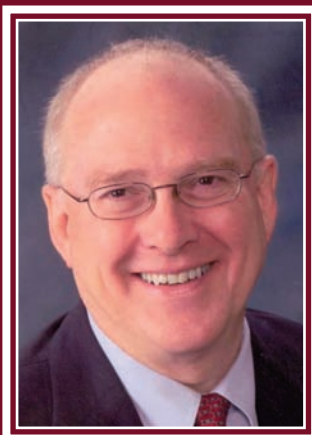


**The
CEO
Corner**



Terry Brownson, CEO

IT IS REPORTED

that the pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. Nevertheless, they set aside a day of thanksgiving. Regardless of our personal good luck or fortunes, this is the season when we are reminded to take stock of our past year, offer thanksgiving for the blessings we have experienced, and make resolutions about what we hope to do better in the coming year. Such is the activity at Wendell Foster's Campus as 2010 comes to a close.

Thanks to the uplifting spirits of the people we serve, the dedication of our staff and volunteer leadership, and the support of hundreds of families and community friends such as you, we have had another good year at WFC. We've had wonderful success stories to tell and generous contributors who have bucked the hard economic times to show their continuing commitment to "empowering people with developmental disabilities to realize their dreams and potentials."

Thank you for your ongoing trust and support for Wendell Foster's Campus. We hope that you will have a joyous holiday season and a blessed New Year!

Terry R. Brownson Chief Executive Officer

IT'S WHAT WE DO.

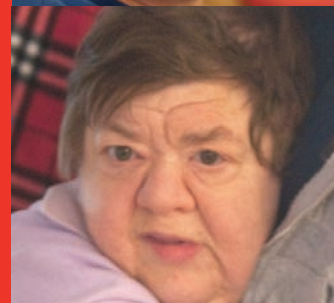


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Christmas

is most truly Christmas
when we celebrate it by giving the light
of love to those who need it most.

-- Ruth Carter Stapleton

**Western Kentucky Assistive Technology (WKATC) at WFC
Speech Device Helps Young Boy Find His Voice**

Christian West is a talkative theatrical child with bright eyes and enthusiastic vigor. At the church gym where his little brother is playing basketball, Christian sporadically yells directions and praise at his little brother, shares hilarious stories, and shows off his perfectly-developed British accent. His mom just shrugs, "I don't know where he comes up with this stuff," she says laughing. One can imagine Christian as the class clown and Mr. Popularity. However, he claims that since his younger brother Braden began attending his elementary school he is now just a "little prince," while his brother dominates as "king of the school." Christian is like most big brothers—he complains that his brother can be a "total nuisance," and says that they fight a lot, but love each other through everything. Christian tries to help Braden with things and exhibits an enormous amount of patience.

Christian also fills the role of protector for Braden, who has special needs. Braden's disability gives him distinct facial features that have sometimes caused stares; stares that have prompted Christian to go to great lengths to attract attention away from his brother. "I've even danced around him in a circle so they look at me instead of him," he tells me. When I ask Christian how it feels when people stare at his little brother, he becomes quiet, looks away for a moment, and then finally shrugs, "Angry... and sad." However, for the most part, Christian says that Braden is completely accepted by all, especially at Tamarack Elementary where they both attend school. Christian says he enjoys his brother's popularity with students, teachers, and "even the principal!"

For years Braden has worked on sign language while Christian has tried to pick up as much as he could. "I knew the alphabet and had started learning more words," he tells me confidently. Christian says that a few months ago Braden brought home a speech device that he borrowed from the Western Kentucky Assistive Technology Center (WKATC) at Wendell Foster's Campus. "He drove me

continued...



Braden West

For people of all ages

WFC Outpatient Services Help Equalize Life's Playing Field

Connor is a handsome four year old who came to Wendell Foster's Campus in 2008 because of significant sensory sensitivities. Connor's parents were concerned with their son's inability to chew food as well as his inability to consume a variety of foods that support proper nutrition. Connor also had intense physical reactions when touching various textures or attempting to try an unfamiliar food. Along with his sensory sensitivities, he had delayed fine and gross motor skills, along with difficulty interacting in social situations. Connor found it anxiety-provoking to try new activities or an unfamiliar routine. He amazed those around him with his intelligence and his ability to identify and form letters and numbers, count, and read simple words at an early age. Through both occupational and speech therapy, as well as exceptional follow-through at home, Connor's world began to expand in new and exciting ways.

In occupational therapy, Connor participated in sensory and tactile play by exploring textures like sand, rice, foam putty, Play Dough, and dried beans. He also participated in non-threatening food play by engaging in games using food, making crafts with food, painting with pudding, little kitchen play, and mock shopping, just to name but a few. These activities improved Connor's comfort level with food in general.

In speech therapy, Connor began to try a few new foods, often starting with a simple lick or smell. He would work up to biting the



The West Family

item but was always allowed to spit it out if he wanted. He also enjoyed feeding the food he was trying to the toy "monster." Instead of becoming anxious during food play, he learned to say "No, thank you" if the activity proved too stressful. The biggest blessing to the family came when they no longer had to pack and cook special "Connor food." They were able to go on their first family vacation without having to stop to boil noodles. He was now able eat a meal together with family at home, to go out to eat, and to have a snack with friends at school and church.

Connor also began using visual schedules to organize his day or activities. The visual schedule helped to decrease his anxiety about what activity was next and what was expected of him. The use of stories helping Connor understand how to interact with others also proved to be a valuable tool. Several stories were created for Connor including stories to prepare him to go on his first family vacation to Disney World, the birth of his little brother, learning to use his "quiet voice," and going to the potty. Connor's family still has several goals they wish to achieve, but they know they are well on their way to success. He is now in pre-school and doing exceptionally well. He is a bright and playful little boy who enjoys life, loves his family, and now enjoys things every boy his age should. ✨

Boy Finds Voice *continued...*

crazy with that thing. I put my voice on it saying 'Christian,' and he pressed that button day and night." After Braden spent two weeks using the device to communicate important things with his family, like "Give me five bucks, Pawpaw!" or "Dad is the greatest!" Christian said something "totally crazy" happened. "One day we were just sitting there and Braden said 'mama.' That was his first word." After two weeks with the device, Braden began to speak. Now, months

later Braden is forming sentences and learning new words every day.

"It's amazing!" Christian says, noting that now that Braden can talk, "he's probably going to become even more popular at school!"

"It is a complete miracle," the boys' mom Cheri says, her eyes glistening with pride. Cheri shares that this breakthrough came as a surprise to her. "I always knew he would walk. I just knew it. And I guess I hoped he would talk, but I was still in shock when he actually did. He's beaten all the odds." ✨



Four-year old Connor engages in Occupational Therapy, where he is mastering climbing, jumping, manual dexterity, and other physical skills.



Generous donations buy communication and mobility equipment 2010 Auction Contributions Help Residents Conquer Their Worlds

Most of us cannot begin to imagine what going through life confined to a wheelchair is like. But imagine doing just that with the added burden of not being able to communicate by voice. Life would seem an impossible road, wouldn't it? One WFC resident has been trying to overcome these obstacles her entire life. Denise must use a wheelchair but she doesn't sit in a wheelchair. She lays in one on her stomach. She literally faces the world head-on each day, being pushed about by staff members. She has worked for months now on achieving the tolerance to sit in the forward facing position and has learned to do just that, driving with the movements of her head. Awesome! A huge step. But what about communication?

Denise came to us a couple of years ago. She was born here in Owensboro but moved as a child to Texas. She wanted to return to Kentucky to be near her sister and nephews. Her recent gains in mobility have dramatically increased her desire to find her voice. For years, her routine for communicating has consisted of the following for even a drink of water: First gaining someone's attention. Remember, she can't speak and she has limited movement. She is able to vocalize to make a loud sound. This gets the attention of her caregiver and they would come see what she needed. Denise then had to use her eye gaze skills to stare at the bag hanging from her wheelchair to let the caregiver know to take her communication book out of the bag.

The communication book comes out and a round of 20 questions begins. Do you want to talk about hygiene? She looks away to indicate "no." Do you want to talk about activities? Again, "no." Finally, the caregiver asks, "Do you want to talk about food and drinks?" Denise looks up to indicate "yes!" The caregiver has to go through a list of items on the food and drink page to find the correct one. How long and frustrating this process was for her. When all else fails, she would wear a head band with a laser pointer attached to point to objects. Her very first request upon arriving here was to find an easier way to communicate.

Now, thanks to the generosity of donors at our Annual Benefit Auction in September, Denise is getting a new upright, forward-facing chair, and she now has a technological device new to the market with a built-in camera that allows a person to use their eyes to control the mouse on the screen. Add the power wheelchair to the mix and it will totally change her life. Right now, she's telling us how she feels. She's asking questions about our lives and telling us the latest gossip. She's created a Facebook account to keep up with family and friends. Soon she will be also pulling right up to people and starting conversations. There'll be no more waiting for others to notice her and make the first move. Denise is free. She's found her voice. She can't wait to make her own decisions, to go where she wants, to communicate with everyone. Frankly, neither can we. ✨



Denise was able to obtain a new eye gaze communication device. She is but one example of how donor contributions make it possible for residents to take charge of their lives.

Wild for the Wildcats - Donors help make dream a reality WFC Resident Gets Her Wish: University of Kentucky Basketball Game Live

Everyone has that one dream, that one fantastic wish that they hold dearly and deeply inside. For Mary, a woman who has lived at Wendell Foster's Campus for over forty years, that dream just came true.

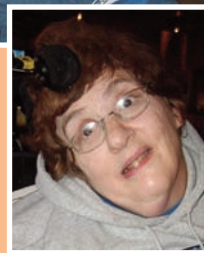
Mary is a self-proclaimed diehard University of Kentucky fan. She never misses a game throughout any basketball season. In March, when she moved into her new Supports for Community Living (SCL) home, she was overwhelmed with emotion when she saw her UK decorated bathroom. Beside her bed, she proudly displays an auto-graphed photo of Coach John Calipari. Mary met Coach Calipari last year and describes the moment as "the most exciting thing that

has ever happened" to her. Mary's one dream? To see a UK Basketball game live.

Inevitably, there were obstacles. Mary uses a wheelchair for mobility and needs two staff members for an overnight trip. Mary also has an impairment that's left her without vision in her right eye. When she learned recently that a cataract in that eye could cause her to lose her vision completely, she became frightened that her dream might never come true. Mary's advocate and case manager, Lindsey Overby, went to work, petitioning the UK Department of Athletics for tickets to a game. Weeks later they received their reply: a donation of two tickets to an exhibition game for

November 5 in Lexington.

Mary has now realized one of her greatest dreams. Wendell Foster's Campus tries to make every resident's wish come true, no matter the obstacles. Mary got hers, thanks to the dedication of case managers, the generosity of the UK Athletics Department, and the financial support from our generous donors. ✨



Mary recently attended a UK exhibition basketball game at Rupp Arena in Lexington. Seeing the Wildcats live has long been one of her dreams.



By using a speech device from WKATC at Wendell Foster's Campus, Braden West is learning to speak. He is pictured here on the left with his older brother (and protector), Christian.

