

Update

FALL 2009

In This Issue:

Words of Thanks p. 2
Acknowledgements p. 2
"Parent to Parent" p. 3
Emily's Table, From
Grandma with Love .. p. 3
New Staff Members ... p. 3
Welcome Back Angela
..... p. 3
2009 Events Calendar &
Presentations .. page 4

Message from the Director

Because of you, we have many things to celebrate this fall! By the beginning of October we will debut a completely new and redesigned website, www.europeds.org, with more features to help you find the information you're looking for. Check it out and let me know what you think.

I am also very excited to let you know that in October 2009, Euro-Peds[®] will be turning ten years old! You have continued to support us and trust in our therapy over 900 children later! Therefore, our 2nd annual Euro-Peds Reunion taking place October 4th will be extra special as we also celebrate our 10th Anniversary! The event is meant to thank the Euro-Peds patients and their families by providing them a stress-free, fun-filled day! The event would not be possible with-



Michelle Haney,
PT, MSPT

*out the contribution from Philip and Jodi Douse, owners of **Oakland Yard Athletics** in Waterford, MI. We also want to acknowledge the support of our wonderful vendors and referring medical professionals in a way that's meaningful. All past and present volunteers, vendors, patients and their families are invited. Here are the details. **SAVE THE DATE!***

When: Sunday, October 4, 2009

Time: 12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Where: Oakland Yard Athletics Dome,
www.oaklandyard.com
5328 Highland Road,
Waterford, MI 48327

Who: Past and Present Patients of Euro-Peds;
Referring Medical Professionals; Volunteers,
Supporters & Vendors of Euro-Peds

RSVP: by September 25 to (248) 857-6776 #3

Thanks again for allowing us to continue treating children and young adults!

Michelle S. Haney, PT, MSPT

Research Opportunity

Testing Your Child's Thinking Speed

The University of Michigan Health System is conducting research on new ways of testing children's thinking speed. Children who take part will be able to try computerized tests of thinking speed. To take part in this study, children must:

- ▶ Have a medical diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy
- ▶ Be 8-16 years of age
- ▶ Have their parent (or legal guardian) provide written, informed approval to participate
- ▶ Not have a medical or psychiatric condition that affects the tests, including changing doses of medication or a history of brain injury.

Participants can expect to spend two to three hours in the study, and will be paid a \$50.00 honorarium for their time and effort. To schedule an appointment call: (734) 936-6604 or (734) 763-6189

For more information, email U of M at
ACAL-Research@umich.edu

(NOTE: please indicate "Processing Speed" in the subject line of your e-mail)

Easter Bunny's Visit

We're fortunate to be on the Easter Bunny's route every year, courtesy of Sheriff Bouchard and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.



Mr. Easter Bunny; Oakland County Deputy Sheriff Mark Hickson; Scott Rogowski, PT Aide; (front) Shelley Wolak, PTA; patient Rachel with her sister, Rebecca.



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Thank you to our many supporters ...

Our Sincere Thank-you's go out to these Generous Souls...

Lisa Duncelman for the Kitty Keyboard...The Nordenholds for the videos...Evelyn Edwards and Fran Mikowitz for the handmade quilts and blankets...Patti Rohovsky for the stuffed animals...Amanda Lynch and Diana May for donated diapers...Irene Robinson for the peanut pillows...Maxine Andrews for the magazines...The Jaramillo Family for the book and DVDs,...Stefanie Leigh, Jessica Slater, and Sydney Nicholson for the Gift Basket goodies...and to all the kind families who kept the staff well-fed with your goodies...

Thank you all!

In Memory of Leona



Over the past several years, you may have seen **Leona P. Revoldt's** name and photo pop up in our newsletters. Leona, a generous and active friend of Euro-Peds, died on April 28 at 89-years-young. While she is no longer with us in body, her frequent gifts of toys, blankets and stuffed animals continue to impact the children at Euro-Peds. We'll miss Leona's giving spirit.

For National Lab Week, the lab employees of Doctors' Hospital of Michigan, where Euro-Peds is located, created "Patch Adams Day" to benefit the children in the Euro-Peds Clinic. The Staff of the lab raised approximately \$800 by selling red noses and collecting donations.



Shown here with their Patch Adam clown noses, front row: Lilly Hejhal-Armbruster, Hannah Minks, Angela Kraj-PTA, and Pam Montroy-Euro-Peds Office Asst. back row: Melissa McGinnis, PT, Shelley Wolak-PTA, Karla Wickerham- Aide Coordinator, and Lynnette Perrymond- Aide

Acknowledgements

There are several people and organizations that we would like to acknowledge and thank for helping our patients and their families:

The Luke Billings Foundation for the Treatment of Children with Cerebral Palsy is a donor-advised fund under the Columbus Foundation that offers financial help to Central Ohio children with CP so that they can receive ongoing and necessary intensive therapy.
www.lukebillingsfoundation.org



Erica Fogel from Ohio with NHL hockey player Rick Nash at the Luke Billings Foundation Fundraiser earlier this year.



First Hand Foundation is a nonprofit organization that helps children with health-related needs when insurance and other financial resources have been exhausted.
www.firsthandfoundation.org



Variety Foundation's "Kids on the Go"

program helps children gain freedom, confidence and independence. Variety Kids on the Go! provides funding for wheelchairs, specially designed adaptive bikes, and other durable medical equipment necessary to make the children active participants at home, school, and at play. www.usvariety.org



Miles for Special Smiles

was founded in 2009 by Rodne Lecouteur (father to Euro-Peds patient James) and by other parents in Western Michigan. Their mission, according to Lecouteur, is to help special needs children reach their God-given potential by helping families acquire equipment or therapy for their children. As a new non-profit, MfSS currently is targeting families in Kent & Ottawa Counties (Michigan). Inquiries may be made at: info@milesforspecialsmiles.com. www.milesforspecialsmiles.com



Children's Neurobiological Solutions (CNS) is a nonprofit research foundation improving the lives of children disabled by neurological disorders through research focused on brain repair and regeneration. Founder Fia Richmond is the mother of Palmer Clay Richmond, who remains undiagnosed with a brain injury www.cnsfoundation.org



Emily's Table, from Grandma with Love...

Phyllis Wittrock, Grandmother to Euro-Peds Patient **Emily Banks**, created a special needs table so that Emily could play in a safe and stable area. Emily has Cerebral Palsy and needed extra support to cruise along the table while she played.

"I curved the table edge to eliminate any sharp corners and attached vinyl tubing to give her something to grip and to cushion any bumps against the table," writes Phyllis. "I would say the edging has been one of the best things for Emily... Cost wise the total was under \$50."

The table is attached to the wall with adjustable shelf brackets so it can be raised as Emily gets taller. If you have an interest in how Phyllis made this special play table, contact her at: (734) 591-3049 or d.wittrock@sbcglobal.net.



New Staff Members



Ashley Clifton,
PT Aide



Kate Thompson,
PT Aide



Sarah Roudebush,
PT Aide



Angie Daoud,
PTA

Parent to Parent

Finding the Way to Help Your Child Reach Their Full Potential

Submitted by Suzanne Brown, Lewiston, Idaho

Many years before my son was born, I heard of Euro-Peds from a co-worker. Little did I know that that piece of information would bring so much relief to my life. After Ethan was born with brain damage, I set out on a journey to do whatever I could to help him reach his full potential: to prove the doctors' prognosis that "he won't walk, talk, or feed himself" wrong.

The first few years seemed hopeless in my search for help. Reconnecting with my coworker reminded me of the Euro-Peds program. I immediately set out gathering information about Euro-Peds and knew right away that I wanted to take Ethan. At age 7 Ethan was finally ready. And the money? Well, "where there's a will there's a way." Twice our expenses were paid by kind donations from family, friends

and strangers, and from non-profit organizations. The key: Make your need known. People are so incredibly generous when they know your situation.

Once we finally made it to the Euro-Peds clinic, their extraordinary staff and amazing program surpassed our greatest expectations! Everything was just as they said it would be. We recently returned from our second trip and again, superb service. Both two-week sessions increased Ethan's strength and I believe his awareness of movement. He had so much fun with the therapists who knew just how to motivate and encourage him through every exercise. Although Ethan still can't walk, he is one step closer than yesterday because of all the work he's done at Euro-Peds.

The home program that is provided at the end of a session is key to keeping up with successes Ethan made while at the clinic. I've copied the program and given it to school



Ethan Brown with PTA Shelley Wolak, at Euro-Peds in July 2009.

aides, caretakers, etc. It is a great resource!

In a world of uncertainty, everyone can be certain they will achieve something while attending Euro-Peds. The value of this program is priceless! Thank you Euro-Peds staff for your unending patience and kindness, and mostly your love shown to all the children!

Welcome Back, Angela!



Angela Kraj, PTA, has been on an extended leave of absence after surgery to her knee to repair torn ligaments sustained while playing tennis.

She will be returning in October and is eager to begin treating her patients again. The entire experience, Angela said, has made her much more aware of what her patients and their families experience on a daily basis.

"I've learned how absolutely crucial it is to be patient with yourself and to accept the body's limitations; I've also experienced first hand how quickly muscle atrophies and how powerful daily physical activities are to the mind and body."

You may find other parent support at:

"Euro-Peds Parents' Support & Other Awesome Advocates" Group on Facebook ~ www.facebook.com and search: "euro-peds"

Euro-Peds Parent Support Page on Yahoo! Groups

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/europedsparents>

or www.groups.yahoo.com and search: "europedsparents"

Euro-Peds National Center for Intensive Pediatric Physical Therapy was established in 1999 as the first hospital-based clinic in North America to use European-inspired intensive therapy techniques for the treatment of children and young adults who have neuromuscular disorders, including Cerebral Palsy, Traumatic Brain Injury, Spina Bifida, Down Syndrome and a wide variety of other non-progressive gross motor disorders. The mission of Euro-Peds is to teach new and lasting functional skills that will create a better quality of life and health for the child and their caregivers.

4th Quarter '09 Calendar of Events

October 4

EURO-PEDS REUNION

12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Oakland Yard Athletics Dome, www.oaklandyard.com
5328 Highland Road, Waterford, MI 48327
Please RSVP to (248) 857-6776



October 6, 2009

Euro-Peds 10th Anniversary!

October 29-30

Trick-or-Treating at Euro-Peds & Costume Contest

November 5 - 7

Atlanta Abilities Expo & Conference
Cobb Galleria Conference Center, Atlanta, GA
Booth #819, refer to www.abilitiesexpo.com
Presentations: See sidebar



Euro-Peds Presenting in Atlanta



Mel McGinnis, PT, MPT, will be presenting "Teaching Children with CP New Skills Using Intensive Physical Therapy Methods" on Saturday, November 7, 2009, from 12:30 to 2 p.m., and Sunday, November 8 from 1 to 2 p.m., as part of the 3-day Abilities Expo &

Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, being held at the Cobb Galleria Convention Center November 6-8. Mel evaluates and treats children and young adults as well as oversees other therapists.

McGinnis holds a Master's Degree from Oakland University's accredited Physical Therapy program and has additional training and experience using intensive therapy tools, such as the Universal Exercise Unit and The Euro-Peds Therapy Suit.



* This presentation qualifies for Continuing Education Units.