



THE BEACON

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE LITTLE LIGHT HOUSE



A SEASON OF CHANGE

LLH Chairman of the Board announces Executive Director succession plan on page 3.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Read one of our student's stories and how he came to be at Little Light House on page 6 and 7.

CVI CERTIFIED

Let us introduce you to two of our own on page 5.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 3 Little Light House's 46th Birthday
- 10 Volunteer Orientation: 12 p.m.
- 13 Mini-Laps: 10 a.m.
- 19 Fall Break
- 23 Volunteer Orientation: 12 p.m.
- 24 Community Luncheon: 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

NOVEMBER

- 1-2 Shining Light Conference
- 13 Giving Tuesday Campaign begins
- 14 Volunteer Orientation: 12 p.m.
- 19-23 Thanksgiving Break
- 27 Volunteer Orientation: 12 p.m.
- 28 Community Luncheon: 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

DECEMBER

- 5 Volunteer Orientation: 12 p.m.
- 6 Family Christmas Party: 6 p.m. (no school)
- 17 Christmas Break Begins

JANUARY

- 8 Back to school
- 17 Volunteer Orientation: 12 p.m.
- 21 Martin Luther King Day - LLH closed
- 22 Volunteer Orientation: 12 p.m.
- 23 Community Luncheon: 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.



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Executive Director

Jean Winfrey

Founder

Marcia Mitchell

Board of Directors

Dan Beirute
Kim Burnett
Tou Chang
Mollie Collins
Derrel Fortner
Arthur Greeno
Noell Greeno
Matthew McCord
Marcia Mitchell

Phil Mitchell
Deanne Nunn
Andrew Ragsdale
Barbara Sicka
Christine Narrin-Talbot
Brian Tims
Kelly Monaghan
Eric Wendelbo
John McCrackin- Intern

Get Social!



Little Light House



@LLHTulsa



llhtulsa



From left to right: Jean Winfrey, Anne McCoy, Marcia Mitchell

Season of Change

BY KIM BURNETT,
LLH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

My favorite season is quickly approaching. The temperature becomes comfortable, the trees mellow into warm hues, children fill the halls of school with joy, and a softness seems to permeate the air. Once again, The Little Light House (LLH) is also in a season of change. The remodeling of our old building is moving along well and looks to be on schedule for occupancy in December. The LLH staff is refining the new Early Intervention program, and the pilot program began in September.

Another big change is on the horizon as well. Our Executive Director, Jean Winfrey, will be retiring in July of 2019. Jean has faithfully served the Little Light House ministry for 40+ years, leading as Executive Director for the last ten years. Her time at the Little Light House has reinforced the culture of excellence in all things, hospitality to all who enter our doors, and above all bringing glory to our Lord by walking in His leading. She will be able to spend more time with all those grandchildren she and Keith have been blessed with; and give Keith a little more attention!

The Lord has always provided the leadership that was necessary for the work that needed to be accomplished in each season. Marcia Mitchell brought vision and a faithfulness to creating a God centered and God honoring foundation. That foundation, now well documented, will hold true as future generations of leadership are faithful to stand on it. Jean has taken the ministry to a new level of organizational professionalism. She gracefully wore the responsibility of overseeing the capital campaigns, expansion of our facilities and renovation of the lovingly well used one. Under her watch we will begin implementation of the Early Intervention program. We know that the Lord's mantle rested on both of these extraordinary women, and that He perfectly equipped them for the work they were called to. We believe the Lord's grace and provision will also be on the next executive director.

The process of identifying the next executive director began in April of 2017. Research was done on other non-profit organizations that had undergone successful succession. There was a diligent review of best practices

for the identification of talent and their development. This will benefit the Little Light House now as well as in the future, as we identify those within the ministry and develop them for future leadership.

As seems true with all endeavors of the ministry the Lord had a plan and the provision to carry it out. The ED search committee was introduced to Sarah Brock PhD. She is the head of talent assessment and development for the nationally known Johnson & Johnson. She recommended we speak with Captain Matt McCord with the Tulsa police department responsible for training. Matt now serves on our LLH board and brings important insight into the HR world. Sarah also introduced us to Reliant Talent Management and Development Solutions. Chris Wright PhD, founder and president of Reliant, along with Katie Packell PhD, head of consulting services at Reliant, came on board with their expertise and services. God literally brought the Power Team of HR to the LLH!

This team came along side the board and committee to walk out this process with us. They initially helped the board identify and articulate the characteristics and competencies needed in the next ED. They developed specific tools, based on our criteria, to allow us to objectively assess candidates for the position. They spent countless hours developing, meeting, interviewing and assessing, so we might have the very best moving forward. I personally can not begin to thank them enough for all they have generously given to the LLH ministry. My prayer is the Lord will bless them richly for the blessing they have been to us.

The standards for leadership are established in God's word. 1 Timothy 3 outlines the characteristics He desires in those chosen to shepherd. They must be above reproach, use self-control, sober minded, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, gentle, and manage their household well. In 1 Samuel 16:7, the Lord cautioned Samuel as he examined Jesse's seven, seemingly well qualified, sons, "Do not look on his outward appearance, for I look on the heart." By the final interview it became evident that one

candidate had the Lord's and man's qualifications for this point in time. There was complete unity in the decision to offer Anne McCoy the position as the Little Light House next Executive Director. It should also be noted that the committee was encouraged by the quality of those seeking the leadership position. We have a deep well of excellence in those we have currently on staff. We will be intentionally developing these individuals for the future. We are truly blessed in our people that are faithfully carrying out the work of the LLH.

Many of you may know Anne McCoy already. She has been an Occupational Therapist for the LLH the last 10 years, serving our kids and their families. Her leadership experiences and community service/ involvement has uniquely qualified her to lead LLH forward as we grow in our mission locally and globally.

Many of Anne's qualifications are listed below. Anne will share her heart and vision in a future Beacon. As of September 1st, Anne will be going through a ten month process of exposure to all aspects of the ministry, training and development in running a non-profit, and gradual transfer of decision making responsibilities to allow as seamless a

transition as is possible.

I encourage you all to take time in this next 10-month period to thank Jean for her service and sacrifices she has made for the LLH. At the same time pray for Anne as she begins to transition, and our staff as they walk this new season out. God has amazing things ahead for the LLH and our ability to reach a dark world with the incredible light of our Lord Jesus!

In His Grip.



Anne's Qualifications

Vision • Strategic Planning • Communication • Financial Concern
Professionalism • Compassion • Grasp of Culture
Developing Self • Decision Making • Academic Credentials for Position



CVI CERTIFIED

Sherry Gurney, CLVT and Lynda Crouch, CLVT, OT, ATP

BY JULIE WILSON



The Little Light House is blessed to have on our staff two outstanding members, Sherry Gurney (on the right) and Lynda Crouch (on the left), who are certified low vision therapists holding endorsements for the Perkins-Roman CVI Range.



The Perkins-Roman endorsement is a particular tool for assessing Cortical Vision Impairment with a specific purpose. This purpose is to determine the degree of impact or extent of effect of CVI. There are no other therapists in Oklahoma with this training and achieving this endorsement is no small task. Hours and hours of study, testing and clinical experience are mandated prior to sitting for the endorsement exam.

So what then is Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI)? It is a neurological condition where the brain has difficulty interpreting the information received from the eyes. A child may appear as if not looking at toys or faces and often looks away. Sometimes this is interpreted that they are not interested in or do not like a toy. The child may have difficulty looking at objects that have busy visual backgrounds, or may prefer certain colors: e.g. red or yellow. Their eye doctor may say there is nothing wrong with the eye itself but parents may still feel that their child is not focusing on objects, looks away to reach for objects, or needs light and movement of objects to “see” them.

At Little Light House, you will see these two women working with our children to identify who would benefit from this additional assessment and development of a vision therapy program specifically designed for the individual child. Specialized equipment, lights, colors, textures and positioning devices are used to maximally stimulate the child’s vision and to participate in the Bible story being taught in the classroom. We also offer an alternative Praise and Worship experience each week providing a darkened and quiet environment to stimulate vision experiences while utilizing soft, calming music. This allows children with CVI to participate in praising Him for all of His blessings. The quiet environment helps the children “turn on” their vision when fewer environmental influences are competing in their little bodies.

We are truly blessed that the Lord has raised Sherry and Lynda to complete this training and help our children shine their lights brightly for Him by helping them learn to “see” Him in the best possible way.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

JOSHUA DAVID MERRITT ROBINSON

BY LAURA ROBINSON

Joshua is an amazing little boy who had a rough start to life. He was born by way of an emergency c-section 4 weeks before his due date and came into the world limp and lifeless. It was 8 minutes before he showed signs of life. Joshua then spent 5 weeks in PICU.

From the beginning Joshua has been a fighter.

My husband and I had the great fortune of meeting Joshua at 4 months old. You see we were “just” fostering at the time, but Joshua changed all that. With 7 adult children and 6 grandchildren we really hadn’t intended to start over, but God knew just what we needed, and we wouldn’t change it for the world.

Joshua’s big sister Abby had gone back to school for a nursing degree that took her to some interesting places, one of which was a school for children with Cerebral Palsy in Missouri. After her visit there, she shared her experiences with us and it sparked my memory that we had an amazing school like that in Tulsa. So, I made a phone call and scheduled a visit to Little Light House. I had always known about this ministry, but didn’t have any idea what a magical place it was. To say the least my husband and I were touched deeply by this amazing place, and were so excited to get on the waiting list at number 155. At the time we were still just foster parents, but we knew we would do all we could for this amazing little guy.

At this time Joshua was two years old, and we really didn't know what we were in for. We had no experience with special needs children and Joshua had seemed like such a typical baby, but as he aged he wasn't reaching "normal" milestones, such as crawling, talking and even eating well. One of the biggest helps in those early waiting list days was the FLIP program at LLH. We found common ground, community, help and education here. We made life long friends from just attending once a month. The comfort and familiarity that both Joshua and us obtained by those regular visits are invaluable.

The wait to be at Little Light House seemed to go on forever, but we knew in the summer of 2017 his time had come. At the time, we lived outside of Tulsa on a small ranch. When we prayed about the best path for the next two years, we felt it was time to sell the ranch and move into Tulsa to be closer to Joshua's amazing school. Because of this move we have been able to be more involved with Little Light House and have expanded our already supportive family, to the friends we have gained through this ministry.

In June of 2018 we made a memorable trip to St. Louis Children's Hospital where Dr. Park performed a Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy on our precious boy. This procedure frees the spasticity from his lower extremities and frees him from the need for medications. We are so excited with the results and continue to see a lot of little milestones as we attended 8 therapies a week.

Joshua is an amazing little boy with the will to learn and do. He loves to watch Veggie Tales, swim and hang out with his friends at the Little Light House. He has wonderful nieces and nephews that keep him laughing and playing. He loves to play his peek a boo games on the ipad and he is so very smart. He has made great progress in his ability to sit independently, and use his hands for play and food. He is pretty vocal, not verbal yet, but we know he will be. The progress he has made with his communication and other milestones he has hit at Little Light House is amazing. We are so excited to continue to see him grow and learn.



ALUMNI STORY:

THE TIM KESNER REPORT

BY: TIM KESNER'S
AUNT RACHAEL



On January 5, 1988, Tulsa received a snowstorm of epic proportions, and the Kesner family received an epic blessing in the form of a baby boy named Timothy. Despite the attending doctor's ominous predictions, in 2018 Tim is celebrating 30 joy-filled years of life, highlighted by returning to Laps for Little Ones where he led the pack in the Alumni lap and finished strong with 21 total laps. To top it all off, he won an Apple watch and drone for his fundraising efforts!

Along the way, Tim has been a great son, faithful brother, and inspiring friend to many. After beginning his formal education at Little Light House, he attended a public school in Cleveland, where he played soccer, basketball and competed in the Special Olympics. Growing up with seven older siblings, Tim has always been very competitive, and is always up for a challenge! For many years he offered CHS basketball fans an exciting half-time show of phenomenal half-court shots, and still spends hours perfecting his 3-point shot anytime the weather is clear enough to be outside. Speaking of weather, Tim does a great job at keeping his friends and family updated on approaching storms through texting, and often sends encouraging weather reports when a beautiful day is expected. He calls his reports "The Tim Kesner Reports." He also enjoys sending out Bible verses, videos, and funny messages that keep us smiling!

Tim has been blessed with amazing health and it is no exaggeration when I say he stays in better shape than anyone in our family. This past summer, Tim has averaged running 5-10 miles per day in preparation for an exciting vacation to Yellowstone, and Laps for Little Ones. He gets up early to do an exercise regimen consisting of push-ups, sit-ups, and burpees, and puts us

all to shame with his strength and stamina.

Another activity Tim excels at is swimming. Once while he was swimming laps in his sister's pool, his one-year old nephew toddled through the gate and into the water. Tim acted quickly and saved the little boy's life by pulling him to safety. He is truly a HERO!

Along with his love for sports and staying active, Tim is a seasoned traveler. He has even fulfilled his lifelong dream of going to Hawaii – three times so far! He has visited the Sequoias of California, beaches on both coasts, been all over both the Rockies and the eastern part of the US. He also went to Mexico with his mom and brothers. His favorite vacation spot is Big Cedar Lodge, when he can get an invitation, because he loves the outdoors. Recently, he spent a weekend riding horses with a niece in Wisconsin.

When Tim isn't working out, or on an adventure, he loves to tease his siblings with photos of his dad's gourmet breakfasts. He likes to stay busy watching Thunder basketball, eating at Cracker Barrel, helping out at his brother-in-law's office, hand-copying Bible verses to pray for his 32 nieces and nephews, and painting beautiful landscapes of places he's been – he's even sold a few!

Tim has spent the last 30 years defying the doctor's prognosis and plans to spend the next 30 having just as much fun and adventure he can pack into them. We are so grateful for the blessing of his life, and for the encouraging role LLH has played in it. The love and expectations his teachers had for him early on helped produce a tenacity that has enabled him to accomplish so much. Thank you, Little Light House!



WHAT IS CORNERSTONE CLUB?

Just as the name suggests, members of the Little Light House's Cornerstone Club are part of our strong foundation through either their years of faithful support, abundant generosity, or commitment to the future of the Little Light House with a gift through estate planning. Each level represents an essential dedication to our mission.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

(\$5,000 Lifetime Donor)

- Website Recognition
- Invitation to Annual Dinner

MIRACLE MAKER

(\$10,000 Lifetime Donor)

- Website Recognition
- Invitation to Annual Dinner

LIFE CHANGERS

(\$25,000 Lifetime Donor)

- Recognition at the Garden Party
- Website Recognition
- Invitation to Annual Dinner

PATH LIGHTERS

(Legacy Donor. Listing Little Light House as a beneficiary when planning for the future.)

- Recognition in Beacon Annually
- Website Recognition
- Recognition on plaque at Little Light House
- Invitation to Annual Dinner

Want to learn more?

Contact Molly Smith, Director of Development, at msmith@littleshighthouse.org or 918-664-6746.

OPPORTUNITY

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

EST. 2014

**YOUR MONEY.
YOUR SCHOOL.
YOUR CHOICE.**

THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND IS

a scholarship granting organization that provides scholarships to Oklahoma K-12 students to attend accredited schools in our state. Take the opportunity to help students and families of the Little Light House through the Opportunity Scholarship Fund. Donate to OSF, direct your dollars to Little Light House, and provide for educational expenses for our students. Any individual, family or business entity paying taxes in Oklahoma is eligible to contribute to the Fund and receive generous tax credits plus a federal deduction. Many times the net cost to you will be – zero!



Camp Promise

BY THE THERAPY TEAM

The week of June 18th the Little Light House Therapy Team hosted their 3rd annual summer camp. This year's theme was Camp Promise. The gym was transformed through tents, trees, and pillow camp fires into an extraordinary early learning environment of summer camp. And of course T-shirts for camp were a must!

Highlights



Camp was based around the story of Moses. Two classes at a time spent their day in the gym learning all the promises God has for their lives.



Speech, language and augmentative communication were incorporated into camp using LAMP (Language Acquisition through Motor Planning). Each child was able to write about the many ways God teaches. Some kids shared that God teaches them how to love and share things. Others told us that God teaches them how to play, paint or cook!



Lynda Crouch, LLH Assistive Technology Coordinator, set up a special tent for vision intervention with a switch adapted campfire inside. The kids enjoyed playing with lights to stimulate their vision and to practice their cause and effect skills.

Many great activities designed to help our kids work on fine motor, visual motor, gross motor, and language skills, while incorporating sensory play took place at camp. Our kiddos had so much fun growing in their abilities and hanging out with all their friends from school! We can't wait for next year!



Honorariums

Matthew Adams
Molly Damer
Joseph and Mathew Adamson
A&N Trailer Parts Inc.
Skyler Paladin Anderson
Charles C. Anderson
Jacob Baird
Jo Anne Cronk
Mike and Carolyn Bartlett
James and Wendy Beller
Henry Bell
Janet McDaniel
Brooklyn Chandler
Dallas and Brittany Chandler
Jessica Dingle
Anonymous
Kelsey Easterwood
Brian and Connie Easterwood
Philoma Edens
Gates, Winden & Associates P.C.
Liam Epperson
Charles Baker
Ella Fleming
Delbert and Cheryl Bair

Kylie Foster
Charles C. Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Joe B. Francis
Anne Murray
A&H Gabel
Seth and Brooke Peck
Zoe Hammer
Jerry and Bonnie Hammer
Sean and Daniel Harms
Sarah Harms
Doris Hoefler
Billy and Laura Robinson
Judah Kahne
Nick and Robin Young
Linda Kesner
Madison Kesner
Matthew Kesner
Anonymous
Logan Landrum
Craig and Debbie Landrum
Collin Leonard
Monica Leonard
Anne McCoy
Artie and Beth Soderfelt

Marcia Mitchell
Keith and Jean Winfrey
Gretchen Novak
Richard and Elizabeth Novak
Jesse and Jules Paul
Anonymous
Lane Peterson
Gene Kellenberger
Brent Plum
Ashlee Bivins
Shanti Ponder
Carol Ponder
Ervin and Patsy Postier
Tom and Vicki Wing
Addilyn Roberts
Randall and Verna Roberts
Betty Rohde
R. L. and Paula Alfson
Kristy Roszel
Monica Leonard
Marsha Jo Schmidt
Lee Ann Francis
Elizabeth Sevenoaks
Janis Sevenoaks

Solomon Siegel
Pamela Bell
Molly Smith
Emily Bibens
Aaron Soderfelt
Leon and Carole Burzynski
Eva Steed
Patricia Steed
Sarita Torres
Claudia R. Monsalve
Emma Wolf
Trasor Corp
2018 Graduates
Gordona Duca Heiliger

Memoriams

Barbara Ella Anderson
Charles C. Anderson
Barbara "Christy" Anderson
Charles C. Anderson
Bob Baker
Julie Wilson
Virginia N Baldwin
Roy and Dana Kerns
Shirley Bambeck
Heather Hulsey
Darrell Barnes
Richard and Karen Lassetter
Robert Flynn
Diana Barnes
Danny Bartlett
Will Rogers Methodist Crusaders Sunday School Class
James and Wendy Beller
Megan Blair
Christen and Marianne Blair
Alice Bollinger
Gary and Sandra Tatum
Beth Camille
Jay and Jan Weinheimer
Lou Cain
Jean Lester
Ted and Paula Taylor
Nancy and Mike Jeter
Jerrold Phillips and Malinda Joy Murphy
John and Teri Brant
Vernon and Julie Jones
Mary L. Haywood
David and Carol Harrison
Juli Cain
George W. Carder
Vernon and Julie Jones

Eli Carver
John and Leah Phillips
Cheyenne Collins
Kenneth and Debbie Collins
Wayne Cooper III
Anonymous
Jere Cottle
Cleola Taylor
Abby Dunham
David and Miranda Dunham
Martha Dushay
Dr. Thomas and Deanne Nunn
JoAnn Estell
Troy and Janice Estell
Mathias Flyvholm
Cheryl Creekmore
Tom Foote
Carl and Shirlee Stoops
Herman Fountain
Dr. Marvin and Donna Adams
Austin French
Crystal Aleschus
Jack Michael Garrison
Iron Tree LLC
Michael Garrison
Ms. Bridget Hynes
Herald Givens
Deborah Givens
Kathryn Anne Gray
James and Susan Gray
Frank Hamblen
Andrew Mardis
Jim Hensel
Shane and Brenda Richards
Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Hopkins
Stephen Hopkins

Emerson Hughes
Faye Garrison
Chloe Joy
Samantha Whiteside
Hazel Kight
Bob and Barbara Fletcher
CE Kirkwood
Gates, Winden & Associates P.C.
Hudson Luke Lamb
Emily Schneider
Reed James Ledbetter
Shelly Ledbetter
Tanzy Lockridge
Grace Lockridge
Mary Main
Ms. Beverly Foran
Nicholas Marlow
Kimberley Marlow
Roi Leigh and Randy McKee
Roy Rush
Mary Minick
Deborah Hoffman
Leon A. Mullins
Brent Hopkins
Teresa Oglesby
Rick Oglesby
John and Mary Feary
Ed and Pam Walden
Kase Omstead
Kyle and Suzie Omstead
Mary and Laddie Ondracek
Bob and Barbara Fletcher
Becky Lynn Parker
Anonymous
David Patrick
Ken and Jean Scrivner

Patricia Hargrave
Bill and Rosalie Majors
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Gena Gray
Holly Pedersen
Samantha Hankins
Brenda Ridgway
Farron and Cathy Kempton
Makayla Roller
Ted and Lori Brubaker
Roy Roszel
Anonymous
Ed Rountree
Bob and Barbara Fletcher
Nicole Ann Rust
Richard and Hilda Wooldridge
Cathey Schappell
Mildred Abbett
Samuel Stephens
Troy and Susan Stephens
Patricia Thomas
Dannielle Kinsey
Beth Waltman
Sheryl Waltman
Suzanne Wiese
Paige Merritt
Johnnie Wilkerson
Jacklyn Shields



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www.littlelighthouse.org

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A CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



“ **AND LET US
RUN WITH
PERSEVERANCE
THE RACE MARKED
OUT FOR US, FIXING
OUR EYES ON JESUS,
THE PIONEER AND
PERFECTER OF
FAITH.** HEBREWS 12: 1-2

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.