

Winter
2005



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UPWARD FOUNDATION

Upward Foundation



Amanda & Katie Hughes with Meadowlark Lemon

Katie Hughes is the recipient of the first grant awarded from the new Upward Foundation scholarship fund. Katie and her twin, Amanda, were born three months premature, each weighing less than two pounds. She spent the first two months of her life on a ventilator, but instead of getting better, her chances of survival declined. Through

"Touch the Sky" 2005

perseverance and determination, this spunky little girl never gave up. She and many Upward students like her, take nourishment through feeding tubes because of their inability to chew and or swallow. Katie has shown some interest and capability in learning to eat. Therefore, when Paul and Rita Hughes were referred to the Kluge Children's Rehabilitation Center in Charlottesville, Virginia, they applied. This clinic specializes in difficult cases such as Katie's. They believe it is the child's responsibility to eat and it is the family's responsibility to provide the right environment, foods and opportunities. This clinic works closely with both the child and the family.

This early morning breakfast was held at the Phoenix Country Club on January 19, 2005. Those participating in this adventure were greeted and welcomed by Alan Havir, Fund Raising Chairman of the Upward Foundation Board of Directors and Sandy Abalos, representing corporate sponsor Abalos & Associates, P.C. Thirteen year old Aiyana Havir shared her talent and opened breakfast by singing the National Anthem.

We were delighted and privileged to welcome retired Harlem Globetrotter, Meadowlark Lemon. This well-known "Clown Prince of Basketball", also known for his near perfect hook shot from half court, challenged and entertained his audience. He spoke of the special needs of children and of how all of us, young or old, man or woman, at one time or another need help. He stated that the opportunity to make a difference



Meadowlark Lemon challenges spectators to help.



Meeting the "Clown Prince of Basketball".

in the lives of one another is a joy. Whether standing at the mid-court line on the basketball court or standing behind a microphone, Meadowlark Lemon shared with his spectators the meaning of the assist, the value of team participation and what it truly means to help.

This "Touch the Sky" event will become an annual breakfast to educate, inform and to involve the community in the activities that often lie hidden in Upward's daily operations. These scholarship opportunities will be offered and presented to students and families of Upward, both past and present.

We hope Katie and her family will attend the breakfast next year where we will we applaud Katie's growth and success while introducing the 2006 recipient of the "Touch the Sky" Scholarship.

BY THE WAY... JACK NEVINS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Friends:

As our State Legislature begins the 2005 Session, there are several Bills that may affect the children and families for whom Upward Foundation provides service. Following is a recap of the Pending Legislation that may affect you and your family.

- HOUSE BILL 2118 This bill allows Foster Parents to be included in the team that develops a child's Individualized Education Program, if applicable.
- HOUSE BILL 2315 This bill requires that eligibility for AHCCCS Services under Federal Poverty Guidelines be determined annually rather than semi-annually.
- HOUSE BILL 2341 / Senate Bill 1068 This bill extends the Statutory Life of the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities for 10 years, to January 1, 2015.
- HOUSE BILL 2558 This bill will change the definition of Foster Parent in all statutes governing Special Education. Under this bill the definition of a Foster Parent of a child with a disability is changed to specifically refer to someone designated by a Court or by DES.
- HOUSE BILL 2668 This bill requires that Peace Officer Training include current information on Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Mental Health and Developmental Disability.
- SENATE BILL 1135 This bill proposes changes in Definitions and Support Level Weights for categories involving Disabilities, Orthopedic Impairments, and Retardation.

I encourage you to contact your State Representatives and State Senators, and let them know how you feel about the Pending Legislation. Remember, every voice counts. To find your State Representative or State Senator, you can access the following website: www.vote-smart.org

Jack

Making a Difference!

Hensley
Employee
Foundation

Abalos &
Associates

Bank
One

DFD
Cornoyer-
Hedrick



Squire,
Sanders &
Dempsey
L.L.P.

There is a story about an old man walking along the beach with his grandson. The grandson picked up each starfish they passed and threw it back into the sea.

"If I left them on the beach," the boy said, "they would dry up and die. I'm saving their lives."

"But," protested the old man, "the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish. What you are doing won't make any difference."

The boy looked at the starfish in his hand and gently threw it into the ocean and answered, "It made a difference to that one."

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Gallagher
&
Kennedy

Snell &
Wilmer

Pinnacle
Peak
Rotary

Ananda
Roberts

Mr. & Mrs.
Phil L.
James

Center-Based Therapies

Upward Foundation, in addition to being a School for Children with Special Needs, also provides Outpatient Therapy Services for Developmentally Disabled Children. Upward presently offers both Center-Based Therapies, provided on the Upward Foundation Campus, and Natural Environment Therapies, provided at the child's Home or Child Care Center. These therapies are available to children through the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division for Developmental Disabilities and to children with private or group health insurance coverage.

With our staff of Professional and Fully-Licensed Therapists, we are able to provide services in the areas of Feeding Therapies, Occupational and Physical Therapies, and Speech Therapies. The diagnoses of our clientele includes Asperger Syndrome, Apraxia, Dysphasia, Autism, Down Syndrome, Failure to Thrive, Tourette Syndrome, and various Developmental Delays.

If you would like more information regarding our Outpatient Therapies, please contact Sharon Graham, Education and Therapy Coordinator at 602-279-5801.

Upward Foundation

is dedicated to improving the quality of life for children with special needs by providing compassionate and cost-effective special education, therapy and medical services to children and their families to "Pave the way to a brighter future."

Sharing the Holiday

Upward Foundation strives to meet the needs of the families of their students and this past holiday was no exception. With the assistance of PETSMART, Mayo Clinic Scottsdale, Wells Fargo, Abalos & Associates, a Girl Scout Troop, and various teachers, therapists and staff, Upward was able to organize its annual "Adopt a Family" program by matching families with area businesses.

"Happy and privileged", were the words chosen by Rick Wamhoff of PETSMART when asked if they would be interested in sharing their holiday with others.

Twenty-one families received help in meeting and filling Santa's lists. Bikes, Barbie dolls, remote control cars, tea sets, educational toys, along with clothes, food baskets and gift cards were bundled and boxed then either delivered or picked up by the families.



A Poem by Mindy Wagner

All of the expectations
Still loom in the back of my mind
Remembering the day that they told me
That he was more than a little behind
He looks at me with great beauty
And an always glistening eye
As if he knows there's a problem
And he is looking and asking "why?"
All of the answers he's wanting
Are still questions I ask inside
Trying to find the answers
The emotion, I'm trying to hide
I am realizing how strong God has made him
How he grows and learns more each day
He has strength and determination
I know silent he will not stay
There is a world out there that needs him
Needs all that he has to give
So through the years we will teach him
How to talk, how to love, how to live
This is but a fleeting moment
So I kneel at the bed and pray
For the strength that God has given my son
And the power to teach him today



School For Children With Special Needs

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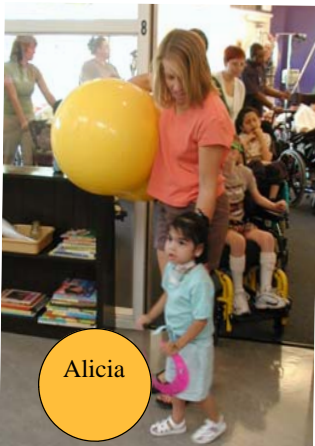
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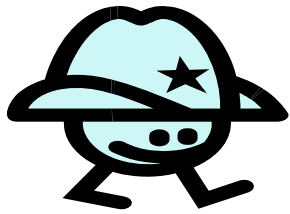
www.upwardfoundation.org



Valley of the Sun
United Way



Alicia



For years and years, children have been asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" The replies range from fireman, doctor, nurse and policeman, to teacher, lawyer or builder. How many times have you asked that question?

How many times have you heard the reply, "I want to be a teacher's assistant"?

Here at Upward it is a well known fact that without teacher assistants the daily responsibilities of caring for and instructing the students would be impossible. These special women and men take on the sometimes uncomfortable tasks of lifting students with flailing arms, changing diapers and washing bottoms, and cleaning up spilled food.



Cynthia



Felipe

Adam

Many Hats

What is a Teacher Assistant? Easy question? Not really! A teacher assistant is somebody who assists teachers teach; they tutor, coach, explain, show, and clarify as a vocation. They wear many hats well and are continuously discovering hidden skills and talents.

Here at Upward teacher assistants play games, brush teeth, and change dirty clothes. They oversee computer games, read the same story over and over again, and chase balls for unseeing eyes. They direct little hands on how to hold a book or a spoon and massage tired legs and arms. They soothe hurting tummies, tickle cheeks, and caress drowsy eyes. What don't they do?



Teacher Assist. Debbie Davis works in Room #7 with Kenia.