



Sizzling Summer at the Stevens Center



With school out, the Stevens Center has special opportunity to reach out to the community with programs for preschoolers, school age youths, and young adults. This year, 90 young people attended one or more camps at the Stevens Center. Three people who are 17 or older attended the

Connections program for the summer.

Entry to programs at the Stevens Center are based on age, not ability or disability. As a result, young people with autism, Asperger syndrome, ADHD and Tourette syndrome had the chance to fully participate in programs with peers their own age that do not have disabilities. And it made a difference, at all different levels.

Becky, a camp volunteer, shared her perspective of staffing a camp that included people of all abilities. She shared the example of one youngster who is diagnosed with autism.

Good Bye, Dave Merriman

On July 26, 2011, Lee County lost a strong advocate of people with disabilities. Dave Merriman has personal understanding of the need to take a stand, as he has family members that are living with disabilities.

Dave shared his experience by serving on the Stevens Center's Board of Directors since 2005. But he had been involved in activities at the Stevens Center facility since it's dedication in 2002.

Dave maintained the computers in the lab and taught computer classes to adults with disabilities. He also organized and maintained a campaign whereby people could donate their used computers, which he would refurbish for distribution to people with disabilities.

Unstoppable, even declining health did not slow down his will to help. When Dave died, he had a computer in his workshop that he repairing for a man with a disability.

Dave Merriman set a good example for us all—use your passion, whatever it is, to reach out to others that may benefit by it.

According to Becky, “When Brandon entered the gym on the first day, his attention was fixed on the movie playing on the personal DVD player he was carrying. By the end of the day he was engaged in the same activities as everyone else, and kids with and without disabilities were including him in their conversation and play.”

“After that first day,” Becky said, “Brandon still brought his DVD player, but never turned it on. Too much was going on that he wanted to be a part of.”

Brandon was assisted in his camp experience by a CAP support worker (for more information on the CAP-MR/DD program, please call Roger Bailey at the Stevens Center). She kept expressing amazement on how involved he was with the other children, and how the enthusiastic volunteers were able to get him to participate.

In summary, Becky saw the magic of the Stevens Center philosophy in action.

“I was reminded that people are pretty much the same—that if you don't overload a class with individuals who have disabilities, it takes only a little adaption to have a program that works for participants of differing abilities.”

“When you mix them together,” continued Becky, “the kids all just become kids. They did not separate themselves by ‘disability’ or ‘no disability’.”

“And”, she concluded, “paid support workers had the chance to witness how people with disabilities can thrive when given the chance to be part of the community.”

To see photos of summer programs, go to stevenscenter.org and choose “photo gallery on the left side column.

Connections—helping adults learn through living

Book learning and knowing how to use what you know are two different things. Connections, a new program of the Stevens Center, helps adults with disabilities use their knowledge in real life situations.

“If a person has been book-learning basic academics through their 22nd birthday, as is the case of many people with intellectual disabilities,” said Stevens Center Executive Director, Roger Bailey, “a time comes to shift to using those basic skills in real life situations. That is the intent of Connections.”

Participation in Connections is based on private payment, to maintain the flexibility of the program.

“Publicly funded programs serve a need,” said Bailey, “but often the funding rules make it difficult to be flexible and innovative. Our program is able to focus on the needs and interests of the participants, rather than those of a funding source.”

Fees for Connections average about \$1.50 per hour for those that pay monthly. Some components of Connections, such as exercise programs, are open to the community at no charge. Due to the generosity of individuals and local organizations, some adults with limited income have received scholarships.

For more information on fees, registration, volunteering with Connections or making a designated donation to help another person, contact the Stevens Center at 776-4048.



Pfizer site leader Dennis Jones (center left) presents a \$3000 check to Roger Bailey (center right). Jones said, “The Stevens Center has a long and very successful history of assisting adults with disabilities in our community. On behalf of all the colleagues at Pfizer Sanford, I am pleased that we are able to contribute to the Stevens Center’s *Connections* program.”

Calendar of Events

For more information on any event call 776-4048 or visit www.stevenscenter.org, where additions and changes will also be posted. *Training Registration forms are on the website.*

Weekly:

Mon-Thu Connections Program 8:15 a.m.—2 p.m.

Tue Walking and Aerobic Exercise with Ellen 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free Compensatory Education class schedule to be determined in the Fall.

Mon Aug 29 NCI Certification Part A, 8:30a.m.-3:30p.m., Lunch included, \$50

Fri Sept 2 First Friday Family Night is cancelled due to Labor Day

Mon Sept 5 Stevens Center closed for Labor Day

Tue Sept 13 NCI Recertification Part A, 8:30a.m.-12:30p.m., \$35

Thu Oct 6 NCI Recertification Part A, 8:30a.m.-12:30p.m., \$35

Fri Oct 7 First Friday Family Night 6 p.m.- 8 p.m. Hosted by Pocket Presbyterian Church Bring snacks to share

Fri Nov 4 First Friday Family Night 6 p.m.- 8 p.m. Dance hosted by First Presbyterian Church Bring snacks to share

Wed Nov 16 NCI Recertification Part A, 8:30a.m.-12:30p.m., \$35

Thurs Nov 17 Living Well Health Fair 9:00am to Noon (see back page)

Thu Nov 24 Stevens Center closed for Thanksgiving

Fri Dec 2 Stevens Center/The Arc of Lee County Holiday Dinner Dance 6:00-8:00 p.m. Bring snacks to share.

Sun Dec 4 Pictures with Santa 2 p.m. (See back page)

Thu Dec 22 NCI Recertification Part A, 8:30a.m.-12:30p.m., \$35

Fri Dec 23 thru Mon Jan 2— Stevens Center closed for Christmas/New Year’s

→ → **Mark your calendar—Sat Feb 11, 2012 Valentine Benefit Dinner**

Stevens Center Board of Directors

Mark Neuman
President

Carol Jernigan-
Murchison
Vice President

Kay Chavis
Secretary

Ellen Viggiano
Treasurer

Bill Bates
Chad Steadman

Thanks to Our Supporters

Our thanks are extended to the following individuals and businesses who invested in the Stevens Center during May through August 2011. Each donation, large and small, helps support people living with disabilities to pursue *their* dreams as part of the community.

Businesses and Organizations:

Chapin Foundation
Hair Associates
Maurice's
Pfizer
Piggly Wiggly of Sanford
Pocket Presbyterian Church
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
SanLee Rotary Club
Wal-Mart
West Lee Middle School

Individuals:

Dorothy Andres
in memory of William Welch
Roger and Becky Bailey
in memory of Gail Watson
Kathryn Heuts
Scot Huber and Joan Caviness
Carolyn Jernigan-Murchison
in memory of Irene Simpson
in memory of Odessa Oldham
in memory of Justine Adams
Joseph and Jackie Kane
Christopher Stoehrmann
in memory of Patricia Stoehrmann

Nancy and Jim Turner
in memory of C. K. Caldwell
Kim and Steve Womble
in honor of Christine Womble-Greene
Rebecca Wyhof

In memory of David Merriman

Roger and Becky Bailey
Ron and Carol Huber
Butch and Faye Morgan
Carolyn Jernigan-Murchison
Ron and Kathy Nielsen

Thanks to our Golf Tournament Sponsors

Our 11th Annual Golf Tournament was held on August 9, 2011. This annual event provides local business people and individuals an opportunity to invest in the Stevens Center, which benefits the whole community. We are happy to announce that this year's event netted over \$9,600. We have our many local sponsors to thank, and we ask that you support them in our community.

The support of these sponsors enables the Stevens Center to provide programs and services that give persons with disabilities the opportunity to be active, contributing members of our community.

\$1,000 Platinum Sponsors



\$600 Gold Sponsors—Ameriprise Financial— Dave Powell & Associates ▲First Bank ▲

▲Central Electric Membership Corporation ▲Edward Jones—James Mitchell III ▲

Rogers-Pickard Funeral Home ▲J&G Machinery ▲Sanford Steel Corporation ▲Hartford Mutual Funds

\$150 Bronze Sponsors—BB&T ▲DMJ, Inc. ▲Fix It Plumbing ▲Perry Brothers Tire Service ▲Piggly Wiggly

Other Contributors of Products and Prizes—Ameriprise Financial—Dave Powell & Associates, Body Balance Massage—Crystal Howie, Capital Bank, Coca-Cola Bottling of Sanford, Four Oaks Bank, Smith's Coffee and Premium Water, Wilkinson Chevrolet Cadillac Buick GMC

Donation

To make a donation online, go to: www.stevenscenter.org

Donate by Check: make payable to Stevens Center \$ _____

Donate by Credit Card: *\$ _____ Visa Master Card

Remove from Mailing List

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

Mailing Address _____

Home Phone (____) _____ E-mail Preferred: _____

*To donate by credit card via phone with a Stevens Center employee, please call 919-776-4048

Please make my gift in: ___ honor of: ___ memory of:

_____ and notify: _____

at Mailing Address: _____

The Stevens Center provides opportunity for people with disabilities to pursue their dreams as part of the community



1576 Kelly Drive
Sanford, NC 27330

Ph (919) 776-4048

Fax (919)774-7711

www.stevenscenter.org

**The Stevens Center provides people living with disabilities
opportunity to pursue their dreams
as part of the community**

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit 12
27330

Financial information about our organization and a copy of our Charitable Solicitation License L200613600026 is available from the Stevens Center by calling 919-776-4048 or from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 1-888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the State. To assure that we are wise stewards for the community, the Stevens Center has an annual financial audit completed by Ward and Foust CPAs.



You are invited to the

Living Well Health Fair

for adults of all ages and abilities

Information booths and demonstrations on achieving better health through prevention, good nutrition, and physical activity

Thursday, November 17, 2011

9:00 a.m. to Noon

at the Stevens Center

1576 Kelly Drive in Sanford

(about one mile past CCCC)

**FREE health screenings including
blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar levels
vision, body fat ratio, oxygen saturation**

Thanks to our ad sponsor
www.primetimelimo.net



**Santa visits the
Stevens Center
Sunday,
December 4th
at 2 pm**



**Refreshments
Activities
Photo**

**Mark your
calendar—
Details to
follow**

