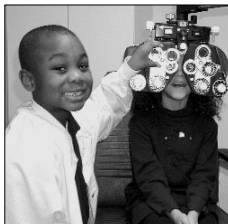


Vision Grant Donated by the Lions Club

The Lion's Club of Northeast Minneapolis generously donated \$5,000 to the **A Chance To Grow** Vision Clinic. The funds will be used to cover the cost of eye exams and eye glass packages for students who are residents of northeast Minneapolis and who are attending public or parochial schools in northeast Minneapolis.

Bob DeBoer, Director of **A Chance To Grow** said, "We are grateful for their leadership and generosity and want to thank the members of the Lion's Club of Northeast Minneapolis for their continued support of all our programs. They are truly an asset to this community."

The funds will be offered on first come, first serve basis. For more information about this program please call the **A Chance To Grow** Vision Clinic at (612) 706-5540. The clinic is open to the general public and operates between the hours of 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., Monday through Friday.



Non-Cash Donations to A Chance To Grow

A Chance To Grow accepts donations of new or gently used books, school supplies, office supplies, silent auction prizes and other items. If you would like to make a non-cash contribution to **A Chance To Grow**, you can print out our donation form from our website (www.actg.org) and mail it in along with your contribution. Or, you can call or email Gary Parker with any questions at 612-706-5515 or gparker@actg.org.



A Chance To Grow
THE GROWING TIMES
An Agency dedicated to accelerating the development of children

www.actg.org • 1800 Second Street Northeast, Minneapolis 55418 • November 2003 • Volume 4

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE THROUGH A CHANCE TO GROW:

- New Visions Charter School
- Boost-Up
- Turnquist Child Enrichment Day Care Center
- NeuroTechnology
- Vision Clinic
- Auditory Clinic
- Home Health Care Services
- Out-Patient Rehabilitation Clinic
- Kretsch Family Brain Resource Library
- Minnesota Learning Resource Center

Remarkable Vision Therapy Results



The before and after vision therapy drawings show the amazing progression of success from one of our students. The top drawing from 9/30/2002 and the bottom drawn by the same child 4 months later.

At **A Chance To Grow** Vision Services, specially trained developmental optometrists provide thorough examinations assessing all visual skills needed to reach academic and professional goals. One of these services is Vision Therapy.

Vision Therapy is a unique individualized program, directed by a Developmental Optometrist. It can affect the way the eyes function to correctly interpret the surrounding world. Vision is often thought of as being based on clarity, or 20/20 vision alone. Vision goes beyond this - it is also the ability to correctly identify, interpret and understand what the eyes see.

Jenna visited **A Chance To Grow** Vision Clinic in the fall of 2002 for Vision Therapy. She had received her first pair of glasses with a strong prescription for farsightedness and astigmatism two years prior. Despite wearing the glasses for two years, she could only see 20/40 to 20/50 with her prescription. She was also having difficulty with eye movements, interpreting what her eyes were seeing and translating it into fine motor skills while using both eyes together. The following is Jenna's remarkable story.

May 2003

We were home schooling Jenna when we noticed she could not write within the lines. The previous spring, we had her vision tested by a pediatrician who told us the results were unclear because "she's too young to get a good idea, she'll be fine." Five months later, we realized our daughter was unable to draw from one point to another on a piece of paper, we knew there was a vision problem.

We were shocked to find out just how bad her eyes were. Even though she was already wearing glasses, she was making little progress in school, despite being a bright child. We searched for help and decided to try Vision Therapy at **A Chance To Grow**.




After visiting with Dr. Taylor at **A Chance To Grow** Vision Clinic, the initial assessment was promising. "Twenty sessions and she should be fine," the doctor said. At first, progress was very slow and we felt a little discouraged. Then, about a third of the way through, Jenna took off in her reading and writing. In fact, she progressed so quickly that she completed the therapy program short of the projected 20 sessions.

Four Months Later...

Today, four months later, our daughter is reading one grade level ahead of her age and no longer hesitates when reading aloud. Her writing is legible and she expresses herself well in her papers. Her artwork is even surpassing her ten-year-old brother!

- From Jenna's mother. Jenna's name was changed by request. The increase in Jenna's processing skill is demonstrated in the before and after therapy pictures displayed on this page.



TESTIMONIAL

JUNE 2001

Jenni seemed to thrive in preschool, knowing all her phonics sounds at age four and scoring perfect on her preschool screening. At a kindergarten roundup, I was told not to teach Jenni to read, despite her obvious interest. Kindergarten seemed fabulous. Then, we hit first grade. Her love of learning crashed and she became a different child, suddenly very shy. Her teacher said she was doing fine in the fall, but by spring had signed her up for the Title One reading program.

By second grade, Jenni's shyness deepened, she became very self-conscious of having to go to the "special room" and could not speak up for herself, frustrating everyone.

In third grade, Jenni seemed to have boosted from her new teacher's ability to key in to children's different learning styles. However, Jenni still struggled and eventually became more frustrated - no longer willing to be pulled from class to attend the special reading classes.

We were at a loss. For the past two years, Jenni had failed her eye test by the School Health Para. However, each time I had taken her to an eye clinic chain, I was told she was borderline and would not need glasses. At that point, her teacher suggested I take her to a pediatric ophthalmologist. I found **A Chance To Grow** and took Jenni to see one of their developmental optometrists. Dr. Moroz confirmed that because Jenni was borderline, she should have glasses to relax and focus, plus they found she had a form of dyslexia called dysideisia.

By fall of fourth grade, Jenni began the Dyslexia Program Teaching (DPT). Six months later, Jenni completed the program. She worked hard twice per week on the program and had additional "homework" to complete, as well. At the end of the program she was re-evaluated and it seemed her Dysideisia had resolved. We were told she would always have trouble with her spelling and to expect that, but her reading was getting much better. Jenni became more confident and was asked to be in an inventors Group, School Patrol and was showing much talent in art and music!

"What a well-rounded educational success story!"

BRING IN THIS AD FOR \$25 OFF FRAMES & LENSES!



ACTG VISION

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MINNEAPOLIS

Need New Glasses?

A Chance to Grow Vision services offers hundreds of designer frames, including a large selection of children's frames.

We also offer:

- comprehensive eye exams
- custom fittings and free adjustments
- complete glasses packages starting at \$90

Call 612-706-5540 for an appointment

ACTG on the WEB

www.actg.org

Do you have questions about one of A Chance To Grow's programs? Maybe you want to see what's new in each of New Visions' classrooms? Or maybe you're looking for more information about an A Chance To Grow event.

You can find all of this on A Chance To Grow's website - www.actg.org. So next time you're online, come check it out.

The Growing Times is published quarterly by **A Chance to Grow, Inc.**, which is dedicated to helping all children - particularly those with learning problems, developmental delays and brain injuries - reach their highest potential.

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New Visions Visit Camp Courage

By Jennifer Rosenkoetter

Students from the sixth grade at **New Visions School** had another successful trip to Camp Courage this year! They traveled to Maple Lake for three days and two nights from October 1st to the 3rd and explored the great outdoors.

While at camp, students took part in a variety of environmental education classes. During the "Horses" class many children were given the opportunity to ride a horse for the very first time. Dane Ebert said, "My favorite thing at camp was horseback riding. It was fun and I have never done that before!"

In addition, the students tried their hand at wrangling with a lasso and a steer and at the end of the day they helped oil their

saddle. Plus, they got to meet the resident llamas and chickens.

Students collected pond water samples in their "Water Canaries" class and used the samples to identify many organisms and used their data to determine the quality of the water.

In the "Edible Plants" class, students collected and cooked with ingredients found around camp. The menu consisted of Sumac-ade, Curled Dock Muffins, Wild Grape Jelly and Dandelion Fritters – Yummy!

The children were able to test their survival skills in a class, while working in small teams to start a fire, build a shelter and

collect and boil water in order to "survive" in the woods. In the "Green Plant" class they learned about Vermiculture Composting and the importance of recycling.

The "Adaptive PE" class exposed the students to the challenges of living with a disability while playing basketball in a wheelchair. "Playing wheelchair basketball was the best! I almost tipped over backwards!" said Natasha Mitchell. Michael Scott enjoyed the wheelchair event as well, "I learned about different sports you can play in a wheelchair – that is cool!"

In "Lifestyles of the Dakota," class was held in a teepee. The final class took place on a "Challenge Course" and taught teamwork and confidence.

Camp was not all hard work and classes. At an evening bonfire they sang songs and ate s'mores. They swam and played in the pool both nights and enjoyed free time in the gym. During a night hike they practiced night vision and hearing skills.

Jess Niven, New Visions' host during their field trip said, "The students were absolutely wonderful. The Courage staff especially appreciated getting to know the students at meal times, the great questions asked during classes and their awesome ability to follow directions."

All in all it was a great three days. The weather was beautiful and the team of students learned many new things and departed camp as a stronger team than when they arrived. They look forward to another great trip next year! ☺



Dedicated STAR Volunteers



Volunteers at **A Chance To Grow** and **New Visions School** are defined as bright, shining STARS and their mission is to enhance the programs and services of ACTG and NVS. The STARS acronym, meaning Supporting, Tutoring, Assisting, and Role-modelling the Students and clients of ACTG/NVS, was recently created to represent our volunteers and the outstanding job they do.

Many STARS have recently joined us in a variety of positions. Currently there are several Reading Buddies matched with students during library times and after-school. Reading Buddies help children practice reading and teach word decoding strategies, while being a role model and mentor. In addition, many STARS are Library Assistants and help with data entry and book check-out. Other STARS have joined us to become Classroom Helpers and provide clerical support and project help. Furthermore, STARS have recently been placed as Therapy Assistants, Administrative Helpers, Lunchroom Buddies, and Special Event Supporters.

Even though the STARS program is thriving with the help of so many dedicated and supportive individuals, more help is always needed. We currently are looking for volunteers to assist with our Telebuddy program. This is a new program designed to match a STARS volunteer with a student, and together read a book over the telephone. This provides additional opportunities for students to practice reading and offers a flexible volunteer option for individuals interested in helping but have limited time.

If you are interested in becoming a STARS volunteer at A Chance To Grow/ New Visions School, please contact Shelly Lombardi, Volunteer and Resource Coordinator, at 612-706-5583, slombardi@actg.org ☺

Race for The Children Fundraiser

The annual **A Chance To Grow** – "Race for the Children" fundraiser sponsored by CSM Corporation was held at Canterbury Park Racetrack and Card Club in Shakopee on August 16, 2003. Over 150 attendees cheered on their favorite thoroughbreds, dined on a prime rib buffet and participated in a silent auction and raffle.

"Big Jake" donated his Tip Sheets for the day and stopped by. He also donated an autographed baseball from his grandson – Minnesota Twin's catcher Joe Mauer! Thanks, Jake!

During the day, participants were allowed to watch a race being called "live" by the track announcer and race sponsors had their pictures taken in the Winner's Circle!

The event raised over \$15,000 for **A Chance To Grow** and **New Visions School** programs! The entire staff at A Chance To Grow and

New Visions School want to thank everyone who participated, as well as the Race Sponsors – Sheet Metal Connectors, Ames Construction and West Photo plus Table Sponsors - WeberLundquist, Viking Materials, Inc., Nesser Insurance, Psychex and Dick's Sanitation.

Special thanks to this year's corporate sponsors Mr. Gary Holmes and the CSM Corporation, Courtyard by Marriott at the Depot and the Marriott Residence Inn at the Depot.

A Chance To Grow is Canterbury Park's longest standing charitable partner. The "Race for the Children" has been held every year, since the track opened in 1986. Thank you to Randy Sampson and the entire staff at Canterbury Park for hosting the event. ☺



Jesse DeBoer - Canterbury Race Volunteer

3rd Annual Walk & Roll

Over 100 brave souls battled a cold, blustery day to participate in the third annual Walk & Roll to benefit **New Visions School** and the **Turnquist Child Enrichment Daycare Center**. The Walk & Roll was held on Saturday, September 27th. It started at **New Visions School** and wound around northeast Minneapolis to Boom Island Park and back to the school. At the end of the trek, everyone was treated to a warm lunch of chili and cornbread. Raffle prizes were given out and students, classrooms and faculty were awarded prizes for the most money and pledges raised.

On behalf of **New Visions School** and the **Turnquist Child Enrichment Daycare Center** we want to give a HUGE thanks to everyone who participated and helped with the Walk & Roll! ☺

Linda Ellingson and her daughter Emily

ACTG 13th Annual Golf Classic

The 13th Annual **A Chance To Grow** Golf Classic sponsored by National Camera Exchange and Video was held Monday, July 14th at Bunker Hills Golf Course in Coon Rapids, MN. A full field of 144 golfers participated in the "Classic" and helped turn this year's event into a huge success! Despite the weather (the tournament was delayed and ultimately shortened due to lightning) the tournament saw a 25% increase in revenues over last year's event.

This successful event would not have been possible without a lot of help. **A Chance To Grow** and **New Visions School** thank Ryan Companies US, Sheet Metal Connectors and Larry Reid's

Bloomington Chrysler-Plymouth-Jeep as well as the players, volunteers and numerous corporate sponsors for helping make this year's tournament a success. **A Chance To Grow** gives special thanks to tournament founder Fr. Jerry Janski, golf committee and Board member Jim Orenstein and tournament Master of Ceremonies Raymond Seliski.

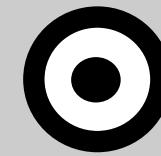
Mark your calendar - Next year's tournament will be held Monday, July 26, 2004 at "Minnesota's Crown Jewel of Golf" - The Wilds Golf Club, in Prior Lake, MN. For more information on next year's event call, (612) 706-5515. ☺



Founded in 1998, Leave a Legacy Minnesota is a collaboration between nonprofit organizations and professional advisors to educate the public and promote the idea of charitable giving through bequests and estate plans. It is a program of the Minnesota Planned Giving Council and part of a nationwide effort to promote charitable gift giving among people of all ages and capacities.

If you would like to include A Chance To Grow in your will, please contact Fred Ojile at Messinger, the law firm of Ojile and Pierce, (612) 373-0000

For more information about LEAVE A LEGACY™ MINNESOTA, please call 651-917-6252.



Target Your Spending with Target's "Take Charge of Education Program"

Target Stores have a wonderful program entitled "Take Charge of Education". Through this program, Target donates 1% of Target guest card purchases to the k – 12 school of the cardholder's choice. This is a quick and easy way for you to help **New Visions School**. If you have a Target credit card and want to help, all you need to do is call 1-800-316-6142 and tell them, "I want 1% of my spending to go to **New Visions School**." If you don't have a card and would like one, you can fill out an application at any Target store. Once you receive your card, you can call the 800 number and start contributing right away.

A Chance To Grow Recycles Old Cell Phones and Ink Cartridges

Recycle old cell phones and ink cartridges and get new equipment for New Visions!

Please donate your cell phones and cartridges by placing them in the collection boxes found in the office at New Visions School.

The FundingFactory™ also has a Business Support Program. This allows businesses to support organizations FREE of charge by providing them with prepaid shipping boxes. If you work in a business that may be interested in supporting us, please visit the Funding Factory™ Web site at www.FundingFactory.com/adoptbus.asp, or call toll-free, 1-888-883-8237.

If you have any questions about this great opportunity, please feel free to call Toby Talbot at 612-706-5566 or e-mail him attalbot@actg.org. Thank you for your support!

Family Fun Night at the Turnquist Child Enrichment Daycare Center

By Hannah Kraft – Family Services Coordinator



The **Turnquist Child Enrichment Daycare Center's** unique approach to childcare combines standard early childhood learning materials and activities as well as parent education. The goal is to help children with learning gaps close them early and to help the other children reinforce and strengthen their existing patterns. This is accomplished through an innovative curriculum and interaction with the child's family.

Family Fun Night is a time for families to come together and have fun! They are held monthly and include a meal and learning projects at no cost to the families. While participating in the event families are able to work together, in unity, to create lasting memories while working on the projects.

During the August 29th and September 26th Family Fun Nights, families had the opportunity to see a real fire truck and talk with fire fighters from the Minneapolis Fire Department!

In addition, they got to paint ceramic tiles with a special paint that bakes into the tile, so the image will last forever. Also, they were given a chance to paint clay sculptures with the assistance of Kim, a pottery expert from Clay Pots in Minneapolis. Thanks to Kim, and Clay Pots for donating the supplies and her time! It was a great learning experience.

Other exciting events for the children included face painting and the air jump station. The air jump was donated by Kiddie Jumps. The folks at Kiddie Jumps were kind enough to set up the station and they let the kids help take it down.

The **Turnquist Child Enrichment Center** families and staff thank the following businesses for their very generous donations – the Minneapolis Fire Department, Clay Pots, Subway for donating a platter of submarine sandwiches, Color Tile for donating ceramic tiles, Coca-Cola, Kiddie Jumps and Sterling Supply Company for donating plaster of paris. ☺