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Thank you to all our friends that helped tear down and put up our new playground!

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of the past





Therapeutic





A message

from

Amanda at

Kids

Connect

AGE 3

ISSUE NO. 2

FALL

2011

promoting diversity, empathy, respect and friendship

Invim Reflections of the past year!

It is hard to believe that I have been a part of The Tiny Tim Center family for a year! The past twelve months have been a blur, but still an incredible experience to say the least. As I reflect on my first year as Executive Director, I cannot help but smile when I think about all the progress and success The Tiny Tim Center has experienced.

During the past year, The Tiny Tim Center focused its efforts on several aspects of the organization. First, we worked very hard to ensure that we would not have to turn away any child or family who needed our services. We accomplished this by becoming an approved Colorado Childcare Assistance Program (CCAP) site and awarding over \$47,000 in financial assistance. We developed a new partnership with Special Olympics and became the first and only school in Longmont to be certified to offer the Young Athletes program. In June, we were awarded the highly sought after Social Venture Partners (SVP) grant. This highly competitive grant program not only provides money, but more importantly, a network of professionals who donate their time and expertise to their nonprofit partners in an effort to strengthen their long term sustainability. Also in June, the preschool opened a new full day program. In only a few short months we have filled two classrooms and started a waitlist for this program! The Tiny Tim Center achieved these accomplishments and so much more while navigating a leadership transition, experiencing an increased demand for both the preschool and therapeutic programs, as well as continuing to provide the highest quality services to the children and families we serve.

Building on the past year of success. The Tiny Tim Center has begun planning for the future. With the support of SVP, The Tiny Tim Center is in the midst of developing a new three-year strategic plan. With the incredible support and compassion of The Tiny Tim Center family, I am very confident that we will develop a strategic plan that will not only lay the groundwork for a solid future, but will ensure we continue to provide the highest quality therapies and preschool services for those children and families who desire only the best.

All of the Center's past and future success would not be possible without the incredible team of dedicated and compassionate professionals at The Tiny Tim Center, and the ongoing and generous support of our Board of Directors, alumni families and donors! I truly do feel honored and blessed to be a part of something so special! I am looking forward to tackling this awesome responsibility and working with everyone to create a bright future for The Tiny Tim Center!

Marc Cowell **Executive Director**

"When I was little, I couldn't EVEN fly!" Student at The Tiny Tim Center

OUR MISSION:

The Tiny Tim Center provides comprehensive early childhood education and therapeutic services to assist each child in reaching his or her highest potential.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Vicki Schlagel, President Beth Shipp, Vice President Mike Kirkland, Treasurer Lorry Cashatt Katie Dueber Mike Hindman Rick Kellogg Dan Kohler Greg Ludlow Scott Oliver Lori Miner



Educational and Therapeutic Services Unite!!!

This summer Educational Services and Therapeutic Services joined forces to provide a stronger model in our preschool classroom. This was inspired by the changes in our relationship with the school district as well as the increased need for services for the children enrolled. For many years our therapists were staffed either in the preschool or within the Therapeutic Services department. The options that families had for where services were received were limited to how it would be paid for. Now families can receive services in the preschool by either paying a low cash rate or by billing insurance. Historically, children often saw several therapists in the classroom who would come in and out daily. Now the whole child can be served in preschool.

To optimize the availability of our outstanding therapists and implement the most important practice with children, consistency and inclusion, we created teams in each classroom. This model has increased the quality of our services. Currently each classroom has a team that consists of one Speech Therapist, one Occupational Therapist, one Early Childhood Specialist and one or two Early Childhood Teachers. There is also a Physical Therapist and a Mental Health Consultant available on an as needed basis. Individual classroom teams meet regularly to review children's goals, ensure that each child's needs are being addressed, and plan and implement activities and accommodations that serve each child's developmental needs.

To go an extra step, all teams have weekly and even sometimes daily opportunities to collaborate in problem solving and developing strategies. This allows the center as a whole to take advantage of everyone's expertise. This approach supports the model of inclusion which is considered a developmentally appropriate practice. This model allows the classroom environment to provide optimal support for all children, encourages engagement with peers, builds empathy into everyday life and ensures that all goals are continually addressed no matter which team member is in the classroom. This type

of teaming is called a transdisciplinary approach. This means that everyone shares their expertise and treatment plan. For example, if the Speech Therapist is not in the classroom, all of the team members can still support Speech Therapy needs. We are excited to combine resources with our services and have our whole center support the development of each child that walks through our doors.

Our preschool program continues to strengthen as several new programs have been implemented in our classrooms. One of these programs is YogaKids. YogaKids is a fun movement and music session that helps children to focus, become aware of their bodies, build on all developmental areas and address coordination. Zoo Phonics is another program we have started and takes place twice a week in our full day classroom. Zoo Phonics is an animal action curriculum that helps build alphabet and literacy skills. This curriculum has been used in many kindergartens throughout the nation and has a strong research base. We have also partnered with the Special Olympics of Colorado. Through this relationship we have been offered the opportunity to provide the Young Athletes program to all of our children. This school year our teaching assistants have been trained as the coaches who lead this program. This program celebrates diversity, social skills and team building. The children participate in a weekly program using songs, games, gross motor activities and stories that are fun and that allow each child to feel like a winner. We look forward to the end of the school year when we will have a field day with all of our families and each child will receive an award!

These have been exciting times at The Tiny Tim Center. We are so thrilled to watch not only the children grow, but our programs expand as well. Working together with the community, our families, the staff and the children is our greatest reward.

LJ Ferebee, ECSE Educational Coordinator Shari Karmen, OT Therapeutic Services Coordinator







The 30th Annual

Tiny Tim Center

December 3 & 4

at the Plaza

Call 303,776,7417

or visit TinyTimCenter.org

Tickets go on sale Nov. Ist

Christmas Tree Festival



A Message from the **Board President**

Hard to believe that after our long hot summer, we are now thinking of winter and all that goes along with it, like our Christmas Tree Festival! I bet each of you are wondering where our summer went. I know that I am. This has been a very busy summer for The Tiny Tim Center. We began our full day program in June and it

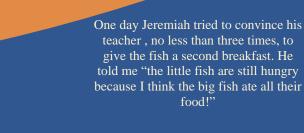
has been a great success. We had blank children enroll and are now at blank. We can see this is the direction that works for our parents and children.

The Tiny Tim Center was also lucky enough this summer to receive a grant from Social Ventures Partners of Boulder County (SVP). This grant provides in-kind services from a group of talented individuals to assist the management group with writing a strategic plan and other areas of needs addressed in an evaluation. We have just held several community planning meetings to get input from parents, donors, teachers and board members on how we can improve and help put our financials back into the black. We want to thank all of those that attended and gave us valuable information. For those of you who could not attend but took time to complete our Survey Monkey, we wish to thank you as well. We will now take all of this information and use it to write our strategic plan for the next three years. As mentioned above, our Christmas Tree Festival will be upon us before we can imagine. We already have several sponsors and to you, we say "thank you!" This is always such a wonderful two days, with great trees and we are committed to make sure that this year is no exception. For more information, please contact Michelle Henry.

Thank you for your continued support of our wonderful organization and we look forward to seeing you on either December 3rd or 4th for the 30th Annual Christmas Tree Festival!

food!

Vicki Schlagel **Board President**







"I love those who smile in trouble, gather strength from distress and grow brave by reflection" ~ Leonardo D Vinci