Little City prepares launch of therapeutic day school

The ChildBridge Center for Education will provide tailored services for students with autism

This fall, Little City will open its ChildBridge Center for Education, a therapeutic day school providing progressive services for children and teenagers with significant needs on the autism spectrum. Accredited by the Illinois State Board of Education, the day school will “bridge” education and each child’s developmental abilities enabling them to reach their fullest potential.

Collaborating with each child’s home school district, the ChildBridge Center for Education will develop an individual educational plan (IEP) providing personalized therapies and intervention services to address the unique needs of each student.

“Our aim is to complement and supplement the continuum of educational offerings presently available to children and families,” commented Executive Director Shawn Jeffers. “We look forward to collaborating with principals, parents and caseworkers to provide the best learning environment for our at-risk children and young adults.”

Little City’s educational program is uniquely designed to provide an environment that concentrates on enhancing communication abilities, social skills and developmentally appropriate life skills of each individual.

Located on Little City’s therapeutic 56-acre campus, students will also benefit from computer-based training, assistive technology apparatuses and augmentative communication therapies and devices. In addition, students will have access to a specialized playground, a fitness center and swimming pool, a specialized on-site medical and dental center as well other leading-edge services each designed specifically for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The school will offer a primary program (grades 1 to 3), intermediate (grades 4 to 6), junior high (grades 7 and 8) and several high school classes (grades 9 to 12). Classrooms are small and students will be grouped in age appropriate classes with no more than a four-year span in any one group.

“Providing children with a practical, learning experience is something that is near and dear to my heart and I am truly excited to help create such an environment with Little City’s new ChildBridge Center for Education,” added Lead Teacher Andrea Heim.

Heim joins Little City with more than 35 years of experience in the teaching field and has worked with children and teenagers with intellectual, developmental and behavioral disabilities.

Classes will officially begin on August 24 for the 2011-2012 school year. Enrollment is now open. Visit www.littlecity.org/school or call (847) 221-7859 for more information.

I am the one out of every 70 boys in our country born with autism.
As I reflect upon the above quote, I am once again reminded of the importance of building and cultivating meaningful partnerships and networks. These relationships can provide us with knowledge, opportunities and perspective in both business and life.

Just as it takes time to grow a garden, it takes time and attention to grow partnerships and networks. If you take the time to cultivate and maintain important relationships they will evolve and flourish; conversely, if you fail to nurture them they will wilt.

To maintain these essential relations, a continuous effort of constant care and communication must be made. We must remember not to limit ourselves to the current connections we have, instead we need to be accepting and open to new partnerships and other opportunities that may arise.

To effectively benefit from these unique relations, it is imperative that we stay connected to each other. In our society this has been made increasingly more feasible. At times it may seems like a daunting task having too many things to check on; however, if we are not connected we are missing endless possibilities.

One of the many advantages of having a strong network of supporters is that we are able to consult and collaborate with each other. Whether you are reading email, newsletters, Facebook updates or attending a meeting at Little City, you are gaining invaluable insight into how we can work together to ensure a better life for all individuals with disabilities. If we want to accomplish more goals, we must work together. There is strength in numbers.

A great deal of our success comes from the relationships that we have grown throughout our history. At this time, I’d like you to think about the hundreds of people and families that we serve at Little City and what would happen without continued community support and involvement.

With a decrease in government funding, the connections we have made with you and others like you are more valuable now than ever. We have been fortunate that our friends and supporters continue to come to our aid as we try to weather the current economic conditions and offset the significant declines in government funding for essential human services. Now more than ever we more heavily rely on donated dollars and volunteer hours, to keep up our efforts and success in meeting the important needs of children and adults with disabilities.

For the future, we ask you to stay connected to us and continue helping in our efforts to ensure that the hopes and dreams of the residents of Little City are fulfilled. There is much more to accomplish in obtaining the best quality-of-life for those we serve and we simply cannot do it without you.

Sincerely,

Shawn E. Jeffers
Little City Spotlight

Little City team honored for improving the “Quality of Life” for individuals with disabilities

"Our marketing and communications team believed that an autism awareness campaign was one of the best ways to help mark our Golden Anniversary year in a way that would benefit all individuals with disabilities and we agreed."

Little City’s Development, Marketing and Communications team received the Publicity Club of Chicago’s prestigious “Golden Trumpet Award” and esteemed “Quality of Life Award,” as well as an “Award of Excellence” from the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) for their work on the campaign.

"The statistics regarding autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities both on a national and state level are alarming," stated Director of Communications & Marketing Lisa Hoffmann. "We wanted people to realize that there are individuals with pervasive needs who need support today and Little City stands devoted to them through everyday service and leading-edge advancement in the field of disability care."

The campaign included “Little City TV: The Only Live Autism Awareness Show in Chicago,” web and social media promotion, direct marketing, television placement, outdoor media placement and print placement over the course of three months. The results included millions of impressions, thousands of website visits, hundreds of inquiries and a great deal of new supporters to Little City.

"These efforts drew attention to Little City’s notable mission and the need for inclusion and acceptance of all individuals with disabilities," commented Director of Strategic Market Engagement Dana Rice. "This recognition is an extraordinary feat for all the staff, participants and supporters of Little City, as well as the Chicago community at large."

With a modest budget and aggressive ambition, Little City rolled out a strategic integrated communications awareness campaign last spring to educate and enlighten thousands of Chicagoans on the prevalence of autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This past May, the organization garnered several prestigious accolades for the effectiveness of its efforts.

The awareness campaign developed in response to dwindling state budgets that placed individuals with disabilities, their families and their communities in Illinois at great risk. It also aimed to combat the stigma associated with autism and other disabilities.

“At Little City, we not only provide the very best of services to hundreds of children and adults with disabilities, but we serve as a resource for the community; we advocate and we educate," commented Executive Director Shawn Jeffers.

Informative posters throughout Chicagoland train stations was one of several tactics used to promote individuals with disabilities in a positive light and create awareness of Little City’s services.

Want to make your donation go further?

Opt-in to our Annual Statements to reduce administrative costs and ensure your dollars continue to fuel our critical programs and services.

By selecting this option on your donation reply form, you will receive one printed, end-of-year statement summarizing all your gifts for the entire calendar year in lieu of acknowledgment receipts after each gift. Statements will be mailed each January for the previous calendar year. You can also inform us of your participation by sending an email info@littlecity.org.

Help us save on postage and opt-in to Annual Statements today!
Every day, volunteers play a vital role in sustaining the mission of Little City. Under the leadership of Kathryn Nelson, Manager of Volunteer Services, Little City honored more than 35 volunteers at its Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, held April 30 at Millrose Restaurant in Barrington.

“Each year we see it fitting to turn the tables and give thanks to those who have given their time and talents so selflessly to help those served by Little City,” stated Kathryn.

The luncheon included an awards ceremony to name the George Menkin Volunteer of the Year Award and the Corporate Volunteer of the Year Award, presented to those whose talents made a significant impact at Little City.

In a bittersweet ceremony, the individual award was bestowed upon Babette “Babs” Henschel, who passed away earlier this year. For nearly five years, Babs dedicated one day per week to help sort and price books for the annual Book Fair event. Babs had more than 50 years of working on the sale while under the Brandeis University name. Accepting the award on Babs’ behalf were her daughter, Leigh Harter, and son, Chuck Henschel. It was a fitting tribute to a volunteer whose dedication, compassion and loyalty will be missed greatly.

The Corporate Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Broadspire, a Crawford Co., a third-party administrator to employers and insurance companies designed to increase employee productivity and contain costs. The employees of Broadspire’s Schaumburg office were most deserving of this recognition based on their commitment to Little City through a broad range of volunteer projects. Since 2009, the employees have assisted with book sorting in preparation for the annual Book Fair, managing special event logistics for a 5k walk fundraiser and adopting “wish lists” to ensure a joyous holiday season for all of Little City’s participants.

Little City congratulates and warmly thanks Babs, Broadspire and the rest of its volunteer brigade for their dedication over the past year.

Helping Hands

Little City extends its appreciation to the following groups, and countless individuals, for their recent volunteer work with us:

- Coldwell Banker
- Columbia College, Fashion Studies Program
- Holy Family Parish of Inverness
- Paramount Staffing
- Prospect High School
- Schneider Electric
- Thomas Middle School
- Willow Creek Student Impact Group

For detailed descriptions of these recent projects or to learn more about getting involved, visit www.littlecity.org/volunteer or contact Kathryn Nelson, Manager of Volunteer Services, at (847) 221-7804.

In Memoriam

A memorial gift to Little City is a great way to honor the memory of a loved one, in lieu of flowers and gifts. Little City would like to recognize the following individuals and their families for their special tribute during a difficult time:

Sidney Becker
Helen B. Binard
Elaine A. Cohen
Shirley M. Decker
Betty Dubinsky
Sol J. Garfinkel
Melvin Gartenberg
LaVerne M. Girmscheid
Theodora M. Goldberg
Alfred B. Henry
Doris Hirshman
James W. Howard
Bernard M. LaPorte
Audrey M. Lotzgesell
Emil J. Roman
Carol M. Symons
Ray Young

The above referenced gifts were received after July 1, 2010. For information on developing a memorial or tribute gift to Little City, please contact (847) 221-7880.
The rise of future community leaders

A junior high school just miles away from Little City’s Palatine campus is proving that even our youngest citizens can have make a meaningful impact on our society.

This spring, six classes of seventh graders from Sundling Junior High in Palatine’s Community Consolidated School District 15 were tasked with presenting persuasive presentations to their classmates and teachers on Chicagoland’s most influential and deserving charity. Each team was responsible for working collaboratively with a small team, conducting background research on their chosen organization and writing a speech, complete with multimedia visual aids, to present their case.

Logan Gunder, Nick Kuechel, Adam Pastel and Drake Roberts from Beth Blazejak’s class chose Little City as their pick for most deserving charity. After their powerful presentation their classmates agreed on the importance of Little City’s programs for children and adults with disabilities and voted this team one of the six competition winners. In their speech, the boys noted the importance of Little City’s programs where people of all ages, regardless of their disability, should feel safe, loved and included.

In conjunction with their research, the seventh graders also held a candy-bar fundraiser, in which all the proceeds were distributed evenly to each of the winning charities. Representatives from Little City were on-site during a ceremony at Sundling the morning of May 25 to witness the persuasive presentation and receive the charitable contribution directly from the students.

Little City would like to congratulate the seventh grade students and faculty at Sundling Junior High for their meaningful work and generous contribution to ensure the vitality of organizations like Little City.

Community Partners

Thank you to the following funders for their generous grants that support the work and mission of Little City:

- After School Matters, Inc.
- Alvin H. Baum Family Fund
- Best Buy Children’s Foundation
- Boeing Company
- Cubs Care Chicago
- CVS Caremark
- Delta Dental
- Illinois Arts Council, a state agency
- Google
- The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust
- Northern Trust Company
- Omron Foundation
- Schneider Electric/Square D Foundation
- Charles and M.R. Shapiro Foundation
- Yusen Air & Sea Service

The above referenced grants were received in FY11.

Limited Time Offer: Support Little City with a Chicago Sun-Times Subscription

Little City is proud to announce its partnership with the Chicago Sun-Times with special offers to our Chicago area supporters between July 15 and August 31. Choose the delivery frequency that best suits your needs and a portion of your subscription fee will be donated back to Little City.

Call 1-888-84TIMES (promo code: LCF0711) or visit www.suntimes.com/littlecityfoundation to sign up today!

Little City extends its appreciation to the Chicago Sun-Times for their continued support of our mission. Please visit www.suntimes.com/littlecityfoundation for terms and conditions of this offer.
Birdies, Eagles and a Soaring Invitational Golf Tournament:
A successful day on the green, with recognition for the Little City Special Olympics Golf Team

“We have some remarkable people at Little City who are also very talented athletes and our invitational is a wonderful way to give them the honor they deserve,” continued Ed.

Approximately 20 men and women comprise the Little City Golf Team, which has sent 14 individual players to the Special Olympics State Golf Competition during the past four years. In 2010, the team sent five athletes to the state golf tournament, the most ever.

Throughout the storied history of the tournament, event participants have helped raise millions of dollars to support children and adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities and this year was no exception. Although figures were not available at press time, this event continues to be one of the most successful fundraisers for Little City each year.

Little City extends its sincere appreciation to Ed, Jennifer and the rest of the event committee, as well as all the attendees who helped raise money for individuals with disabilities.

“Like us” on Facebook to see more photos from the 48th annual tournament.

Members of the Little City Special Olympics Golf Team accept the Morrie Kellman Award on-stage with Executive Director Shawn Jeffers at the evening ceremony.

Event co-chairs Jennifer Quinn (left) and Ed Hockfield pose with representatives from CareerBuilder, Inc. CareerBuilder served as one of the many event sponsors that helped underwrite the event.
On May 1, 50 athletes from Little City took part in the Special Olympics Spring Games, garnering 21 gold medals, 20 silver medals, 17 bronze metals and 38 ribbons for fourth through eighth place. Events, including track and field and powerlifting, were held at Prospect High School in Mount Prospect, Illinois and North Central College in Naperville, Illinois.

**Little City aims to continually provide a distinguished quality-of-life for the people it serves, including offering a variety of educational and recreational opportunities, wellness initiatives, options to explore creativity and more. The contributions received from generous supporters like you help sustain Little City’s much-needed programs and services. Some recent updates from around the “City” include:**

### Special Olympics

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### Children’s Housewarming Party

On June 6, eight girls relocated into the new Banyan Home on the Palatine campus, a one-level home allowing those in wheelchairs more freedom and independent living skills. Planned by the ChildBridge staff members, the girls received a housewarming party on June 24 to welcome them into their new home, complete with an outdoor barbecue and gifts from their “wish list” of requested household and personal items.

### Summer Camp

This summer, nearly 50 children will participate in the annual Children’s Summer Camp running June 14 through Aug. 23. The camp provides children with a fun, structured schedule that enables them to stay active, engage in group activities and explore new places. Events such as swimming, arts, drumming and more will take place on Little City’s 56-acre campus on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Tuesday and Thursday of each week are reserved for field trips and outings, made possible by generous support of our community partners such as Whole Foods, Pump it Up, Make-a-Messterpiece and Arlington Race Track, among many others.

### Center for the Arts Exhibits

Selected works of the talented artists at Little City’s Center for the Arts will be on display at two prestigious gallery showings this summer. From June 1 through September 1, the “Clean House” exhibit will be on display at the Health in the Arts Clinic Gallery in Chicago. Across the pond, The Museum of Everything in London, England will stage an off-site display (location to be announced) of 23 different pieces from various Little City artists from late August to mid-October.
City Guide: Upcoming Events

Little City Book Fair*

AUGUST 19 – 21, 2011
Harper College
1200 West Algonquin Road, Palatine, IL

After collecting book donations for over a year, the Little City Book Fair is sure to please readers of all ages. The weekend-long fair at the Harper College gymnasium will offer thousands of new and gently used books in nearly 60 subject categories including:

- Adventure
- Art
- Biographies
- Business
- Children’s Literature
- Cooking
- Fiction
- History
- How To
- Large Print
- Reference
- Religion
- Sports
- ...and many more!

Sale hours are as follows:
Friday, August 19
5 pm to 10 pm
Saturday, August 20
10 am to 9 pm
Sunday, August 21
10 am to 5 pm

Admission is free, except on opening night when a $10 donation is appreciated. For more information, visit www.littlecity.org/bookfair or call (847) 221-7856.

*Formerly the Little City Used Book Sale held at Westfield Old Orchard Shopping Center in Skokie.

Little City Annual Dinner Gala

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2011
John G. Shedd Aquarium
1200 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL

Join Little City for an evening of dinner, dancing and private access to the Abbott Oceanarium, Amazon Rising and the new Jellies exhibit.

Registration opens soon and sponsorship opportunities can be customized for you or your business. “Like us” on Facebook to receive the most up-to-date information about the Annual Dinner and other exciting events at Little City.

For more information on any of Little City’s events, please contact (847) 221-7807.

Little City Foundation
1760 West Algonquin Road
Palatine, IL  60067
www.littlecity.org

Wanted: Book Donations

As you embark on your summer cleaning plans, don’t be so quick to toss out those books you’ve already read...donate them to the 2011 Little City Book Fair! Each summer, Little City hosts one of the premier book fairs in the Midwest and is in need of books and other media to sell. This year’s sale will be held on August 19-21, 2011 at Harper College in Palatine, and donations are welcome throughout the year and during the event.

If you have any new or gently used books you’d like to donate, Little City has multiple drop-off locations, including the Little City Palatine campus and other sites throughout neighboring suburbs. The Little City team will also pick up donations of 150 or more books. For a complete listing of drop-off locations and for details about the sale, visit www.littlecity.org/bookfair.