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# THE CENTER

*Choice ~ Growth ~ Independence*

VOLUME 14  
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(left to right) Kent Loftin, Emory Black, Eva Aguirre, Alissa Bailey, Rep. Ellen Cohen, and Bill Dykes



The Center and Best Buddies hosted a rally at the West Dallas campus on March 5th to challenge and educate Houston about the hurtful use of the word “retard.” The rally encouraged others to sign the pledge to end the use of the R-word. State Representative Ellen Cohen and Kent Loftin, State Director of Best Buddies, along with over 200 Center supporters, staff, board members, and many individuals from Cullen Residence Hall were in attendance for this rally. Many spoke on the importance of advocating for positive terminology when addressing people with intellectual disabilities.

As everyone offered their support of the pledge, Rep. Cohen presented a framed proclamation and reminded the crowd, “While I whole-heartedly agree that we should rid our vocabulary of harmful terms such as the particular R-word, I want to encourage us all to keep other R-words in frequent use. Each resident and buddy here is remarkable. You have not only my respect but the respect of your family and friends. And finally, we must never lose the fact that we are each responsible for one another.” In addition to the rally The Center removed the R-word from our own signage promoting a positive response from all.

Save the date!

CHI OMEGA  
**Kaleidoscope**  
featuring



with Frank Abagnale

Save the Date and Seat at the 2010  
Chi Omega Kaleidoscope Speaker Series & Luncheon  
Featuring

**Catch Me if You Can**

with Frank Abagnale

Friday, October 15, 2010  
River Oaks Country Club

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.: Art of the Steal Fraud Seminar  
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Luncheon

Event benefits The Center, the Make-A-Wish  
Foundation, and the Chi Omega Alumnae Association  
of Houston Scholarship Fund.

Visit [www.chiomegahouston.com](http://www.chiomegahouston.com) for more  
information, to purchase a table or individual tickets.  
CPE credit hours are available for the seminar.



## Volunteers Needed!

Numerous volunteer opportunities are available at Cullen Residence Hall during the day and on weekends. Assisting in the computer lab, chaperoning a field trip or special event, working in the Round-Up Gift Shop or the Ranch Snack Bar, coaching a special Olympics team and/or tutoring a reading or math class are a few of the activities that rely heavily on volunteers. Volunteer commitments may be one-time events or on-going participation.

Current volunteer opportunities available:

- **Round-Up Gift Shop**

Tuesday and Thursday 6:30-8:30 pm  
Wednesday 11:00 am-1:30 pm  
Saturday 2-4 pm

- **Ranch Snack Bar**

Tuesday and Thursday 6:30 pm-8:30 pm  
Sunday 1:30-4:00 pm

- **Cullen Residence Hall**

Reading Group:

Wednesday 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

Evening and Weekend Activity Chaperones  
and/or Van Drivers

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Andrea Jarvis at 713-525-8344 or [ajarvis@thecenterhouston.org](mailto:ajarvis@thecenterhouston.org).

## LifeCare Announces New Service



LifeCare now offers a visitation service for your loved one with developmental disabilities who is in an assisted living facility or nursing home. The initial unannounced visit includes a review of the facility's license, required certifications, menu, the overall condition of the facility and of your family member. Visitations can be on a temporary or permanent basis and last as long as desired based upon your family's needs. Fees start at \$18 per hour plus mileage. (Initial visit may exceed one hour.) Long-term friendships and caring relationships develop as our professional staff spends time with your loved one.

Please contact Bob Von Minden at 713-525-8482 or [rvonmind@thecenterhouston.org](mailto:rvonmind@thecenterhouston.org) for additional information.



(l to r) Baker Botts' partners and Foundation Trustees Joe Cialone and Mark Glasser, Foundation President David Baldwin with Baker Botts' Managing Partner Walt Smith. Thanks to Mark and Carol Glasser and David and Maire Baldwin for their "Devoted" underwriter contributions.

# NINTH ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Held at River Oaks Country Club, the 9th Annual Luncheon was packed full! The event blew through its goal to raise over \$180,000 for The Center! We cannot thank our Devoted, Passionate, Affectionate, and Darling underwriters and the Host Committee enough for their generous support.



Mother and Daughter Co-chairs Caroline and Elizabeth DeLuca with speaker Amy Roloff of Little People, Big World. Elizabeth and Anthony DeLuca were generous "Devoted" underwriters who attended with two other daughters Virginia Claire and Allison.



Super Raffle and Auction chair Tami Owen would not sit down for lunch until every last ticket was sold!



Soloist Crishell Singleton with Cartrecia Broussard. Cartrecia works closely with Crishell who has been an ATEs worker since 2007. Crishell learned the song she sang especially for Luncheon guests. A member of her church choir, the Luncheon was the first time she sang in front of such a big audience.



Foundation Trustee James Pavlik of Avalon Advisors, a "Devoted" underwriter, with wife, Amy.



"Affectionate" underwriter Steve Smith with grandson Stephen. The Luncheon was dedicated to the memory of Glenna McKee Smith, loyal and generous donor, Steve's wife and Stephen's grandmother.



Two of the official Center Greeters Lillian Perez and Michael Frye flank Best Buddies State Director Kent Loftin.



The Center Executive Director Eva Aguirre with The Center Governors' President and "Affectionate" underwriter Brian Cohen.



ATEs worker Tedrick Ross with speaker Amy Roloff. Tedrick was very excited to meet another Little Person who was also a Big TV star!



**Save The Date!**  
**2010 NovemberFest**  
**Saturday**  
**November 6, 2010**  
**Willow River Farms**

[www.NovemberFestMetricCentury.org](http://www.NovemberFestMetricCentury.org)

## Chi Omega Carnival

The Cullen Hall Residents once again enjoyed the annual carnival sponsored by the Chi Omega fraternity (Psi Zeta Chapter) from the University of Houston. Games including ring toss, sandbag toss, mini golf and much more were enjoyed by all. The Chi Os had so much fun working at the carnival that many of them agreed to come back and volunteer at The Center on a regular basis.

THANKS CHI OMEGA!



## Hats off to Tuscany Village Salon

Three stylists, including Irene Franco from Tuscany Village Salon, volunteered their time and expertise on Monday, April 26th. Cullen residents tossed aside their hats for wonderful new hairstyles! Special Thanks to Tuscany Village Salon.



## Fun Run

Celebrating its 25th Anniversary, the John J. Eikenburg Law Week Fun Run has now contributed over over \$860,000 since 1986. This year's Run raised over \$65,000 — a record high! — through sponsorships and runners fees. Through a new program called "Adopt a Walker," individuals could make an extra contribution of \$10 so that the clients could walk free of charge. The wind was at our back and the sun shone brightly on this very special occasion. Many thanks to the Houston Bar Association and co-chairs Kara Philbin and Wesley Ward.



Willow River Farms resident Lisa Jones takes the lead in the Fun Run One-Mile Family Walk.

Runners zoom out of the starting gate to the pistol pulled by Elizabeth Eikenberg, wife of the late John Eikenberg.



## 8th Annual Ice Cream Sunday



Co-chairs, Julie Shannon, Carrie Miller and Jackie McGreevy.

It was a beautiful sunny day when almost 300 gathered on the grounds of Autrey Park to help raise over \$28,000 for The Center. Families with children ages 3 to 12 played laser tag, bounced on huge inflatables, visited the petting zoo and stuffed themselves at the ice cream sundae buffet!

Cheers to our fabulous co-chairs Julie Shannon, Carrie Miller and Jackie McGreevy for a job well done!

Son of The Center Foundation Trustee, Parker Broach takes a pony ride while "rock climbers" navigate the wall behind him.



Always a fave! Four cute girls sing at Karaoke 4 Kids!



The Cohen Family – (fr L) Susan, Claire, Catherine, Brian, Jeffrey and Patrick. Brian is an active volunteer who serves as President of The Center's Board of Governors.

THANK YOU ExxonMobil!



## ExxonMobil Day of Caring

On April 29th, over 60 volunteers from ExxonMobil spent the day sprucing up The Center. The volunteer landscapers cleaned out several flower beds and planted new flowers and shrubs. Industrious volunteers built eight benches for our campus and painted three rooms. In addition to these renovations, the volunteers played BINGO in the Adult Activity Center and took a stroll around the Gazebo with our clients from the Annex.



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United Way Agency

## We go way back with Duchesne Academy



The Center has enjoyed a wonderful relationship with Duchesne Academy for over 30 years. A vital part of the curriculum at Duchesne Academy is the Social Awareness program and its four year community service requirement. The Center has offered the students a safe place to volunteer with welcoming guidance. The girls have a heartfelt connection with the people at The Center and mention how meaningful their presence is to the clients. Duchesne is grateful to The Center for so many years of working together for the well-being of our Houston community.

Current Duchesne volunteers include Elizabeth Green, Lauren Bray, Jessica Carraba, Naeem Sorurbakhsh and Mylena Caldera. These junior and senior girls are at the Adult Activity Center (AAC) every Wednesday for several hours.

**Naeem Sorurbakhsh and Mylena Caldera:** "At the Center you become part of a family. A family that you learn to love."  
**Elizabeth Green:** "I've been volunteering here for the past two years and I always enjoy seeing everyone so happy to be here. It's a great pleasure to interact with everyone and have everyone remember us when we come back every week."  
**Lauren Bray:** "My experience at the Center has truly been a blessing. Every Wednesday I am greeted with a swarm of hugs and smiles as I walk through the door. Each person at the Center is so sincere and inspiring, and I am so glad that I am able to do something for them in return, whether it is making bracelets or simply having a conversation. I hope to remain in contact with the Center and the new friends I have made there after graduating from Duchesne."

