

**We see the ABILITY
in disABILITY!**

Since 1959, the Kids Center for Pediatric Therapies, has been serving families of children with special needs in our region. We see children with Down Syndrome, Spina bifida, cerebral palsy, autism, seizure disorders, and a number of other developmental conditions. We offer physical, occupational, and speech therapies for children, and support programs for families. We see the ability in disability!

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Celebrating Patrick and Praising Miss Sally

As I was talking with Patrick Collins' mom, Lauren Collins, we realized it had been exactly a year since Patrick's feeding tube had been removed. What a reason for celebration! It was September 13, 2014, and since that day Patrick has gained six pounds. While we hear a lot about people wanting to lose weight, for Patrick to be gaining weight is another reason to celebrate.

Lauren attributes many of the reasons for celebration to Patrick's speech therapist, Sally Sanders, MS, CCC-SLP. Lauren said the staff at Kosair Children's Hospital referred her to Sally when Patrick was six months old. Lauren recalls the first time she walked into this building. "I remember the first day we came to turn in paperwork, we were so upset and scared. I had painted a picture in my head of what a therapy center would look like, but from day one I realized the Kids Center for Pediatric Therapies was not a scary place, it was not what I had pictured...this was a warm, welcoming place."

Patrick, now four-and-a-half years old, recently graduated from therapy with Miss Sally. As you can imagine, they are really good buddies...seeing someone every week for over three years builds quite a bond. With Patrick moving on to his next challenge, Lauren—who has done many projects for the Kids Center such as making a virtual tour video, serving on the Walk and Roll planning team and of course, making sure Patrick was one of our Fashion Show stars—wanted to do something special for Miss Sally. Here is an excerpt from a letter Lauren, her husband, Neil, and Patrick wrote to thank Miss Sally:



*"Dear Sally,
It will be impossible for me to ever fully thank you for all that you did for Patrick, me and our family. You were our best friend in our darkest hour. Patrick has come so far from the tiny, sick, retching baby that he was. He is so happy now...I always felt like we were your only client. You would think of him outside of our appointment time and were so focused on him...Without all your help I do not think he would be an eater today...Seeing Patrick feel well is the best gift I've ever gotten... We will always be indebted to you and the Kids Center...You help so many people and are such a blessing to children and their parents. We are so blessed that you were a part of our lives...with love, Lauren, Neil and Patrick."*

How YOU Have Made a Difference

We Need YOU- Here's how you can change lives

- ☀️ Become an Ambassador and invite others to tours
- ☀️ Serve on the Fashion Show or Walk & Roll event committees

To learn more contact Community Engagement Manager Becki Rucker at brucker@kidscenterky.org

Why Your Gift Matters-

Only 38% of our dollars come from therapy. Your giving fills in the gap so that NO CHILD is ever turned away whose family cannot afford the full cost of care.



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VOLUNTEER PROFILE-

Luke Powell, Running the Race for Our Kids!

Luke Powell is not only an exceptional athlete, he is an exceptional human being. Here at the Kids Center for Pediatric Therapies we are blessed to have Luke as a volunteer. He started volunteering with the Kids Center in 2010. He was our team's lead coach for the miniMarathon Team ABILITY for four years and has hosted a table at our annual breakfast for the last three years. He recently completed a triathlon, which isn't any big deal to him, but this one was a special triathlon that he did in tandem with three of our kids here at the Kids Center. Below is an excerpt from his blog of the race day experience:

"I've competed in over 50 triathlons, but I still get a little bit of nerves the morning of a race. The 2015 Landsharks Triathlon was no exception...only this time, the nerves were magnified by the fact that I was also responsible for getting a raft, bike trailer and a jogging stroller to the race...AND making sure that the kids I was racing with were going to have a good time and be safe.

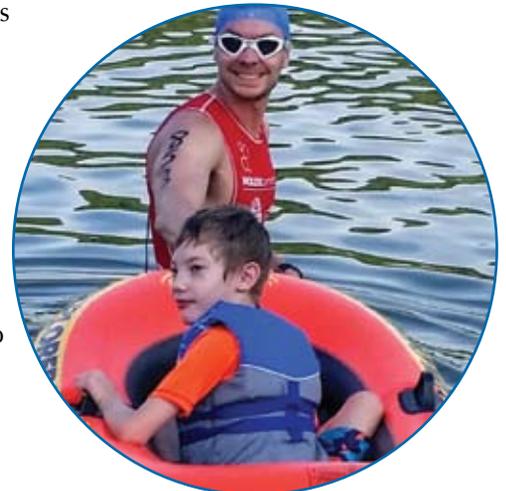
I arrived at the race site and saw the all-too familiar sights. The crew from Headfirst Performance setting up... race packets being handed out... bodies being written on with permanent marker and as I was unloading the gear... several people came by to give me words of encouragement and tell me what a great thing I was doing.

I really wanted people to know more about WHY I was doing this race and send their encouragement to the kids and their families. Doing a triathlon in tandem was not "easy, but it was over in a few hours. These kids and their families battle every single day with challenges that most of us do without a second thought... My goal in doing this race was to raise awareness of the amazing triumphs that happen every day behind the doors of that building (Kids Center for Pediatric Therapies) on Eastern Parkway. Me pulling and pushing a special needs athlete around the course was nothing compared to the obstacles these kids face every day!

As the kids and their families started to arrive, I could feel the excitement! Derek had prepared a message for me on his communication device telling me thank you for helping him become a triathlete and I could tell that he remembered me from our practice swim earlier in the week. Levi was ready to ride and didn't want to get out of the bike trailer after we sat him in it to adjust the harness straps. Zander was all smiles (which I hear is typical) and was clearly happy to see

that one of his favorite therapists from the Kids Center had made it out to watch him race..."

If you want to read Luke's entire story, just go to www.holisticathlete.net, click on latest blog posts, then Landsharks Triathlon Race Report. Thank you Luke for all you do for our kids!



Continuous Learning

New Learnings for Therapists



In mid-August all the PT, OT and SLP therapists participated in a four-day critical-thinking skills workshop called “Improving Functional Skills in Children with Neuromotor Disorders.” This workshop’s intention is to enable the therapists to use a systematic approach to treating

children with a range of neuro-developmental challenges between toddler age and young adulthood. Using the Neuro-Developmental Treatment Approach, the focus is on problem-solving strategies to enhance functional skills in our clients in all areas of life, from individual life skills through participation at home and school.

This training came about from a dear friend of the Kids Center, board member and pediatrician to many of our clients: Dr. Ron Lehocky. Many of you reading this article have purchased the amazing Heart Pins Dr. Lehocky makes. Now you know how the dollars are being spent. One hundred percent of the proceeds from all heart pin sales go directly into a fund to support continuing education opportunities such as this one. What a great gift to the Center and to our therapists! If you see Dr. Lehocky, make sure to tell him thanks! And, maybe buy another heart pin.



Renee Morris, PT, DPT, PCS, C/NDT, helped to bring this workshop to the Kids Center and had this to say about the training, “It helped all of us coming from various disciplines and backgrounds to look at the children we treat from the same perspective, whether the goal is walking, communication or putting on socks and shoes. We all looked at the body as a whole, including alignment, how the child moves and how to help them move. We also looked at the components of movement for functional tasks such as walking, eating, communication and play.

“It was a great opportunity to problem-solve movement and tasks with the children we actually work with and being able to do this with the other therapists on their team was a real plus. We worked with each other in the movement labs, practicing and problem-solving what we learned. We also had four of our patients attend for the instructors to treat and for us to discuss and problem-solve afterwards.” Special thanks to these children and their families – Zander Rayls, Sarah Murphy, Logan Coons and Callie Woolridge.

Meet Stephanie Gammon, Occupational Therapist

Education

I graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham with a Bachelor’s of Education with an emphasis in Exercise Science. While in undergrad, I volunteered at an early intervention facility where I began to acquire knowledge and an interest in my future career. I then attended the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, where I received my Masters of Occupational Therapy.

Work Background/ Experience

I was lucky enough to intern at the Kids Center and then become a full-time employee. Prior to the Kids Center I had experience working in an inpatient hospital with older adults and an outpatient facility pediatric hospital in Zanzibar (an island that is part of Tanzania). I feel like both of these experiences helped me to think outside of the box and adapt to various situations. I am thankful to have a job I love and to work in an organization that sees the abilities of every individual.

Family and Interests

I am originally from South Carolina and relocated to Louisville due to my family moving while I was in school. I love to spend time with my family and friends, travel, and run. I ran for Team Ability in the Derby Marathon this past April and have a Boston qualifying time so hopefully I will be running a marathon in Boston this April.





CENTER
for Pediatric Therapies

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Leaving a Legacy

Please remember The Kids Center for Pediatric Therapies in your will or estate plans and let us know when you do. For information about making a planned gift, please contact Becki Rucker at 635-6397 extension 148 or brucker@kidscenterky.org.



Participating agency of
Metro United Way and
Kosair Charities



We see the **ABILITY**
in dis**ABILITY**!

Coming Up at the Kids Center!

2015 Fashion Show

Saturday, November 14th
2:00 p.m.
duPont Manual High School

- Join us for this heartwarming event! Tickets at the door \$10 for adults; \$5 for kids 6 and up.
- Sponsor a model for only \$100!
- Help us get event sponsors from your child's fan club!



2015 Champions Breakfast

Tuesday, December 8th
8:00 a.m.
The Olmsted

- Invite others to join you at this free, one-hour fundraising event for the Center
- Learn more about our work and our amazing kids!

For more information about these events, contact Becki (x148) or Deidra (x135) at 502.635.6397.

