



# THE BEACON

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE LITTLE LIGHT HOUSE



## 2017 GRADUATES

Celebrate our largest graduating class ever with us on pg 8.

## TU GIVES BACK

See how TU has impacted the lives of our little ones!

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Rachel loves life and the LLH!  
Read her story on page 4.

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If you have not been for a tour, please stop by any time or invite some friends and plan to attend one of our upcoming Community Luncheons (See Pg 14).



THE BEACON

2017 | ISSUE 3

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## Get Social!

 Little Light House

 @LLHTulsa

 llhtulsa



## From the Executive Director

This has been one extraordinary school year! As we come to the close of our summer session, we have completed our very first year in our newly expanded facility. I am overjoyed to inform you that our graduating Class of 2017 is the largest in the history of the LLH. In addition, more children received services this year than ever before and more individuals became connected with the mission and ministry of the LLH - some as volunteers, some as college and university students and many who have been curious and just wanted to learn more about who we are and what we do.

Our beautiful and spacious new building has allowed our services and programs for the children to expand. The larger public areas permit us to host more conferences, facilitate more training to local church leaders and professionals, and inform individuals of how we are making a difference in the community.

Of course, we are very much aware that we are not able to do what we do without the love and support from each of you. Together we are fulfilling the mission of the LLH: to bring Glory to God. I just want each of you to know how very grateful I am to have the opportunity and commission to serve as the Executive Director to this wonderful ministry. You are near and dear to my heart as we work together to impart the love of Christ and impact the lives of those we serve.

*“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.” - 1 Timothy 1:12*

*Jean Winfrey*  
Executive Director

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Rachel Gravioto



by Rachel's Mom, Margarita  
(translated by Jodi Howe)

When I was 6 months pregnant the doctor told me that my baby was not growing like other babies. He said there were complications in my pregnancy and that Rachel had abnormal development of her intestines and lungs. He said that she might not grow another pound and she would most likely die shortly after her birth. When I heard this I felt like I wanted to disappear. We didn't want this; we didn't want our baby to struggle or suffer. I was crushed, but at the

same time knew that God would carry us. I told the doctor that even if he thought she would not live a day, I would wait and see what God's plan was for her. I have always trusted in God, but that does not mean I did not struggle and cry a lot of tears.

I was in the hospital on bed-rest the month before she was born and on November 24, 2010 Rachel came into the world. The doctors told me she was not breathing well and she was delivered via an emergency C-section. She weighed 4lbs 2oz and was

immediately put into an incubator. She had so many tubes in her tiny body that it hurt to look at her because I didn't want her to suffer. I was scared to see her and spend time with her because I was afraid she was going to die. But she didn't die; she kept living. One of the things I love most about Rachel is how much she fought to be alive, how much she fought to be here with us. My husband had an amazing amount of faith when she was born and his model of faith helped me trust God's plan.

Rachel moved from the NICU into a clinic on March 10, 2011 and stayed

there until November 23, 2011. Yes, that's right the day before she turned 1 year old we were able to take our baby girl home for the first time. For a year we had been asking "When can we take her home?" When the time came for us to take her home we were nervous. She was still on oxygen and got her food through a G-tube and we wanted to make sure we would be able to safely take care of her. During her time in the hospital she was diagnosed with a long list of medical conditions including Mosaicism trisomy 9 (a chromosomal abnormality), Wolff Parkinson White Syndrome (an extra electrical pathway in the heart), and Ebsteins Anomaly (a rare heart defect). Through all of these doctor visits and long hospital stays we found out about the Little Light House. One of Rachel's doctors kept suggesting that my husband and I go put her on the waiting list.

I remember the first time we came to the Little Light House. We took a tour and I said to my husband, "I think this would be a good place for Rachel to learn." Rachel started at the LLH in 2014 and it has far exceeded my expectations. Instead of solely being a place for Rachel to learn, it has become a community for us. I have developed close relationships with other Spanish-speaking moms here. These relationships have helped me get my smile back. While I cannot have long conversations with the



English-speaking parents, because of the language barrier, we say hi to each other and it feels like we are all connected, as we are a part of the same community.

Rachel has grown significantly in her time at the LLH. Prior to coming she was very aversive to touching everything. This year she has learned to grasp an adapted marker and scribble on paper. She has learned how to push a switch, which has helped her better access her environment. Using a switch she can turn things on and off or turn a page on an electronic book. One

of the things I love about the LLH is how happy Rachel is when she is at school, and it is clear that her teachers love her! She has a great sense of humor and loves to get out of her wheelchair and wiggle and laugh on the floor.

It's hard to describe how much I love Rachel. She is my motor and keeps me going when I am down. I believe that Rachel fights for her life because she loves life so much. Rachel has taught me how to not take anything for granted, and she has been a great teacher of how to embrace life and be happy. I am very grateful to the Little Light House for teaching and loving my daughter.



**“One of the things I love about the Little Light House is how happy Rachel is when she is at school, and it is clear that her teachers love her!”**

# Summer 2017 Apprenticeship

Learn | Serve | Grow



This summer youth who are involved in our summer apprenticeship program are learning more about possible career fields with a hands on experience. These young adults are giving up their time to help improve the lives of little ones, and to improve themselves. They spend their days in the classrooms working with the children and learning more about the career field they think they want to pursue in the future.

These career fields include:

Special Education | Speech Language Pathology | Physical Therapy  
Occupational Therapy | Low-Vision Therapy | Nursing | Assistive Technology

**Thank you so much to everyone who has taken time to be a part of the Summer Apprenticeship! You all are so amazing!**





Congratulations  
**Gloria Cardamone**  
**30**  
 Great Years!

Thank you so much Gloria for serving at the Little Light House so faithfully these past thirty years. Know that all of LLH will miss you so much, but we are excited for you and your new journey, retirement! Congratulations!





Class of 2017

# GRADUATES



**Alexander Beer**

God, my shepherd! I don't need a thing. You have bedded me down in lush meadows, you find me quiet pools to drink from. True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction.  
Psalm 23:1



**Amelia Alder**

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.  
Isaiah 40:31



**Carter Blankenship**

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.  
Psalm 139:14



**Charles Moore**

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.  
1 Peter 4:10



**Colton Jacobs**

A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit.  
Proverbs 15:13



**Dylan Down**

And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.  
Luke 2:40





### **Eden Cook**

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Psalms 139:14



### **Elisa Winders**

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

2 Peter 3:18



### **Evan Hibbets**

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

1 Peter 5:10



### **Fabian Almazan**

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Deuteronomy 31:6



### **Gabriel Owili**

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Psalms 139:14



### **Gabriel Williams**

Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Isaiah 64:8



### **Hadleigh Shepherd**

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Psalms 139:14



### **Isabella Amon**

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31



### **Jackson Hopkins**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Philippians 4:4



### **Joel Couch**

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10



### **Jonas Steinmetz**

A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit.

Proverbs 15:13



### **Judah Kahne**

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6



### **Logan Landrum**

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



### **Luke Knapp**

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

2 Corinthians 12:9



### **Maddison Zickefoose**

You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Psalms 16:11



### **Micah Hendrix**

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14



### **Otto Vuocolo**

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9



### **Owen Smith**

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:7



**Priest Abode**

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. - 1 Peter 2:9-10



**Rachel Gravioto**

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14



**Ruthanne McLaughlan**

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31



**Wyatt Wolery**

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11



**Xzavier Gould**

And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Luke 2:40



**Yoel Saldivar**

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Deuteronomy 31:6



**Zoe Hammer**

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31

**CONGRATULATIONS  
CLASS OF 2017!**

# TU GIVES BACK

The University of Tulsa has partnered with the Little Light House in several different ways this past year. They have provided Speech Therapy services, volunteers, and so much more. We would like to acknowledge and thank TU for everything they have done, and continue to do for the LLH!



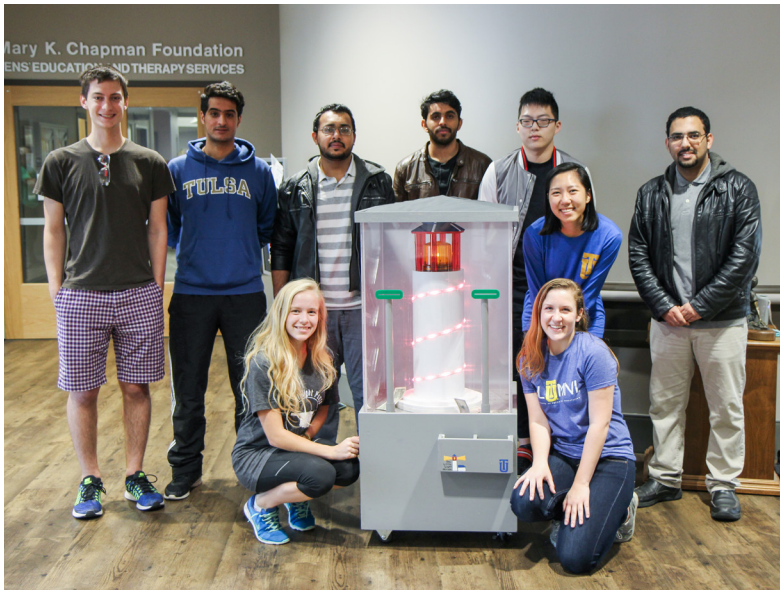
## LAMP Groups

TU Speech Pathologist Majors lead Language Acquisition through Motor Planning groups with several of our students this summer. These groups help our little ones learn how to communicate using the LAMP app. These groups were not only beneficial to our children, but helped the Speech Pathology Majors understand how to be flexible in their plans, to work with several different students at once, and that LAMP is not just a toy for these kids, but it is their way of communication and their voice.



## Nursing Program

The nursing students at TU do their pediatric clinical rotation at the Little Light House. They get hands on experience working with children with special needs in a unique environment. The nursing students also come back to volunteer in the classrooms on days they are not in class.



## Donation Station

For their senior project, Mechanical Engineering students from TU created the Donation Station for the Little Light House. This interactive donation collector includes a motion sensor light when checks or cash are collected and interactive coin slots on either side of the case. The LED strip light spiraling up the lighthouse changes colors and can be set to different rhythms or coordinate to music. This is such a fun way to collect donations at the LLH!



## Community Service Week

Kappa Sigma community service week is held annually with LLH as the beneficiary. They contribute thousands of hard earned dollars towards designated funds for therapy equipment. This proves much needed therapy supplies, props, and adaptive equipment to help our children achieve their goals! They also volunteer all the time!

## Surfin' - Tubes, Space Invaders and Honeycomb Hollow

MADE@TU (Make a Difference Engineering) revamped the Surfin' - Tubes, Space Invaders, and the Honeycomb Hollow for the Little Light House students. Surfin' - Tubes is a long slide-like platform constructed of rotating tubes placed widthwise. When playing on the Surfin' - Tubes a child can roll along the surface easily sitting or on their stomach. This works all sorts of great muscles in the body as well as encourages visual skills, body-in-space awareness, and other essential perceptual skills. Space Invaders uses air flow to allow balls to float, shoot out of the game, and drop into the star area. These functions help with visual motor skills and allow little ones that can't normally interact be a part of the fun! Finally, the Honeycomb Hollow is in the process of being updated by MADE@TU. They are revamping the Hollow by repainting, replacing lights, fixing some of the broken doors, and putting in permanent switches. They are basically just giving it a face-lift! We are so thankful for MADE@TU updating all of these previous senior projects for the LLH!



## Laps for Little Ones

**REGISTER. RAISE. RUN.**

DON'T MISS THE START OF OUR RACE! LAPS FOR LITTLE ONES WILL BE HELD ONE MONTH EARLY!

**September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Cascia Hall Track**

Fun Run 9am | Carnival 10 am

**Register online at [www.littlelighthouse.org](http://www.littlelighthouse.org)**

First 75 people to register will receive an awesome prize!

# ALUMNI ADVENTURES

with Connor Capps

by Connor's Mom, Paula



May 2013 was a scary time in my family's life. Connor had just graduated from the Little Light House and the thought of Connor going to public school and being around people we didn't know made us nervous.

Fast forward, a few months later to Connor's first day of kindergarten. I was still scared and nervous for him but Connor, on the other hand, was not. He loved school and in typical Connor style went in and made himself at home. Yes, I was a little sad that he didn't need me, but I was proud. He was growing up.

As my son continues to grow and change I remember what a therapist once told me, "baby steps." I now have a journal where I log every funny and new thing that he does. He is learning to use the iPad and has recently discovered TV and enjoys Barney and Thomas the Train.

Anyone who knows my son knows he loves to climb and swing. His new obsession is lying in the hammock and trying not to fall out. He is learning to run and kick a ball as well. He also loves to find food in the fridge and take it out. We have learned to always keep an eye on him; if the house is ever quiet, we know he is up to no good.

Connor is non-verbal and has recently begun saying, "mama" and in February he said, "I love you". When I think about these moments, my heart fills with joy and my eyes tear up because I have waited so long to hear any words.

Connor will be in the 4th grade this fall. He has the most amazing teacher, Ms. Davison, and paras, Ms. Amy, Ms. Natalie and Ms. Z. They look out for him and I love it when they tell me all the funny and naughty things he does.

It can be hard for someone to understand how great an impact the Little Light House can have on a child and their family, but it truly does. I am grateful for the compassion and love they have shown to us. When my son started at the LLH he was three and a half years old and had just recovered from brain surgery the month before. Connor had most of the right side of his brain removed to stop his seizures. We had no idea what the long term outcome of the surgery would be. The staff saw his potential when most people did not. They treated him as a regular kid. They encouraged him and helped him to overcome his vision issues and respected his sensory boundaries. During this time he developed a love for school, which remains to this day.

# Affiliate Fun Facts

## Little Light House Central Mississippi

- Opened January 2006 with one teacher, one associate, three contracted therapists, six children and one full time volunteer.
- LLH Central Mississippi currently has four classrooms and serves 29 children.
- They have a therapy dog who visits them weekly.



- They have served a total of 115 children since opening their doors.
- LLH Mississippi hosts three major fundraisers: Laps for Little Ones, the Garden Party and Tees for Tots.
- There are currently 51 little ones on their waiting list.
- They hope to build their own building soon to serve more students.

# THANK YOU!



We would like to thank Bill Knight Ford for donating the LLH truck to us and to Hercules Tires for providing new tires and maintenance for it! We would also like to thank Frank Baxter for helping out with this and for being such a faithful volunteer! We are so appreciative!



**MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE  
This  
YEAR!**



**Do you have some spare time?  
Do you like helping and working with kids?  
Are you looking for a way to give back?  
Then the LLH is the perfect place for you!**

Little Light House is always looking for new volunteers! If you are interested in becoming a part of our volunteer team visit [www.littlelighthouse.org/volunteer](http://www.littlelighthouse.org/volunteer) or call 918.664.6746.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## July

- 3-5 4th of July Break
- 6-7 Shining Light Conference
- 12 Community Luncheon: 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- 20 Volunteer Bash: 6 - 8 p.m.
- 26 Volunteer Orientation : 12 p.m.

## August

- 2 Volunteer Orientation : 12 p.m.
- 23 First day of school

## September

- 4 Labor Day
- 13 Volunteer Orientation : 12 p.m.
- 16 Laps for Little Ones
- 26 Volunteer Orientation : 12 p.m.
- 27 Community Luncheon: 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

## October

- 11 Volunteer Orientation : 12 p.m.
- 14 Mini-Laps
- 20 Fall Break
- 24 Volunteer Orientation : 12 p.m.
- 25 Community Luncheon: 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

# LEGO LIGHT HOUSE

Mini-Laps 2017 | October 14th



Mini-Laps is one of the Little Light House's four major fundraisers. This one is super special though, because we get to celebrate our little ones' milestones! Each child gets to take a lap around our mini track to show off all they have accomplished! For more information or to donate to Mini-Laps today visit [www.littlelighthouse.org](http://www.littlelighthouse.org).



## Honorariums

### **Arthur Greeno**

Joyce Madewell

### **Carter Blankenship**

Mr. John Wilson

### **Chandler Debolt**

Jeannie Kolibas

### **Charlie and Liz Cohlmia**

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Adwon

### **Chase Elizabeth Reed**

Sandy King

### **Cooper Gobel**

Sandy King

### **Country Club Woodland Hills**

#### **Residents**

Blake Vail

#### **Gracie Ledbetter**

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brady

#### **Helga Rose**

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brady

#### **Jentry Mitchell**

Mrs. Kathy Hyatt

#### **Keith Boyd**

Mrs. Carol Holt

### **Lane Peterson**

Mr. Gene Kellenberger

### **Linda Szadziwicz**

Mr and Mrs. Shane Richards

### **Lorene Hopkins**

Stephen Hopkins

### **Mason Lee Leanord**

Mr. James D. Hewett

### **Reece Brown**

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Brown

### **Ruthanne McLauchlan**

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Thompson

## Memorials

### **Anita J. McCollum**

Mrs. Carolyn Welch

### **Barbara Harvell**

Carl Phillips

### **Bob Taylor**

Mr. and Mrs. James Stanton

### **Cheyenne Collins**

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Collins

### **Cindy Klein**

Mr. Richard Klein

### **Dan Hobson**

Mr. and Mrs. James Morella

### **Danny Bartlett**

Will Rogers Methodist Church: Crusaders Sunday School Class

### **Donna and Barry Beasley**

Mrs. Marlene Waychoff

### **Dortha Blankenship**

Brent and Sherry Tipton, Mr. and Mrs.

Billy Brown, Linda Roop, Charles Stinnett, Mr. and Mrs. Orville Garrison

### **Dr. Jerry Hopkins**

Stephen Hopkins

### **Edward Montgomery**

Anonymous

### **Freida Harmon**

Ms. Becky Harris

### **Jack Darrough**

Kathy Hertz, Bob and Janet Tomarkin

### **Jack Garrison**

Ms. Bridget Hynes

### **Janet Taylor**

Mr. and Mrs. Jere Cottle

### **Joann Skinner**

Mr. Cordell Mitchem

### **John Wilcox Bundren**

Mr. & Mrs. David Parrack

### **JP Salb**

Anne Stevenson

### **Juda Holder**

Bill Walker, Ms. Shirley Andrew, Mr. and Mrs. John Beasley, Kathleen Merkler, Mrs. Stephen Dale, Anonymous, Ms. Betty Jane Button, Imogene Laws, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Powell, Mr. and Mrs. John Mackenzie, Mr. John K. Goodwin, Tamara Thomason Spense, Mr. and Mrs. George Beattie, Debra Reeves, Jane Williams, Suzanne Henson, Dr. Rick Scacewater, Eugene Rapley, Harry Shipley, Pam Lieber, Mr. and Mrs. Burt Tyler, Nancy Wenderoth

### **Judy Murdock**

Jayne Perry, Ms. Jan Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Reecher, Mr and Mrs. Mark D'Arcy, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Mills, Ms. Susan Baudi, Mr and Mrs. Gerald Harrison, Ms. Julia Leighty

### **Karen Arner**

Mr. and Mrs. David Parrack, Patty Brown, Mr. Tibu Chatpar, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sprick

### **Katelyn Hanafin**

Mr. and Mrs. L. Kapka

### **Kirk Welch**

Mr. and Mrs. Burt Tyler

### **Loren F. Stephenson**

Gregory M. Nesmith, Milton Nesmith, Anonymous, Esther Smysor, Mary Della Anderson, Marian Meyer, Mary Walsh

### **Margaret Hammond**

Private Branch of Bank of Oklahoma

### **Margaret Nunn**

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Nunn

### **Marilyn Bartlett**

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Peter

### **Maxine Kingsbury**

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Tatum

### **Mrs. Roth**

Mr. and Mrs. Shane Richards

### **Nicole Ann Rust**

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wooldrige

### **Paul McGraw**

Sheila R. Dixon

### **Robert Kinser**

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kinser

### **Samuel Stephens**

Mr. Andrew Stephens



## The Little Light House

5120 E. 36th Street  
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[www.littlelighthouse.org](http://www.littlelighthouse.org)

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## A CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



**Be Bold. Be Brave. Be Courageous.**  
Joshua 1:9

### 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.