



Thank You to Our 2008-2009 Donors & Volunteers!

Thanks to our generous donors and volunteers we had an amazing 2008-2009 and are looking forward to an even better 2009-2010! Thanks to you, in association with Greater Clear Lake Families Exploring Down Syndrome ("GCLFEDS"), we produced our first DVD, "Living With Down Syndrome: Turning Fear Into Hope." The DVD has been distributed widely in the Houston area and throughout the entire country. Our "Including You" program commenced in 2008 and we hope to expand and offer a DVD in association with this program in 2010. We are also working with other organizations to present two important conferences in 2010 for parents, teachers, advocates, attorneys, and medical professionals, and are planning a legal clinic to help parents in need of legal advice. As always, we continue to offer support to parents and distribute brochures and other materials as needed. None of this would be possible without the support and generosity of our donors. Thank you for being a part of our team and helping to spread the love and hope of Christ to families in need!

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October 2009

Inspirational Corner

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

1 Timothy 6:18 (NIV)

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Father's Joy is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to minister and provide support and information to families and prospective families if children with disabilities.



Father's Joy Charity Golf Classic

On Friday, October 23, 2009, Father's Joy will have its Fourth Annual Charity Golf Classic. We need sponsors,

players and donors to make this fundraiser a success. You may participate by registering or donating online, or by emailing Kristin Tassin at kristin.tassin@fathersjoy.org.

The tournament will be held at Wildcat Golf Club in Houston, Texas. Registration fees are **\$150 for an individual or \$500 for a team of 4**. We will also have a silent auction. To donate an item for the auction, please contact Tammy Breau at tammy.breau@fathersjoy.org.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE:

7:45 a.m. Registration, Silent Auction

8:45 a.m. Shotgun Start

Following Play: Lunch, Awards, Prizes, Silent Auction

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

\$100 Hole Sponsor

\$600 Par Sponsor (Team of 4, Hole and Event Signage)

\$1500 Birdie Sponsor (Team of 4, Hole & Event Signage, Distribution of Company Materials)

\$2500 Eagle Sponsor (Team of 8, Hole & Event Signage, Distribution of Company Materials, Name in Press Releases)

2008-09 Finances

Income	
Donations	\$14,040.12
Interest	\$ 44.84
Total Income	\$14,084.96
Expenses	
Phone	\$ 464.15
Other Expenses	\$6,998.80
Total Expenses	\$7,642.95
2008-09 Net	\$6,622.01

2009-2010 Upcoming Events



On Saturday, February 6, 2010, Father's Joy, along with The Rise School of Houston, GCLFEDS, Texas

Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine, will present "Trisomy 21: Down Syndrome in the 21st Century", a conference for medical professionals, teachers and parents. The conference will implement a tri-strand learning model that will

allow attendees to choose topics related to their field of expertise or area of interest. See www.fathersjoy.org for more details.



In Spring 2010, Father's Joy, along with The Rise School of Houston and Houston Young Lawyers Association, will present "What's So Special About Special Educa-

tion Law?", a legal conference for lawyers, advocates, teachers and parents. See www.fathersjoy.org for more details.



Father's Joy also plans to organize a legal clinic for parents of children with disabilities who need legal advice. Please watch our web site for more details.

Disability A Gift From God?

On January 11, 1972, Candi Yarbrough was born dead. After 45 minutes of doctors working frantically to restore oxygen to her brain, Candi was blessed with life. However, some might not view Candi's life as a blessing.

Candi was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and because she is non-ambulatory and non-verbal, she was also diagnosed with mental retardation. As a result of her disability, Candi lived most of her life in institutions, beginning when she was 8-years-old. She spent her young life surrounded by people who told her "you can't." Her only escape was music and her own dreams of one day living in a real home, with a real family. Candi's situation seemed hopeless. In 2005, Candi's life turned around.

At 36-years-old, while living in a group

home, Candi had the opportunity to attend a training program called Partners in Policymaking. She was one of 36 participants chosen out of over a hundred applicants. But Candi could not attend without help. That's when Candi was introduced to Bill Sullivan, an employee at the home where she was living. Bill and his wife, Terri, offered to drive Candi over 240 miles from Terrell, Texas to Houston once a month to attend Partners. The experience changed Candi's life. Partners inspired Candi to fight for her right to live independently, and Bill and Terri decided to help her by asking her to live with them. Candi was overwhelmed by their generosity and accepted. "I can't believe that mom and dad (Bill and Terri) would change their [lives for me] and I was so happy that they cared enough about me to want [me] to live with them", says Candi. Since moving in with Bill and Terri, Candi

has been able to obtain a communication device that verbalizes her thoughts for her and she is fulfilling her lifelong dream of attending college. She is finally living in a real home with a real family.

But Candi is not content to simply fulfill her own dreams. She wants to help others as well. In 2007, Candi made her first trip out of the United States to Agadir, Morocco to help students with disabilities at The Centre Rose du Sud school. The teachers and students had never seen anyone with a disability like Candi's that could do the things Candi could do. She helped them make communication boards and showed them how to use them. She bonded with the students and inspired the parents and teachers. When asked about her most meaningful experience, Candi said, "Helping a little girl like me. I became close to her mom and dad and they said I was their daughter, too." (cont. p. 3)

Gift From God?, cont.

Candi also helps train staff at Advocacy, Inc., is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, serves on the Texas Technology Access Program Advisory Council at UT, Austin, and speaks at events like the Women of Excellence conference. "It makes me feel good to give people hope and [know] that I serve a purpose", says Candi. "When you have needed help all your life, it is important to find a way to help other people.... That is why I know my disability is a gift from God."

Next month Candi will also make her debut on the big screen. She is the star of Bill Sullivan's latest documentary film, "Blue Nobody's Daughter." Bill, who previously produced a documentary film about a woman with a disability called "A Little Lower Than

"I know my disability is a gift from God." Candi Yarbrough

The Angels", said he did not intend to do a film about Candi. But, with all that Candi had accomplished and the amazing prospects on her horizon, he knew he had to document them. "Blue Nobody's Daughter" chronicles Candi's amazing evolution over a three-year period and is set for a sneak preview at the Angelika Film Center in Dallas, Texas, on Thursday, October 22, 2009. Bill said he hopes the film "conveys human potential when it is allowed to flourish. Also, I hope the film shows that the hand of God has been on Candi from the beginning. It's been a hard life but today she knows it all happened for a reason." Candi knows this as well. "I feel this movie needed to be made to show that [people with disabilities] can live a [normal] life.... I hope people see that [I] have a disability [but I

am] still a person." Bill says that Candi is his and Terri's daughter, "not by blood, but by love. She continues to inspire and teach us and she makes me want to be a better person.... Candi has done much more for us than we'll ever do for her."



2007 Morocco team: (l-r) Terri Sullivan, Bill Sullivan, Shannon Tassin, Kristin Tassin, Candi Yarbrough, Beverly Taube

*To learn more about Candi and "Blue Nobody's Daughter" go to www.candiunlimited.com.

Father's Joy DVD Distribution and Spanish Translations

★ **"Living With Down Syndrome: Turning Fear Into Hope"** - In 2007, Father's Joy, in association with GCLFEDS, developed a DVD for distribution to parents, schools, doctors and the general public to improve perceptions of and attitudes towards people with Down syndrome. Since 2007, over 2,400



DVDs have been distributed to parents and others across the nation. The DVDs are distributed not only by Father's Joy and GCLFEDS but also the Down Syndrome Clinic at TCH, The Rise School of Houston, and the Down Syndrome Association of Houston. DVDs may be requested by going to www.fathersjoy.org.

★ **Spanish Materials - CD Language Solutions, Inc.** of Hous-

ton translated both of Father's Joy's current brochures and two of its program materials into Spanish. These will be ready for distribution in October 2009. We plan to translate all materials, including our DVD, into Spanish by the end of 2009.

I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Psalm 139:14 (NIV)

Prayer Requests

★ For our Golf Classic, that God will not only meet our needs for the year but that others will be positively impacted and blessed for their participation.

★ For the upcoming preview of "Blue Nobody's Daughter", that others will be positively impacted and attitudes towards people with disabilities will improve.

★ For all families who have children with disabilities, that they will be strengthened and blessed.



2008 Father's Joy Golf Classic: The Bridge Fellowship golf team with Pro Football Hall of Famer Bruce Matthews

Volunteer Spotlight

We would like to thank all our volunteers who help at our annual golf tournament as well as those that help spread our message throughout the year. Special thanks to **Allyson and Matt Jackson** and **Tammy and Brad Breau** for their tremendous hard work and financial and other support throughout the years. Special thanks also to **The Bridge Fellowship** for their continued financial support, prayers and encouragement, and **Sports Radio 610** for their yearly support and advertisement of our golf tournament. We couldn't do it without all of YOU!



For more information or to speak with someone about your own situation, please call us at (281) 630-2885 or email us at info@fathersjoy.org.

To be on our mailing list to receive brochures and/or newsletters, please email us at info@fathersjoy.org. Brochures and newsletters may also be downloaded from our website at www.fathersjoy.org.

Father's Joy is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations may be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

"Children are a gift of the Lord..." Psalm 127:3



Father's Joy
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