration earlier in the day with a joyful Graduation Parade which filled our front drive with graduates and families in decorated cars and cheering staff.

I remember seeing many of these students and their families when they first started the Little Light House; there were often tears from both children and parents. It can be a scary time leaving your beautiful child in the hands of those you don't yet know well; especially a child who needs special attention. But then something wonderful starts to happen: trust! A team starts to form between the classroom staff, therapists and parent, a team with one shared goal: to help each child thrive.

The children start to change: less crying, more engagement, smiles that turn to laughter, hugs, new friends, new experiences! Circle time, music, gym, snack with friends, therapy groups, adapted toys and books, music, Birthday and Christmas parties. Their world expands in an environment of love, joy and devotion. A world where we, the staff, feel the freedom to bless the children and to ask God to intervene on their behalf...and He does!

While at Little Light House, many of these children learn to: sit, walk, play, eat, talk with their own voice or through a device, enjoy sensations, sing, and engage with friends. Every child is well-loved and they love well in return. This is the greatest gift!

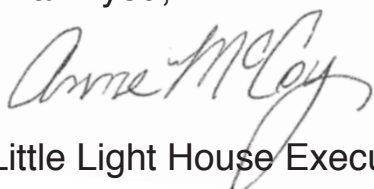
We are so thankful for the parents and families who share their children with us. Their love and determination to provide the best opportunities available for their children shines through! We are blessed to become a part of these families. So this is why saying "goodbye," is so very hard. They have our hearts! Letting go is never easy, but knowing that we have given these children our best, to equip them for a bright future, is our reward.

I am grateful for our LLH staff who all work together to make happen our mission of glorifying God by improving the quality of life for children with special needs, their families and communities.

And you, our Little Light House community, are essential to all of this! Thank you so much for supporting this process through your time, efforts and money! May you be blessed as you look at our sweet 2020 graduate's faces. Please, along with us, say a prayer that their days ahead will be filled with the goodness, hope and light of the Lord! We love these beautiful children, and we love you!

Graduate families please, please know it is our strong hope that you will always have a place in your hearts for the Little Light House. We have lots of ways for you to stay involved, so please do!

Thank you,



Little Light House Executive Director



ADEN MCCLUNG

The Little Light House has been a tremendous blessing to our family! The impact Little Light House has had on our hearts and our family has changed us forever! Aden has grown exponentially in cognitive development and independence over the last year. He loves his friends and his creativity and imagination are so fun to watch. He has been shown love every single day, even on the hard days. He has been held in grace and given the freedom to work through hard things in a safe place. He no longer is anxious to go to a school because of the love he feels everyday at his new school. He has been shown a true example of God's love through the people who surround him and has taken on their grace-filled demeanor. For that, I will be forever grateful! Thank you Little Light House! You all mean more than you know! - Aden's Mom

ALEX LOYA



Alex has made enormous strides throughout his three years at Little Light House and still continues to amaze everyone with his skills. He has begun to crawl to the toys and people he wants. He loves to color and paint. He is so excited to participate during group activities and is the first to raise his hand when I ask who wants to go first. We will miss Alex so much next year, but know he is ready and prepared for this next season of life!
-Kelsey Sanchez, Green Class Teacher

ARYA MCSHANE



Arya so full of spunk and excitement. She always knows all the dance moves to our learning songs and loves to sing along with her teachers. She loves cooking in the classroom and trying new foods with her friends! Arya is the little mama in class. She's usually bottle feeding multiple baby dolls and rocking them to sleep. It has been a blessing to have this little girl at Little Light House and we can't wait to watch her take on the world.
-Kelsey Sanchez, Green Class Teacher



ARYA KILLIAN

Arya is a little girl who is so full of love, joy, and strength. She has conquered cancer TWICE and she has done it with courage, perseverance, and a spunky attitude. Arya shows everyone that anything is possible and nothing should stop you from enjoying life. She is a great friend who leads with encouragement and love. Her laugh is so contagious and I am so proud of all that Arya has accomplished. She is starting to talk and she has a lot to say. Every morning when she comes to school her friends and I get the biggest hugs. Arya has the most genuine love for life and she does not waste a day showing you all she can do. She is going to change the world and I know she will shine the light of Jesus everywhere she goes. We will miss Arya so much!

-Nicole Fields, Pink Class Teacher



AUTUMN HENRY

Autumn loves coming to school and is so happy to be around her teachers. She giggles and squeals when her teachers sing and dance crazy. She is so observant and searches for Miss Kelsey around the classroom. Once she spots her, we can always hear a sweet giggle from across the room. She works so hard on walking and is so close to mastering this skill! We love this determined little one and are going to miss her greatly.

- Kelsey Sanchez, Green Class Teacher



BRADY SLONECKI

Brady is a sweet, gentle, loving presence who is so bright! He truly has a gift of connection even though he has no verbal words. One way that Brady has demonstrated his skills is through the use of LAMP, a communication app on the iPad. He quickly understood that if he pressed a button that said a word, he would get something. He immediately learned the word “more” and tries to use it often! For awhile, we let him do that until we realized that he had SO MUCH MORE to say. I am so proud of the progress he is making with LAMP and can't wait to “hear” all he his heart and head have to share with the world. Brady has made major strides in everyday classroom routines. He has learned to sit in his chair throughout circle time and comes up to the front when his name is called. He enjoys school and loves being around people. We sure are sad that we will have only had one year with Brady but we are forever grateful for this year. He is truly a light and he will always be remembered as the boy who gives the best hugs.

- Lauren Gebhard, Speech Language Pathologist



BRANTLIE BERGSTROM

The Little Light House only had the privilege of having Brantlie for one year, but boy, was it a great one! The best way to describe Brantlie is she is a poised little lady. No one can pull off the adorable pony-tail, sophisticated glasses, legs crossed and ready to learn look quite like Brantlie! She is no doubt a hugger, cuddler and a lover. She will curl up with you for hours if you let her, helping her feel supported and cared for. The cool thing is, it makes all of the teachers and therapists feel cared for, too! She is so bright and consistently proving to us just what we expected from the beginning - that she CAN and she WILL exceed expectations! Looking back on this past year, I cannot help but smile and get a little misty eyed thinking about her growth in so many areas. Just like any (almost) kindergartner, Brantlie loves watching videos, listening to praise and worship songs, coloring, painting and exploring the world around her. We know the sky is the limit for Brantlie - and we can't wait to see her continue to take off!

-Clarey Sharum, Speech Language Pathologist



BROOKLYN DYE

Brooklyn will melt your heart with her sweet smile and personality. She has been such a bright light and cheerleader for her friends in Yellow Class. She is constantly wanting to make other friends smile and laugh, and would give hugs and kisses all day if we let her. Brooklyn is also constantly checking on her friends and making sure they are included. I have seen her sit or crawl with her friends who aren't walking yet if they are by themselves just so they have a friend near them. She has a really big heart for others. I have been fortunate to have Brooklyn in my class for two years and she has been such a blessing. She makes my day with her silliness, amazing dance moves, and her curiosity to learn. Brooklyn has grown so much since being at LLH. She is talking so much and is now a helper and leader for the class. We will miss Brooklyn so much, but we are excited to see all that she accomplishes in her future!

-Devin Estrem, Yellow Class Teacher



DANIEL JOHNSON

Daniel is the epitome of JOY! He radiates happiness and laughter from the moment he runs into Red Class to the moment he says, "bye, love you", as he walks out the door. His crooked smile, squinty eyes, and belly laughs will forever be etched in our hearts. Anybody who was blessed to experience his gym time will always remember his "I DID IT" with his hands in the air and a jump at the end after he slides down the roller slide!! Daniel has accomplished so much in his first and only year here. He loves to sit and paint, help his teachers cook, and loves being a leader during circle time. He loves picking our song in the morning, letting his teacher know what comes next in the day, and singing goodbye to all of his friends. He is full of so much love and joy for all of his Red class friends and always has a high-five ready to encourage them. Daniel has learned to let his teachers know what he needs and enjoys playing red light/green light with the staff. His speech has taken off and we love hearing his

precious voice answer all of our questions! No matter how mischievous Daniel can be, when he gives you that big smile with the dimples and cute laugh, you can not help but shake your head, chuckle, and give him the biggest hug. Daniel's love for running and always being on the go will also be remembered here. I can hear his excitement and laughs from red light/ green light while running down the hallway just thinking about it now...Daniel, no matter where you go, remember we always love you at the Little Light House and you are a true treasure.

-Brooklyn Smith, Occupational Therapist



EDUARDO AQUAYO

I would like to thank all the people who give to Little Light House. It is because of you that we were able to attend tuition free. We are so thankful for having the opportunity to be part of this great community. We are so grateful for the volunteers, teachers and therapists, and all the people who love Eddie and our family so well. Eddie is a totally different kid now. He has grown so much and his personality has blossomed. He is so full of love and that is something that I will forever be grateful for.

- Yanet Aquayo, Eddie's Mom

To add on to what Yanet said, Eddie is also using his vision more, and his head to access switches to activate toys and technology. We love Eddie's smile and his sweet personality. I am so thankful for the opportunity I have had to be one of his therapists! Eddie is a very special little boy, and God has BIG plans for his future!

- Jamey Fox, Physical Therapist

ELIJAH SEIKEL



Eli has a great sense of humor and radiates joy every time he enters the classroom. He loves to make his friends and teachers laugh by singing silly songs, being playful, and dancing! He is not afraid to tell you his opinion and his ability to advocate for himself will serve him well. Eli has grown so much in his four years at the Little Light House in all areas of development. When he started he was not yet walking independently, and he now runs, climbs and jumps. He communicates via sign, LAMP and words and can now read and write his name. We will miss him so much but are grateful to know he will continue to bring joy and light to whoever he meets.

- Jodi Howe, Occupational Therapist

EMMA WILLIS



Emma has the most gentle and sweet spirit. Her love for her friends is so fun to see and her ability to be a leader in the classroom has always been so helpful. She loves to be the teacher's helper and is always looking for ways to be a friend to others. I have loved seeing Emma grow in so many ways. She has such a tender heart. We are going to miss you, Emma!

-Nicole Fields, Pink Class Teacher



GRACIE LEDBETTER

As soon as we got Gracie's diagnosis, we put her on the waiting list at Little Light House, and less than two years later we got the call for her evaluation for admissions. When I first walked through the Little Light House doors with Gracie, all of the dreams that I thought had vanished when we found out she had Downs Syndrome were suddenly brought back to life. After four years here, even marriage now seems like a very attainable dream for Gracie. The city of Tulsa is so incredibly lucky to have this place. So many families have been touched by the staff, therapists and administration here. Our eyes have been opened to the spectrum of special needs for each student. We suddenly don't feel so lonely on this road less traveled. We've found strength in the friendships that we've made. We've created lifelong bonds with people who we otherwise would've never met...people that teach us and inspire us every day.

Gracie has thrived and flourished during her time in the classroom with all of the wonderful teachers and therapists. We are so thankful for every teacher, therapist and staff member past and present. They've all played an integral role in shaping Gracie's development. Every student here gets top notch, state-of-the-art physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, vision therapy and assistive technology therapy every single day. Not to mention the love, support and tremendous hard work these teachers and therapists pour into our kids every single day. And of course, this is all tuition-free. It still hard for me to wrap my head around that. Little Light House is a place where miracles are happening every day. A place where every child is worthy. A place that gives parents hope. And a place that shines God's light into a world that needs it now more than ever.

I wish Gracie could spend four more years here, but I know that this place has prepared her for a new adventure and I can't wait to see what the future holds for her. - Mike Ledbetter, Gracie's Dad



HAYDEN KING

Hayden has such a sweet, gentle spirit about him with a determination to grow and learn. During his time at Little Light House, he has been thriving. Hayden loves to walk and explore. He loves to learn new skills like learning to spell his name and he loves to clap his hands and sing during praise and worship. Hayden has been such a blessing to the Little Light House family and we are going to miss him so much!

-Lynda Crouch, Assistive Technology Coordinator



HAZEL CHINWORTH

We have been so blessed by our time at the Little Light House! The opportunity for Hazel to attend as a staff kid was an answer to prayer and one we do not take for granted. Hazel has grown leaps and bounds this year in her speech skills, occupational therapy skills and her faith. Having her come home and talk about Jesus and lead our family in prayer is the greatest gift we could ever receive. The Little Light House is the greatest school in the world, and we are so thankful for all of the new friends we've made! Thank you to all of the teachers, staff, volunteers and donors who make this place so wonderful. Hazel has had the time of her life being a student here.

- Erin Chinworth, Hazel's Mom

HUDSON FORD

Hudson is such a sweet boy! He has so much energy and enthusiasm about school and life in general. He is a great friend and he genuinely wants to do what is right. One of my favorite memories of Hudson is doing dinosaur yoga, in his dinosaur sweater. He really took it to the next level and was the perfect model for his friends. We will miss Hudson so much!

-Lauren Gebhard, Speech Language Pathologist



JOCELYN NOZAK

JJ has such a strong love for all her friends! She loves to help others and encourage them in all activities. JJ follows classroom rules and gently inspires others to do so too. Her servant's heart is something to be admired. We love you JJ and know that all the friends you continue to meet will be blessed and inspired by your love!





JONAH HOUGH

We feel extremely grateful and very blessed to have been given four wonderful years at the Little Light House. Jonah started at the Little Light House three months after turning two years old. He has accomplished so much in those four years! He started walking right away, he has learned his ABCs, his numbers, his letters, sight words, shapes, colors, how to hold a fork and spoon, how to eat independently, how to drink from a straw and an open cup, and how to speak in complete sentences. He's learned to pray, to say please and thank you, follow directions, share with others, take turns, cut with scissors and SO much more. LLH has seriously exceeded our expectations. We are sad to leave, but know he has been given the tools he needs to succeed in kindergarten next year. When we first received Jonah's Down syndrome diagnosis, we couldn't imagine what that meant for our future, and

Jonah's future. We now know Jonah's potential for growth AND greatness. He can do whatever he sets his mind to! Jonah is exactly who God intended him to be and we are so lucky he is ours. Not only has Jonah experienced tremendous growth at LLH, we as a family have as well. The friendships we have made with other LLH parents, teachers and staff, will continue throughout our lifetime. We feel so very blessed that God has led us on this path.

-Katy Hough, Jonah's Mom



JONATHAN ORMAN

Jonathan has been such a blessing to Blue Class! His joy, smile, and laugh fill the hearts of everyone he comes across. He loves to be around friends and teachers to laugh and cuddle. He finds fun in everything he does in class. You truly feel blessed when you experience his smile. John has grown so much in just the few months he has been at LLH. He loves to lie on his back to kick and play. Give him a switch and he will actively engage in games on the iPad. John is going to light up the rest of the world and we are so blessed for his light in ours. We love John so much and will miss the joy you bring to everyone!

-Haley Taylor and Michelle Morris, Blue Class Teachers



JULIANNA GIPSON

Julianna is a student who Purple Class will never forget. She captivated our hearts the first day she entered the Little Light House building. She started out pretty shy. She wasn't using her words, pointing, or participating much because she was nervous. But BOY did that change. Julianna quickly began feeling comfortable around her new teachers and her new friends. She began verbally communicating with us, and our hearts melted immediately. She began addressing her needs very clearly, and we couldn't have been more thrilled with every gesture and every word. If I were to think of a word to describe the spirit of Julianna, it would be 'determined'. Most arm movements and leg movements are difficult for Julianna, but that never stops her. She will stick that focused tongue out, move that arm or leg where she wants it to go, and finish the task. Nothing slows this girl down. If she wants to accomplish something,

she will accomplish it because she has the will power. I know that God smiles every time he thinks of Julianna. She is the most beautiful addition to His creation because she sees the beauty in the world. Julianna is destined for greatness-True greatness. She knows that Jesus loves her immensely, and she spreads that love everyday. Julianna is nothing short of exceptional. She changed my life for good, and I am so thankful that Jesus brought her to the Little Light House.
-Sarah Sullivant, Purple Class Teacher



KATHRYN TUCKER

Kate is such an outgoing student who greets everyone who enters the classroom with, "I'm glad you're here!" and "I'm happy to see you!" Her energy and positive attitude are contagious. She is determined, driven, and independent! 'Quitting' and 'help' are words that are not in her vocabulary. It was been so fun to watch Kate's growth this past year. She has been a ray of sunshine that we've loved having in class!
-Orange Class Teachers



KAYLEE BARRIOS

Kaylee has a quiet determination and persistent spirit-do not underestimate this girl! She has the sweetest smile and best giggle. She may act shy at first but she has a beautiful observant brain taking in everything that is going on. She has made such great progress over her four years at Little Light House. She has always been a nurturing and caring girl loving to play and take care of her baby dolls and stuffed animals, but in the past two years she has really blossomed with learning how to play and take care of her friends. She has grown significantly in all areas of development including communication, fine motor, gross motor, and self-care skills. She loves music and loves to dance. She has been such a blessing to us and I know her joy and giggle will bless everyone she encounters.

-Jodi Howe, Occupational Therapist



KENSI COMBS

Kensi has taught me us so much about PROGRESS! Kensi is a smart, determined, beautiful little girl. When Kensi is happy, she truly radiates joy. The way she loves school and her friends warms my heart. And her friends love her right back. One of my favorite stories about Kensi happened when Kensi came back to LLH after leaving for a special iPad presentation. Her friends were so excited to see her and she was excited to see them. She had a pep in her step that I hadn't noticed in awhile and her friends were cheering her on as she received her communication device. It was the perfect example of friendship. Kensi didn't want to leave school that day...and why would she? She is loved, embraced, cared about and prayed for by LLH. I am going to miss her and her beautiful curls!

-Lauren Gebhard, Speech Language Pathologist



LAKYN JO THOMAS

The first word that comes to mind when I think of Lakyn Jo is fighter. This girl is amazingly tough and determined. She is loving and kind. She is so incredibly smart and beautiful inside and out. She captured my heart when I saw how determined she was to do every little thing. She works so hard for everything she does, so we celebrate every accomplishment! She loves music and dancing, and other kids are just drawn to her sweet spirit. She changed my heart and taught me patience, love, perseverance, and hope. She is a miracle! I am so thankful for Lakyn Jo!

-Laura Anderson, Purple Class Teacher

LILY MEEKS

Lilly has been a part of the S.K.I.P. program since she was 14 months old. She began in Purple Class the last year the program was in the original school. During our time in the S.K.I.P program we have had the great privilege of being taught and cared for by the best teachers in the world. They have gone above and beyond for, not only our family, but all the families they selflessly serve. We will be forever grateful that we were allowed to be a part of this wonderful community. Lilly has grown in countless ways at LLH! She has a heart for helping, she's reading at a second grade level, and her confidence level has gone up. All are a testament to the love and attention the teachers, staff and volunteers have poured into her over the years. We are extremely sad to be leaving LLH, and will miss this exemplary school in many ways. There is no way to express how grateful we are for the time we've had at LLH, it has changed our lives. We would like to express a special thank you to the S.K.I.P. teachers

Ms. Cheryl and Mrs. Amber. They have had a huge hand in helping us raise both of our girls. Cheryl and Amber are the reason they are potty trained, the reason we stopped using pacifiers, the reason they learned to nap so well and a big reason why they love coming to school. They were there for every transition and growth spurt our girls went through. They invested their hearts and souls into our kids and it shows. Thank you so much! -Kelly Meeks, Lilly's Mom





LOLA GREENWOOD

Working at the Little Light House has a lot of pluses. We get to play, be silly, be as messy as we want and we get to invite Jesus into every second of it. BUT the most beautiful thing about working with these kids is getting to see the pure hearts God gave them. Lola has the brightest spirit and I find so much joy in watching the way she pours herself out so deeply and selflessly for her friends. This is a girl who is only five years old, yet her biggest, and only, concern is making sure that all of her friends are happy and always included! Most of the time her friends aren't able to give back to her in the same way but honestly, she doesn't even care. For Lola she isn't thinking about herself, she is thinking about others, always. She really is a little teacher, and she takes that responsibility very seriously, paired with a smile and thumbs up. She helps her friends in and out of their chairs, uses hand over hand to help them grab things, she pushes them in their wheelchair, she holds iPads for them to reach, brings

them toys and books, and she gives lots of kisses throughout the day so that they never ever forget that she loves and cares about them! My job is to use the love of Jesus to make sure my kids feel special, worthy of kindness, and to feel loved deeply, honestly I'm pretty sure Lola is better at my job than I am. She blesses me every day and I'm lucky to be a part of her world.

-Kyla Beasley, Aqua Class Teacher

LONDYN BRAME

I would like to take a moment to thank you for generously giving from your heart to Little Light House. This school means so much to so many people and it would not be possible without people like you! My five year old daughter Londyn is in her second year at Little Light House. Londyn loves her school, it is her favorite place on Earth! Londyn has autism, adhd, asthma, neurogenic bladder, allergies, a very rare genetic disorder ANK3, and a form of Spina Bifida that causes tethered spinal cord. She just underwent her 2nd major spinal cord surgery three months ago to remove two filar lipomas and untether her spinal cord. While in the hospital, many therapist, teachers, family members, and staff visited us, they brought food, they prayed, and they kept us going.

The Little Light House has changed our lives and I do not know where we would be without a place like this. I could go on and on about how great they are as a school, they definitely excel in that area, providing exceptional opportunities to our children that they would never receive anywhere else, but they are so much more than just a school, they are our family!

-Jennifer Brame, Londyn's Mom





LUCIA SALAZAR

Lucia is such a gentle, sweet spirited child who has a strong discernment of others emotions. Although she has a soft spoken demeanor, she loves to engage in conversation. We've seen her grow leaps and bounds. She has become so independent. She is so intelligent, loves one on one quality time, singing, tickling, circle time, and playing in the gym. Her beautiful demeanor is a true reflection of the love of God that exudes from her.

-Amber Radebaugh, Orange Class Teacher

LUCY DOERNER

Lucy is such a sweet, enthusiastic soul who has never met a stranger in her life! She genuinely loves people and enjoys making others smile and laugh.

She also has a genuine curiosity about life - she wants to know everything about everything and I love that about her. I have known Lucy since she was six months old and have seen her overcome so many challenges, meet so many skills and develop into an amazing little girl. I am so proud of who she has become. I am also so proud of her parents for always doing anything and everything to help Lucy reach her fullest potential. Lucy is a true joy and light and I know she will be missed so much at LLH!

-Brittany Gartner, Physical Therapist





MASON REED

My son has been enrolled at The Little Light House for three years. Before attending, he wasn't crawling, he was barely rolling over. The physicians termed him a "floppy baby". These past three years have been absolutely amazing for both him and myself! Mason has learned numerous life skills from feeding himself, pulling to stand, standing, and almost walking independently, to utilizing assistive technology to communicate with people around him. I can tell you that all of the services he's received while at the Little Light House could not be provided to him at home, and I credit his wonderful therapists and teachers with helping him accomplish milestones I could previously only dream of for him. If it wasn't for Little Light House and its supporters, Mason would not be confidently stepping into the bright, promising future he has now! My once hypotonic son is stronger, and better equipped to take on the world.
- Kassie Reed, Mason's Mom

MATTHEW NANTZ

We are so grateful for Matthew's time at Little Light House. The administrators, teachers, therapists, and volunteers have been beyond amazing. They've patiently worked with Matthew using different ideas and techniques to help him develop. They also lovingly push him to never give up. The staff is dedicated and very knowledgeable about any topic we think to discuss. We've never ever sensed any frustration or impatience among them. (How do they do that?!) Not only were they loving and patient with Matthew and all the other children, but they were the same with us. We were over-protective parents with lots of questions and concerns. I feel we asked things that had been answered many times before, but 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. -Rattana Nantz, Matthew's Mom





MCCRAE COX

McCrae has been at the Little Light House since the fall of 2015 in the SKIP program. I was still pregnant when I found out that there was a possibility he may be able to attend. We prayed fervently for the doors to open so that he could have this opportunity and it came to fruition! It has been such a blessing for us to watch him grow and learn along side children with varying abilities. One of the things we are most proud of is how this opportunity built him to see the hearts of people. McCrae loves BIG! Our favorite memory of his time at Little Light House was Easter 2019. He was going to bed one night and wanted to share the story of Easter. He recited the story from start to finish with a true understanding of the meaning of Easter. Our hearts were so blessed! We are forever grateful for all the teachers, therapists, and staff who loved McCrae and shared the love of Christ with him daily. We love you and appreciate you all! Also, thank you to all the donors who give graciously to this wonderful place! - Missy Cox, McCrae's Mom



POPPY COX

Our first impression of the Little Light House is that this is what Heaven will look like someday. The idea of every person being valued and celebrated for who God made them to be. All of the joy, all of the unconditional acceptance. Each person, able to enhance the gifts that God gave. I think it might be as close as Heaven as we get here on earth.

The past three years, the staff and teachers and fellow students of LLH has poured into our Poppy. She will walk out of the doors...and walking out of the doors is a milestone in and of itself...as a leader, confident that she is loved, knowing that she was created by a loving God, and certain that she has a necessary place in the world with a job to fulfill.

The environment that is cultivated at LLH has taught her that she matters. That she has a necessary and valued place in her class to be a friend, have a job, and be a piece of the puzzle that makes the whole picture work. I can barely talk about the ways that love is displayed at LLH without getting emotional. Each person is celebrated and each family is valued. My favorite moments are the walking in the door, having staff line the halls to welcome each child to the day. I know that I've left many days after drop-off feeling more pep in my step and joy about the day ahead of me. There is definitely the "fragrance of Christ" within the walls of LLH.

LLH has taught our family compassion. We have seen people that look different than us and have been able to see and appreciate that there are so many ways to move, and communicate, and see the world. Thank you to all of the staff, faculty, Board members, teachers, donors, and volunteers. Poppy's life will forever be impacted by her years at LLH and our whole family will carry this place with us always. -Jordan Cox, Poppy's Mom



RYDER SMALLEY

What a kid! Ryder is such an overcomer. He has grown leaps and bounds in his years at LLH and I am so thankful to have been part of his journey here. When Ryder started, he was timid and reserved. He has blossomed and has become an advocate for himself. One of my favorite stories about Ryder happened when he was in Pink Class. We were doing a language group called "Ready, Set, Go" where we use a swing to encourage children to say the words "stop", "go", "fast", "slow", "more" and "turn". At first, Ryder didn't even want to get in the swing, much less have the swing move. Carefully, we talked him into just getting IN the swing without it moving. We helped Ryder in the swing and after he got settled, I gave him the choices of "go" and "stop". He hesitated, then he pointed to and very quietly said "go". So, we pushed him slowly and he just lit up! The next turn, he said "go" a little louder. I gave him a few extra turns since he had gotten so brave and by the

he was saying "turn fast" and "go go go"! He was so happy and it was so fun to see his classmates cheering him on. We were all so proud of him for stepping outside his comfort zone to conquer a fear, and he had a blast while doing it. His teachers love having Frozen concerts with him and hearing his incredible voice belt it out! Ryder is such a light to all his friends at The Little Light House, and we will miss him so much! -Lauren Gebhard, Speech Language Pathologist



RYLEIGH PARKS

Ryleigh has attended The Little Light House for four years, two of which have been in Red Class. Ryleigh's sweet smile and huge laugh will have a lasting impact on everyone she has met. She has incredible strength and determination in everything she does. It has been such a joy watching her blossom as she has grown comfortable at Little Light House. She is hilarious, compassionate, and has a big heart for her peers, teachers, and volunteers at school. I have loved every minute of being her teacher. Playing pretend together in the gym, going down the slides, cuddling up to read a book, and hearing her say "I did it!!" when she finished her work. These are all the things that make my heart smile. My favorite part of this year are all the friendships that she has formed. They are so sweet and so genuine. It melts my heart when she and her friends hold hands in the hallway and play "beauty shop" with each other. Anyone who knows Ryleigh is blessed beyond measure. We love you, Ryleigh, and we are so proud of you!! -Jordan Hames, Red Class Teacher



SAVANNAH CALVERT

Savannah, you are so loved and such a shining light to the Little Light House! Your sweetness melts my heart into a million pieces and your sassiness keeps me on my toes or rolling on the floor laughing. You are such a blessing, and wish you could stay forever. Savannah has a special way of commanding a room without saying a word, and her independent spirit is such a beautiful part of her personality. Give this girl a yummy snack or sweet treat, and she's ready to conquer the world. Savannah blows me away with her communication skills on LAMP, and finds so much joy in commenting, requesting, and chatting about what's going on around her. I could tell you about all of my hopes and dreams for this sweet girl, but there is no doubt that she will turn these dreams into her reality. Her determination is skyrocketing her into a world where anything is possible. Sweet girl, you are going places and everyone knows it! Just don't forget about us at the Little Light House! Come back to play and hang out anytime you want!!
-Clarey Sharum, Speech Pathologist



SAWYER PITTSLEY

Sawyer is a true gem. It has been a joy to watch Sawyer grow, learn, giggle, and smile (he has the brightest smile), over the course of his three years at Little Light House. He has learned to be a great helper to his teacher Kyla, always demonstrating to the class how to place your hand on your hearts for the pledge of allegiance and how to do prayer hands during circle time. He has greatly increased his communication and is now able to use LAMP, sign language, say a few words! He is learning how to eat with utensils, propel himself in his wheelchair, copy block patterns, match shapes and colors. I have no doubt he will continue to amaze us all with the things he will learn in the future. Sawyer loves music and can rock out with anything that shakes (tamborine, egg shaker etc) bringing joy, light and rhythm to all he meets. Thank you for sharing your smile and joy with us Sawyer!
-Jodi Howe, Occupational Therapist



WILLIAM HAWKINS

William, affectionately known as “Bubs”, has been in Red Class for the past two years and at the Little Light House for 3 years. The light that he shines is so brilliant and so pure, that once you see it, you feel the love of Jesus all around you. I truly believe his purpose is to love everyone so big and so completely that it changes the world. This kid has truly never met a stranger. He gets to know you on a personal level by initially asking, “what’s your mom’s name and what color is your house?” William has made incredible strides during his time at Little Light House. He is gaining new knowledge, getting stronger every day, and preparing for “big school” next year. He has been the welcoming committee and tour guide for all new faces in Red Class. He truly loves school, his teachers, socializing with his peers, and volunteers. His laugh is absolutely contagious, especially when playing “bubba hands” with Ms. Tracy! William’s hugs will be a lasting legacy at The Little Light House. He can’t pass a single person in the hall without lovingly demanding a hug...and how could you resist? William, you will be missed beyond measure. We love you!!

-Jordan Hames, Red Class Teacher



WILLIAM WALSH

Oh, William Walsh! the Little Light House will never be the same without this amazing kid. He has touched so many peoples’ lives with his impeccable knowledge about anything animals, his sweet sweet spirit, and his love for every classmate, teacher, therapist, volunteer, or helper. Anybody who walks in Red Class automatically feels welcomed by Will. He always yells your name, gives a HUGE smile, and, if he can, wheels right up to you for a hug. Just thinking about Will graduating brings elephant tears to my eyes. What I love most about Will, besides his little grin and big personality, is his strength and determination. He doesn’t let his diagnosis get in the way of anything. If he wants to cook or write a book, his parents, teachers, or therapists will adapt it, and then he is on top of the world. I know Will is going places with his talents. I just hope he remembers the Little Light House when he becomes president. He is going to be missed beyond measure here. We love you so big William Walsh!

-Brooklyn Smith, Occupational Therapist



ZYON LANGSTON

Zyon is the definition of a Superstar! She is full of cheer and joy and always makes her teachers laugh! When she walks in the room she brings in the most gentle, warm, and sweet presence. It's like she woke up and decided to make every one else's day better. It blesses me tremendously to watch her move around the room, tugging on hands and hearts to bring people together for a song or dance. She has such a beautiful spirit and anyone who spends any time with her instantly falls in love, they also find themselves following her every word, because miss Zyon is independent and a go getter. She knows what she wants and she has a leadership quality that has people following her without question. Zyon has a wonderful imagination that makes her full of wonder and excitement for the world around her. She is a bright light that shines and draws people into the goodness of God's love. She is fearless, full of spunk, and her infectious nature reminds me every day how joyful and sweet life is. We love you Zyon! Thank you for sharing your light with us. -Kyla Beasley, Aqua Class Teacher

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020

“AND THIS IS MY PRAYER: THAT YOUR LOVE MAY ABOUND MORE AND MORE IN KNOWLEDGE AND DEPTH OF INSIGHT, SO THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO DISCERN WHAT IS BEST AND MAY BE PURE AND BLAMELESS UNTIL THE DAY OF CHRIST...” Philippians 1:9-10

HONORARIUMS

Trevor Clayton Anderson

Charles Anderson

Ellie Benazer

Tom and Lavonne Webster

Amy Billings

Rich and Betsy Billings

Joshua Bougie

Deborah Graves

Keith Boyd

Carol Holt

Annie Brady

Carolyn Hughes

Taylor Burks

Lincoln and Holly Mueller

Kimberly Burnett

Julie Smith

Lynda Crouch

Susan Fender

Geoffrey Decker

John and Linda Mason

Meg Einer

Rena Rowlands

Liam Epperson

Charles Baker

Lexie Finley

David and Dessa Rankin

Ellie and Harrison Gartner

Ryan and Brittany Gartner

Cheryl Mauldin

Kaley Gartner

Monte and Karen Gartner

Sherry Gurney

Susan Tryon

William "Bubs" Hawkins

Krystle Hawkins

Cameron Hollingsworth

Linda Hollingsworth

Jonah Hough

Mary Lou Montgomery

Amy Keil

Virginia Scuderi

Logan Landrum

Craig and Debbie Landrum

Julia Ann Lawson

Karen Mildren

Gracie Ledbetter

Shelly Ledbetter

Kadence Long

Cathey Williams

Jodi Malone

Olivia Cosby

Mary

Lucinda Bush

Anne McCoy

Joel and Amy Swails

Christina McEndarfer

Edith Allen

David and Rebecca Parrack

Ruthanne Mclauchlan

Steve and Amanda Slife

Matthew Meyers

Bryan and Erin Booher

Elise Miles

Genevieve Cram

Diane Mills

James and Linda Pat Colgan

Karen Mildren

LaTasha Moat

Marsheila Prior

Gretchen Novak

Sean Novak

Lindsay Nozak

Jim and Keshet Witmer

Everett Ott

Marty Sprague

Sarah Parrack

David and Rebecca Parrack

Bruce Proctor

Michael and Carolyn Bartlett

Kay Roberson

Skip and Kimberly Klintworth

Sally Schott

Charles Anderson

Mason Shults

Melba Ramage

Solomon Siegel

Pam Bell

Morgan Smejkal

Daniel and Terry Smejkal

Ruby Smith

Jeremy and Kim Fairchild

Danielle Munroe

Aaron Soderfelt

Artie and Beth Soderfelt

Rowan Stice

Joy Yoder

Jack Swain

Cynthia Helms

Cindy Sisson

Mary Elizabeth Teagle

Angie Teagle

Kate Tucker

Pam Tucker

MEMORIAMs

Aunt Beverly

Georgia Kudron

Brogen Budig

Heather Budig

Hunter Burnside

Mike and Janet Burnside

Cheyenne Collins

Kenneth and Debbie Collins

Velma Curtis

Marlene Waychoff

Betty Daniels

John and Judith Fagg

Lillian Derrevere

Bill Derrevere

J. T. DeWeese

Greg and Karen Chalmers

Jack L Dodson

Julie Dodson

Larry Ethridge

Bob and Barbara Fletcher

Derrel Fortner

Kathleen Fortner

Jack Garrison

Iron Tree Coffee Garrison

Herald Givens

Deborah Givens

Roman Harrison

Ron Beaver

Jerry and Tina Hopkins

Stephen Hopkins

Curtis Kenslow

Marlene Waychoff

Rob Ketchum

Lana Wilson

Laney McMurry

Marvin and Donna Adams

Lori Miner

Rick and Donna Allen

Bob Moore

Dale and Sherry Kruggel

Charles D. Neal Sr.

Mike and Linda Deberry

David and Danette Patrick

John and Pat Drouillard

Nancy Poole

Julia Wilson

Norma Pregler

Little Light House Friends

Makayla Roller

Ted and Lori Brubaker

Nicole Rust

Richard and Hilda Wooldridge

Cathey Schappell

Mildred Abbett

Ron Schappell

Rose Shurman

Marlene Waychoff

Betty Smith

Marianne Mullin

Don and Denise Jackson

Bertha Nell Barth

Robert DuBoise

Robert and Mazelle Hanson

William and Julia Hill

Eleanor Hoppe

Brian Losos

Paula Mitchell

Bradford and Joy Riza

Debbie Teel

Ralph and Joyce Wiley

Samuel Stephens

Cheryl Craddock

Troy and Susan Stephens

Janet Taylor

Cleola Taylor

Nancy White

Carolyn Welch

Nathan Wofford

John and Mary Wofford



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