



Little Light House

Issue 3, 2022

BEACON

The official Little Light House Magazine

***More than a
Diagnosis***

*How to make a
difference in this
End of Year Giving?*



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2022

Candid.



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Dec 7

Community Luncheon

Dec 8

LLH Closed

Dec 23-26

LLH Closed

Dec 30 - Jan 2

LLH Closed

Jan 4

Students Return

Jan 5

Monthly Family Gathering

Jan 16

Martin Luther King Holiday

Jan 25

Community Luncheon

Calendar events are subject to change. To view our full school calendar visit littlighthouse.org. You can also follow us on social media to be kept up-to-date with events, opportunities, and more!



From our Executive Director **A Time to Celebrate**

What a delightful fall! Little Light House has been filled with celebration and joy. We started our new school year with excited staff, grateful parents, and expectant students. Celebrations followed in the fall, with our wonderful Little Light House honored for 50 years of serving the community, practicing love, and demonstrating excellence.

We celebrate, with joy, the many people who have focused on changing the lives of children with special needs here in Tulsa and around the world through Little Light House. God has given us good work to do, and with your support, we are doing it!

Now we pause during this Christmas season to celebrate the ONE who has brought this wonderful ministry into being. Jesus told his disciples in Mark 9:37, "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me." We welcome our dear students, and we welcome Him! We celebrate God because He not only inspires our work but also loves to hang out with us at the Little Light House (Who could help but be taken with these delightful little children!)?!

Thank you for being a part of our celebration and being so significant in these students' lives. God's richest blessing on you and your loved ones this Christmas season!

Bless you,



Anne McCoy
Little Light House Executive Director



Christmas Sensory Bin



This holiday season, you can turn your regular ol' sensory bins into a festive, holiday-themed bin that targets developmental skills while getting you into the Christmas spirit!

Sensory bins are a fantastic way to grow essential developmental skills like gross & fine motor skills, language & communication, visual skills, sensory skills, problem-solving, creative thinking, and play skills.

For any sensory bin, you can choose from unlimited sensory mediums like water, dried beans, rice, water beads, leaves, cooked or dry noodles,

shredded paper, etc. Each of these mediums will offer a different sensory experience for children as they explore them with their hands.

You can add simple tools like cups, scoops, spoons, or brushes as an additional way to explore the items in the bins. Turning a sensory bin into a holiday-themed bin is a fun, creative way to encourage skills and Christmas cheer!

A Little Light House favorite is a Hot Cocoa Bin using Cocoa puffs cereal, marshmallows in various sizes & cinnamon sticks. Add some Starbucks cups for scoops, and you have a festive, taste-safe sensory bin that appeals to many senses and promotes skills for children of all ages!

- Brittany Gartner, Director of Therapy



Our Students are **more than a diagnosis.**

This giving season, we hope you will give the ***Gift of Hope*** to our families so they can continue to receive the free educational and therapeutic services they need to live life to the fullest.

If you google any of our student's diagnoses, you will stumble upon hundreds of pages of worst-case scenarios, what if's, and can not's.

If you walk through the halls of Little Light House, you will see hundreds of smiles, laughter from students, and miracles happening every day.

A diagnosis does not define what a student is capable of.



***Watch our “More than a
Diagnosis” video***





“Someone told me after we got our son’s diagnosis, *“He is still the same boy he was yesterday.”* That’s it. He’s

my little boy. The same little boy I carried in my womb. The same boy I felt kicking each day, the same boy I talked to every day of my pregnancy. Sometimes a diagnosis feels like a thief. It steals your child’s future and all of these moments that were “supposed” to be happy. *The daily joys with my son are much more than his diagnosis.”*

- Kaylie Boomer, Wilder’s Mom

Connor Larby

It was a dream come true when I discovered I would be a mom. People asked if we wanted a boy or a girl, we gave the typical response that we just wanted a healthy baby. He was growing well and was always active on scans. At 20 weeks, we had a routine anatomy scan, just as a precaution.

I remember the nurse went from chitchat to silence in seconds. We met with the doctor shortly after, and he told us our baby had a significant-sized hole in his heart and would require open heart surgery. He also shared that **50% of babies born with Down syndrome have congenital heart defects**, so he suggested getting tested. We declined it and returned a few weeks later for a follow-up, only to learn that his heart condition had worsened and his kidneys were enlarged. They suggested genetic testing again.

So we did, and when our results came in, I will never forget the doctor's poorly chosen words. **"Unfortunately, your baby has Down syndrome. I'm so sorry."** He began to rattle off statistics of what Connor would or would not do, what his IQ would be, and he would live with us forever and be a burden on our lives. I left that phone call in tears and immediately went to the internet to learn more about Down syndrome. We attended a family event the following weekend with Down Syndrome Awareness Tulsa and met beautiful children that day and the most loving and supportive families. Everyone asked the same question, **"Have you gotten on the waitlist for Little Light House yet?"**

The following week, we scheduled our tour. I remember walking in and feeling relief. When we looked inside the classrooms, we saw children smiling and playing. The adults didn't see a statistic, diagnosis, or anything to be sorry about. They just

saw kids. We left that day filled with a little more hope, and Connor was number 147 on the list. We spent three years on the waitlist. And as we waited, Connor was born.

At four months old, Connor went into heart failure. He spent his first Christmas and New Year in the pediatric ICU on a vent. At five months old and weighing only about eight pounds, Connor had open heart surgery to repair three holes in his heart. But just like our baby's heart would become complete, the building you see today was going to be completed and allowed more space to serve more kids, one of which was Connor.

When Connor entered as a three-year-old in 2019, he was an expert bear crawler but not walking. He liked adults but overlooked his peers. He had significant fine motor delays after just one year here, Connor was mobile. He interacted with his peers and started to feed himself, which was huge for us. Connor is now in his final year here, and I joke that they'll have to kick us out and lock the door to get us to leave. But I also know that he's ready. He doesn't just walk through the doors anymore. He runs or jumps and greets each person in the lobby with a high five, a hug, or his signature greeting, a bop on the nose. He then runs down the hall, saying hi to his former teachers and therapists before he enters Red Class, and greets his classmates by name.

Connor has grown so much at LLH, and he has been loved and encouraged the whole time. As a parent, I have also received that same love and encouragement. LLH is not just a school for kids with special needs. **This is a community.** It is a place where families can connect with other families, and it's a place where friendships are formed. We'll take a piece of LLH with us when we leave here because the impact that LLH had on our family is priceless. Every single Special Needs family deserves to feel the same hope and support we have felt during our time here.





Little Light House



You're invited to the 20th Annual Garden Party!



Join us for a fun morning celebrating Little Light House as you dress to impress in your Sunday Best with a hint of Kentucky Derby while wearing your most impressive hat. Enjoy our delicious food, a silent auction, a Little Light House Program, a Live Auction, and the most creative hat contest. Hats are available for rental at the event.

Saturday, April 1st, 2023, 9:30am - 12:30pm
Cox Business Center

Questions about the event or auction?
Email events@littleshighthouse.org.

Honorariums

Aaron Soderfelt

ArtByAmsod
Beth Soderfelt
Abigal Horne
Cathe Kehe
Alexander Shaiebly
Anthony Shaiebly
Allison Johnson
Clay Johnson
Archie Baca
Sharon Peña
August Verduyssen
Caroline Mellon
Avery Hight
Deborah Sicka
Benjamin Jones
Marilyn Goeddey
Bishop Mathis
David Phillips
Carley Carson
Douglas Richison
Cathy Whitlatch
Steve & Kathy Gogolakis
Dede Flatley
Mary Martinovich
Delores Huber
Ellen Tulsa
Ellie Benanzer
Linda Isom
Ethan Lewis

Kimberly Lewis
Fields Boys
Nicole Fields
Gideon Rieck
Beckah Rieck
Ginny Gamble
Sheryl and John Boone
Gracie Ledbetter
Alex Robinson
Megan Neely
Miss Shelly's School Of
Dance
Gretchen Novak
Sean Novak
Harris Penn
Becky Tyler
Henry Bell
Ken Savage
Herald Givens
Deborah Givens
Hudson Wiggins
Mindy Wiggins
Israel Poe
Steven & Tiffany Poe
Jack Swain
Nancy Swain
Jacob Baird
Jo Anne Cronk
Robert Baird
Jamey Fox

Charlotte D. and George
M. Paden Family Trust
Jasper Fisher
Nana and Pop Woosley
JoAnn Carlson Berry
Nancy McNair
Joanne Kronk
Robert Baird
John Feary
Jim Glover On The River
Jonah Hough
Mary Montgomery
Sally Scott
Joshua David Robinson
Jennifer Smith
Joshua Fischer
Marta Fischer
Katlyn Travers
Dawn Ferrill
Keith Boyd
Carol Holt
Kelsey Easterwood
Marilynn Wedemeyer
Kendall Kensley
Charles Elgy
Kristi Dains Schneider
Linda Fields
Liam Epperson
Charles Baker
Lila Owens

Maddie Owens
Lindie Swift
Aimee Swift
Lisa SiFuentes
John Williams
Matthew Meyers
Erin Booher
Missy Mitchell
Kimberlee Hairston
Morgan Smejkal
Terry Smejkal
**My Three Beautiful
Johnson Children**
Emily Johnson
Norah Anderson
Jamie Anderson
Ozzie Tyndall
Hannah Lyman
Poppy Cox
Jordan Cox
Rex Bowers
Richard Mitchell
Jim Glover On The River
Sarah Parrack
David & Rebecca Parrack
Sawyer Pittsley
Amber Pittsley
Saylor Crose
Debbie Blackwell
Sean Liedl

William Liedl
Solomon Siegel
Pam Bell
Steven Plowman
Kenna Moskal
Stroke Recovery
Tommy Pellegrino
Tanner Welch
Top Shelf Creative
Taylor Paul
Chad and Shelley Phillips
Terri Curry
Gayla Cook
Topher Swain
Kent Zwayer
Tracy Goins
Kirk Shaffer
Tristan Amstutz
Garnet Nowell
Wilder Boomer
Breea Cramer
The Drywall Crew, LLC
The Marrs Family
Foundation
Zehavi Baker
Symira Clifton

Memoriams

Bama Ammachi

Joanna George
Beth Schadel
Mac Durnil
Bob Prater
Susan Amstutz
Maid to Order Cleaning
Company
Benjamin Maliwat
Deanne and Tom Nunn
R W Prater
Carl White
Beverly Allen
Yvonne Alsip
Patricia Anderson
Sandra Bagby
Chad Bagby
Gary and Chris Barsness
Janet Boeding
Susan Borcherding
Edward Braley
Charlene Cowan
Patricia Dwyer
Angela Edmonson
Marian Emmack
Pamela Gehring
Dixie Harnden
Tammie Harper
Gary Hickok
Eugene Johnson
Janice Kiefer
Carol Kremppes Kunz
Colleen Lange
Kay Lowder
Karla Martens

Barbara McDonald
Judith Morgan
Sandra Pippert
Darla Siebrecht
Norma Twohill
Norma Waage
Marilyn White
Linda Young
Cathleen Yuska
Townhomes At
Townhomes At Legacy
Carol Sullivan
Kimberly Fish (Voytovich)
Suzie Greenwood
Bob Richert
Stephen Schroeder
Cathey Schappell
Mildred Abbett
Cheyenne Collins
Kenneth Collins
Danny Bartlett
Michael Bartlett
Thomas Hall
David Hartsuck
Richard Boyd
Dr. Bill Jones
Jim McKellar
Faith Hughes
Marshall Chiropractic
Greg Spahn
Richard Boyd
Hudson Lamb
Jason Mackenzie
Emily Schneider
Jack Garrison

Alyson Garrison
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Hopkins**
Stephen Hopkins
Joe Stanfield
Tom Hall
Kay Connelly
Marybeth Hubbard
Lillian Salvesen
Dallas and Brittany
Chandler
Linda Fox
Marcia Mitchell
Jean Winfrey
Maddison Zickefoose
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Makayla Roller
Ted Brubaker
Mason Richardson
Pi Kappa Alpha Tulsa
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Shirley Bambeck**
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Michael Walker
Kathy Bratton
Sean Carlson
Janet Eakle
Beverly Enis
Kenneth King
Jackie McSpadden
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Anja Walker
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Gutierrez**
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Nathan Wofford
John Wofford
Nicole Ann
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Amy Swartz
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Richard Seth Harrison
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Roman Harrison
Ron Beaver
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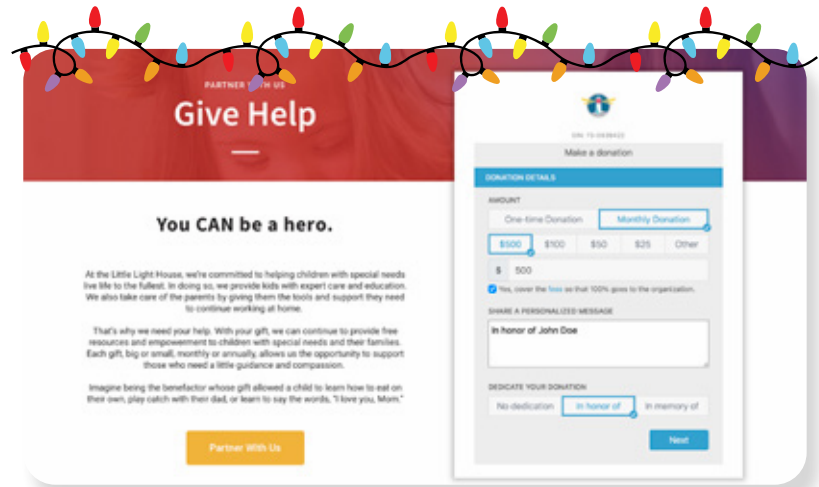
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