

The Detroit Institute for Children

September
2010



Care for All Children with Special Needs
in Southeast Michigan

Dates to Note:

- **Sensory Friendly Film:**
Nanny McPhee Returns
Sat., September 4
Visit www.autism-society.org for locations
- **Walk 4 Friendship**
Friendship Circle
Sunday, Sept. 5
- **Sensory Story Time**
at Bloomfield Township
Public Library
Saturday, Sept. 24
10:30 AM
- **20th Annual Henry
Ford II Memorial Golf
Classic**
Monday, Sept. 27
Oakland Hills—For more
details contact Special
Events Manager, Faye
Chapman at
313.578.4515
- **2010 Walk Now for
Autism Speaks**
October 3
Palace of Auburn Hills
- **2010 Buddy Walk**
October 9
Palace of Auburn Hills



DID YOU KNOW
The DIC's
School Services
Division provides
Social Workers,
Psychologists, Speech,
Occupational and
Physical Therapists to
schools in southeast
Michigan? Contact
sarai.bowser@detroitchildren.org
for more information.

Graduation Day!

"Alison Jamrog is 12 years old, and one of the most unique kids I have ever met!" That's how Kerry Draper, Speech Pathologist at The Detroit Institute for Children (The DIC) describes Alison. "Usually when I treat a child of her age with an articulation disorder, there is a lot of resistance and attitude," explained Draper. "But she had all these friends and activities she was involved in, and her attitude was, 'yeah, I have a speech problem, that's just who I am!' It was so exciting to meet such a delightful young girl." Draper's excitement, however, was tempered by the daunting task at hand.

Alison's mom, Diane, began taking her daughter to speech therapy at about age two when her day care provider pointed out that she seemed to have a speech delay. Speech therapy was available through the Novi School District's Early On Program so they started speech therapy immediately. "The drills were challenging," Jamrog stated, "but we kept going." After many years and slow progress, it was the idea of starting middle school with an obvious speech challenge that prompted mother and daughter to seek additional speech therapy. The thought of being pulled away from friends, activities and classes in middle school created a new and unwelcome situation. A recommendation from the Speech Pathologist at school led them to check out the Walled Lake campus of The DIC.

Although Alison was not intimidated by her speech issues, it was evident at her initial evaluation that she had a severe articulation disorder. In addition, her speech progress had been slowed by an intensive orthodontic history. Biweekly visits began and speech drills disguised as games and discussions about "tween topics" soon paid off. Alison's commitment to the therapy and willingness to practice at home also made a big difference and progress soon became evident. Her confidence amazed friends, therapists and teachers as she took on speaking roles, announcing performances at her orchestra concerts and in the school drama club productions. In her school play this spring, her acting was so convincing that she stole the show!

Alison recently wrote an essay that described her experience at The DIC. Some of it reads . . . "The staff is really fun and energetic. Scheduling and availability for my Mom's sake is very convenient. (Is this a great kid, or what?!) The therapists really believe in me and push me to do my best all of the time; they find activities that are at my age level instead of babying me." From mom's perspective, the scheduling was convenient and very accommodating. "They were always willing to work around my job and Alison's school schedule. The customer service was great and the insurance/billing services made the weekly visits affordable."

Alison has now "graduated" from speech therapy! When asked about her progress, Alison said "I think about the way other people hear my speech. I was talking with my friend and she told me she thinks that my speech is getting better, and my other friend told me that she didn't even know that I had a speech problem—which makes me feel good. Although I am comfortable with the way I speak, coming to The DIC has helped me to feel like I can go out in the world and not worry about my speech. The therapists have motivated me to practice and get better."

With her well deserved "speech diploma" in one hand and her firm grip on the world in the other, Alison is definitely ready for anything. The DIC staff at the Walled Lake campus is sorry to see such a bright star leaving, but that is what they do! Best wishes Alison, thanks for sharing YOU with The DIC!



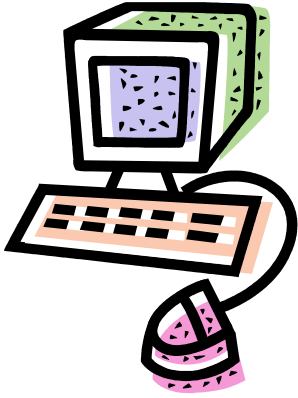
News You Can Use!

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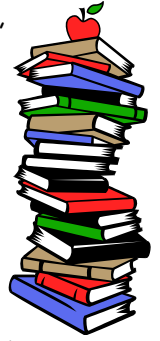


Founded in 1920 by Sigma
Gamma Association
A United Way Agency



School Social Workers Provide Support for Students

"Josh" was 14 years old and failing the ninth grade when he met "Sarah", the new School Social Worker. Her placement by The Detroit Institute for Children's (The DIC) School Contract Services Division was a lucky break for the 360-student middle/high school located in southwestern Wayne County.



Sarah met Josh and about 25 other students on her case load in February. Some were moving towards goals as expected, but Josh did not seem interested in goals. He didn't even seem to care if anyone spoke to him, often appearing to be sleeping or hiding beneath his oversized hoodie sweatshirt. He was a certified Emotionally Impaired student who seemed to be slipping away.

Sarah observed Josh in class and found that he rarely spoke to anyone. He often ran away when pressed to talk. In fact he ran away and went missing from school on several occasions before her arrival. In one of Sarah's first attempts to have a discussion with Josh he did just that. Josh's sprints *usually* resulted in a "chase," but Sarah was not the usual social worker. She quietly returned to her office that day and a sheepish Josh re-appeared a short time later, confused by her unexpected response, but willing to sit without running. Sarah soon learned that card games were a quiet but effective way to begin building a trusting relationship with Josh. Simple card games led to simple conversations. Initially those discussions centered on the next move or tactic in the game, but eventually meaningful conversations began to develop. Sarah's slow but calculated process eventually brought Josh to her office every day to check in, a dramatic improvement from the short weekly visits he previously endured. Under her professional guidance Josh and his teachers began to develop new understandings. By the end of the school year Josh reported all passing grades on his report card - several were "A's."

While the Head of the Special Education Department promptly gave Sarah full credit for Josh's turn around and success, she remains modest. "I just trusted my instincts and listened to Josh," she said. "Too many people were talking "at" Josh, as opposed to "with" him. No one realized what his potential was." The end result was that Sarah's unique knowledge and skills provided desperately needed student support. The DIC School Services Division understands that most schools and families desire and deserve that support. The services offered by The DIC help schools to provide a setting for teaching, learning and success. In these trying financial times, The DIC provides professional services as needed to ensure that all schools and students experience the same level of success enjoyed by Josh and Sarah.

Are you a school with a need for Social Work Services? The DIC School Services Division provides Social Workers as well as Psychologists, Occupational, Speech and Physical Therapists. Email Sarai Bowser, Director of Business Development at sarai.bowser@detroitchildren.org for additional information.

The Detroit Institute for Children

Care for All Children with Special Needs in Southeast Michigan

Detroit
313.832.1100

www.detroitchildren.org

Royal Oak
(The Judson Center)
313.832.11100

St. Clair Shores
248.926.0909
www.pediatric-potentials.com

Walled Lake
248.926.0909
www.abilitiescenter.com