

# Update

**Fall/Winter 2007**

## Message from the Director: Michelle Saunders, PT, MSPT

### Euro-Pēds® Celebrates 8 Years

Happy Birthday, NOMC Euro-Pēds®! It has been 8 years since the clinic opened in October of 1999 as the first intensive pediatric PT clinic in North America. Since then, nearly 800 children and young adults have come through Euro-Pēds for treatment. We are very honored to have shared our birthday with the children and their families who were here, such as Emily from Minnesota (*right*) who started off the festivities by cutting our birthday cake!



### New Space!

I am happy to announce that we now have a large new treatment gym on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. The bright room has lots of natural light, two universal exercise units and a warm-up bed, in addition to new therapy equipment that was gifted to Euro-Pēds® by North Oakland Medical Centers' generous Auxiliary members.



### Tribute to Arnie, Therapy Dog Extraordinaire

It is with great sadness that we report that Arnie, our award-winning and heart-warming Therapy Dog, passed away on August 23. He had been a therapy dog for 11 of his 12 years, and Euro-Peds' patients were lucky enough to be the recipients of his services for the last five years. Our deepest sympathies to Kay Neslage, our long-time volunteer who faithfully brought Arnie weekly to help make the children's therapy time pass more pleasantly. As Kay aptly stated, "Arnie was everyone's dog." His presence is missed greatly.



*Michelle Saunders, PT, MSPT*

"NOMC Euro-Pēds®" is a National Center for Intensive Pediatric Physical Therapy for the treatment of children and young adults with neuromuscular disorders including Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, TBI, and other special needs conditions that have been successfully treated with intense bouts of individualized therapy. Go to the website [www.europeds.org](http://www.europeds.org) to learn more.

### Giving Back by "Adopting a Euro-Kid"



**Julie Keilitz**, owner of Jules Yoga in Clarkston, Michigan ([www.julesyogafitness.com](http://www.julesyogafitness.com)) wanted to give back to the community, a "karma yoga" concept. She staged an Open House for her 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary in business in September and gave all the proceeds from the event's yoga class and vendors to the "Adopt A Euro-Kid" fund account for Matthew McQuaid of Dublin, Ohio.

**Jacqueline Craite**, a senior at Waterford Mott High School, heard about Euro-Pēds after touring the clinic with her Career Connections group from school. "After I saw what it did for the kids, I wanted to do something to help," she said. So she organized a can drive and bake sale with the cooperation of her schoolmates and teacher, Mrs. Marilyn Floyd. The \$220 that she raised in one day went to the general "Adopt A Euro-Kid" fund.



If you or someone you know is interested in helping out in a big or small way, the "Adopt A Euro-Kid" fund is managed by the North Oakland Foundation, a tax-exempt 501c3 organization. The donations help families pay for intensive physical therapy at Euro-Pēds. You can donate to a specific child's account or to the general fund which will allow the Foundation to continue to award therapy scholarships. For more information contact the **North Oakland Foundation at (248) 857-7096 or log on to [www.northoaklandfoundation.org](http://www.northoaklandfoundation.org).**

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## **Arnie's Corner** **Arnold "Arnie" Palmer Neslage 1995-2007**

On August 23, four days after he bravely made his last service visit to the Euro-Pēds Fun Day, our dear Arnie, "Therapy Dog Extraordinaire" passed away. His dedicated human and NOMC volunteer, Kay Neslage wanted to pass along this message:

*"Arnie had such a defined purpose for his life and we were all blessed to be recipients of his never ending and unquestioning love. My family and I send our sympathies to all of you, too, since you were part of Arnie's family. Our hearts are so very heavy with sadness but we take comfort knowing our beautiful Arnie is now resting his head in St. Francis' lap. Our love and thanks to all..."*

~Kay Neslage and Family



## **Presentations on Intensive PT Scheduled for Fall 2007**

**Angela Jackson, PT**, and **Melissa McGinnis, PT**, have been busy educating on the methods and research underlying Intensive Pediatric PT this year. Upcoming presentations include :

- October 15 ~ United Cerebral Palsy-Detroit
  - October 25 ~ Michigan Rehabilitation Conference, Grand Rapids, MI
  - November 7 ~ Michigan POHI Conference, Grand Rapids, MI
  - November 14 ~ Kennedy Krieger Institute, Baltimore, MD
  - November 17 ~ World Congress & Expo on Disabilities, Washington, DC
- (please go to [www.europeds.org/ne/org](http://www.europeds.org/ne/org) for more specific information)

## **Jamaican Patient Flies Home during Hurricane**

**Kingsley** and his family, **The Eleawanya's**, were at Euro-Pēds® for therapy in August when Hurricane Dean was headed towards their home in Jamaica. The family flew back home on the same day that the category four hurricane hit the island. Fortunately, the storm took a last-minute jog to the west which spared the island from greater damage. We were all happy to hear that the Eleawanya's got home safely, although they were without electricity for several days and many of the homes surrounding them were damaged.



### **Meet Dutchess...**

Ross Turner, and his certified therapy dog Dutchess, started volunteering at Euro-Pēds in July. They plan on administering Pet Assisted Therapy by going to the Euro-Pēds department, Rehab and possibly the ICU waiting area in the hospital.

## **Fun Day 2007! ...**

Thanks to all of our partners, Euro-Pēds was once again able to host our annual Fun Day picnic in August. Mother Nature decided that she would also supply gifts of rain and wind that day, but no one seemed to mind, and many of our die-hard families came out to be with us that day despite the weather! Thank you especially to **Sam's Club of Waterford**, for making the Fun Day 2007 possible, and to **Freedom Concepts** who brought bikes as well as **Lennardo The Children's Musical Entertainer!** Warm thanks to **United Cerebral Palsy-Detroit** for your craft table that added a festive touch to the day. Sincere thanks to **McDonald's** of Waterford for sponsoring the magic that is Ronald McDonald. And thank you to **Wright & Filippis**, **Koch's Orthotics**, and **Earth-to-Earth Screenprinters** for your kind donations. Here are some of our favorite photos marking the day's highlights:



## **Two Moms "Reaching for the Stars"**

Two moms of daughters with CP started up their own Foundation, "Reaching for the Stars" in 2004 to help educate and advocate for the entire CP Community. Founders **Anna**

**Marie Champion** and **Cynthia Frisina Gray** are affecting research, legislation and the medical profession through their mission to: Foster national Cerebral Palsy research with the goal of expediting the creation of new medicines and effective treatments for children with Cerebral Palsy. If you have ideas, you are encouraged to call them at 770.561.5950 or go to their extensive website at [www.reachingforthestars.org](http://www.reachingforthestars.org).



(the "rocker board," and the treadmill, are just a few gifts from the Auxiliary to NOMC)

## **Thanks to the Auxiliary to NOMC, and other Kind Souls**

The Auxiliary to NOMC is made up of selfless volunteers who fundraise primarily through the gift shop located in the hospital. They have given many gifts to our clinic in the past. This year, the group came through once again with donations of new equipment that will help us in our quest to continually enhance the quality of therapy. Thank you for your help, Auxiliary to NOMC! Quite simply, we exist because you exist! Other thanks to: **Freedom Concepts** for their cool bike!... **Cindy Aguillar** for her generous gifts... **Ken & Liz Rogulski** for the bike... **Evelyn Edwards** for the handmade quilts... **Irene Robertson** for the neck pillows... **Laura Chaput** for the "floor piano"... **Patty Lyons** for the Elmo DVD... **The Fogel's** for the videos... **Missy Isaac** for the games for the clinic... **Leona Revoldt** for the stuffed animals... **Pros-Tech** for the gift basket donations... all the families that keep us well-fed with surprise goodies, and all the families who believe in us enough that you refer other families... **Thank you!**