As the New Year began at New Perceptions, so did a new offering for adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities. The Learning Center, developed and implemented by Director of Adult Services, Marlayna Cooney, has been a hit!

Affectionately known as "TLC" around the organization, The Learning Center is made up of three distinct program offerings: Adult Learning, Adult Day, and Art Abilities.

Adult Learning, a new program offering, provides participants with the opportunity to learn or enrich skills in a structured, classroom-like setting. Rachel Otte, TLC Manager and Adult Learning teacher, instructs in subjects such as current events, health, cooking, reading, and math.

The Art Abilities program has also welcomed new participants. They have been learning painting techniques, how to create wire sculpture, and pencil sketching.

Our Adult Day program continues to thrive as well, with several participants who are engaged in activities and respite during the day.

To learn more, go to www.newperceptions.org/the-learning-center

Here’s what our participants say about TLC:
“ I love it”
“I like feeling challenged”
“I’m building friendships”
“I’m learning a lot”

Check out what’s been happening in the newly opened Learning Center. We’ve seen a lot of smiling faces!

Save The Date!
Two great events will be held this spring! Mark your calendars now to attend with a friend.
Words from the Executive Director

TOYOTA CARES: A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

BY SHAWN CARROLL

Remember as a kid, when your best friend moved away? It feels like that. New Perceptions, like many businesses in Northern Kentucky, was saddened to hear the news last April that Toyota would be relocating to another state. If you have been involved with Toyota in any small way, you know that they have character and class, and that we should offer them the same in return as they leave our community.

I remember when Jim Wiseman was touting Toyota. I knew of him through friends in Milwaukee and his work with the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce. He spoke of real jobs and the business community embraced him. He invited representatives from many local nonprofits, me included, to in-services given by national experts. Never had a company provided such opportunities to small business as they were doing.

We have come to know Toyota as the ultimate in supporting our community’s nonprofits with their commitment of time, talent and treasures. They have certainly been very supportive to New Perceptions. They have sent engineers to help improve our processes, sponsored our fundraising events, and served on committees and the board to pass along their knowledge and resources to further our mission. All of these acts of kindness will be hard to replace.

Toyota has also taught me about a culture and respect for others. When I served on a local school board, I remember well how Japanese parents from Toyota inquired as to how they could get additional education for their children, not only during the school day but on Saturdays. Imagine that!

CONT. P. 10

MISSION

To promote the welfare of children and adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (and their families) by providing opportunities for education, growth and employment in a normalized setting, in order to facilitate each individual’s achievement to their maximum potential.
Participants in New Perceptions’ new Learning Center enjoy learning in the Adult Education program, creating art in Art Abilities, and activities in Adult Day.

ANNUAL DINNER CELEBRATES ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Above: Participants receive their years of service awards and celebrate their accomplishments at the 2014 Annual Dinner held on August 26, 2014 at Receptions, Erlanger.

PARTICIPANT EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

The David G. Benzinger Employees of the Month recognize participant employees who learn new work skills, achieve higher production goals, or greatly improve attendance or work attitudes. Brad Camp, of HiCorp in Tulsa, OK, established the award to honor the memory of David G. Benzinger, a former client of New Perceptions who passed away in 1997. Mr. Camp wanted to encourage other New Perceptions employees to adopt David’s positive work attitude and his spirit of self-motivation, persistence, and joy of living.

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<th>JUNE</th>
<th>JULY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nick Page</td>
<td>Steve Welch</td>
<td>Carl Wells</td>
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<td>Latasha Hughes</td>
<td>Randy Zmurk</td>
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<td>Josh Nestheide</td>
<td>Wayne Hill</td>
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<td>Holly Averdick</td>
<td>Mike Schultz</td>
<td>Holly Averdick</td>
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<td>Kraig Goodwin</td>
<td>Betty Jo Litschgi</td>
<td>Ron Dalton</td>
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Adult Services Participant Highlight: BILL BACH

BY PEG KENDALL

Who would have thought that when Art Abilities participant and artist, Bill Bach, decided to create a painting of Batman, a super-hero favorite from his childhood, that an exciting chain of events would result from it.

Using watercolor for a neat finished effect, Bill painted a full-body pose of Batman in “old-school” colors, flashing back to the original blue and gray costume. He chose to use drab, dingy, bland colors for the background to create a busy surrounding for Batman, and then added textures, buildings, bricks, pipes and much more to create a complete, detailed, quality painting on canvas.

Bill wanted to finish the painting in time to have it displayed at the Annual Dinner, where several Art Abilities participants have artwork on display for family, friends, coworkers and other guests to see and purchase. Bill met that goal, completing the piece the day prior to the event. The art was framed, using similar textures to the matting, helping to create depth.

Jackson Johnson - Enquirer’s United Way Wish List Recipient

BY STEPHANIE SILBER

You may recognize this sweet face. Jackson Johnson was selected for the United Way’s Wish List and was featured in a December 2014 issue of the Enquirer. He will soon benefit from the generosity of others to fulfill his wish list, including equipment and products that will assist with his everyday needs and therapy. Here is Jackson’s story and how this adorable boy came into the Johnson’s lives.

Rebekah and J.J. Johnson received a call in April 2012 from a foster care agency saying they needed a medically certified home for a baby in care at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. When the couple arrived at the hospital to meet their new foster child, they were amazed at what they saw: a baby who weighed a mere eight pounds at just under 5 months old, with tubes inserted all over his tiny body. From this first moment to his adoption day, their compassion and love for the little boy grew immensely.

Jackson Johnson was born nearly four months early with a birth weight of 1 pound 2 ounces. Pregnancy and environmental complications resulted in his premature birth. He went through many surgeries and procedures in the first few weeks of his life; every hour was a struggle to survive. Jackson remained in the NICU for five months and was released into the foster care of Rebekah and J.J. in April 2012. His new family fought hard to keep him in a safe environment where he could grow and gain strength. They were ecstatic to adopt him over two years after he came into their care.

Continued on page 11
**SAVE THE DATE**

**Charity Night at the Tables**

**MARCH 14, 2015 | 7:00-11:00 PM | TURFWAY PARK**

Have a legendary night of fun while helping raise funds for New Perceptions. Your ticket includes casino-style gaming, live thoroughbred racing, food & drink. $75/ticket. To purchase:

⇒ www.theyearlings.org/events
⇒ The Yearlings, PO Box 17903, Lakeside Park, KY 41017
⇒ 859-905-0329 or CharityNightAtThe-Tables@gmail.com

Don’t forget to mark New Perceptions to receive your ticket sale credit!

---

**Ladies Night Out**

**APRIL 23, 2015 | 5:30-9:00 PM | RECEPTIONS**

Ladies, join us for an evening designed especially for you! Enjoy pampering services, hors d’oeuvres, beverages, raffles, silent auction, and more. $60/ticket. Make your reservation today!

⇒ Call Terrie at 859-344-9322, ext. 32
⇒ Mail to 1 Sperti Drive, Edgewood, KY 41017
⇒ Purchase tickets online at: www.newperceptions.org/event/ladies-night

---

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU**

**Thank You Hatton Foundation!**

Thanks to a generous grant from the Hatton Foundation, we were able to replace our roof and complete the purchase of a forklift.

An aging roof, with cracks and vegetation taking its toll, caused leaking from the roof into the building. The repairs shored up this problem and provide for many more functional years.

Our warehouse is used for shipping/receiving and storage of food commodities for nonprofits and a forklift is essential to assist with unloading and loading trucks for food disbursement.

Thank you Hatton Foundation for making these purchases a reality!

---

**Associates Give Back**

New Perceptions associates give of their time, talent, and treasure to fulfill our mission. Whether designating gifts through the United Way or our Associate Giving Campaign, each gift is making a difference. Thank you!

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Buy your chance to win two round-trip tickets from CVG to NYC on Ultimate Air Shuttle℠, as well as a 25” American Tourister Spinner from AAA and two, 2-day New York Passes good for free entry into more than 80 NY attractions! A total prize package worth $1,800!

Tickets are only $15 each!

Make a Difference.  
100% of the proceeds from the Ladies Night Out event support the programs and participants of New Perceptions.

No Need to be Present.  
Drawing will be held at 8:45 PM at the Ladies Night Out event on 04/23/15 at Receptions, Erlanger. You do not need to be present to win.

Tickets on Sale Today!  
To purchase a ticket, complete the form and send along with check or credit payment to New Perceptions, 1 Sperti Drive, Edgewood, KY 41017. =>

Grand Raffle Sponsor: New Perceptions, Inc. 
KY Gaming License EXE0000375
Yes! I would like to purchase a chance to win the 2015 Ladies Night Out Grand Raffle prize.

Name: ________________________________________________________________________________
Address: ________________________________ City/State: _______________________ Zip: __________
E-mail: ________________________________________________________ Phone: ________________
No. of tickets _____ x $15 each = $__________ enclosed.

Check (payable to New Perceptions)

Charge to my ___ VISA  ___ MasterCard  ___ Amer. Exp.  ___ Discover
Card No. ____________________________ Exp. Date __________
Signature _____________________________________________________

Please return this form along with payment to New Perceptions, 1 Sperti Drive, Edgewood, KY 41017.

Your ticket will be placed in the drawing and the stub(s) mailed to you.

Form and payment must be received by 4/22/15 to be included in the drawing.
DONORS | JUNE 1, 2014 - DECEMBER 31, 2014

Every effort has been made to include all donors. We apologize for any omission.

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Annual Report Highlights, FY 2014

NUMBER SERVED 737
STAFF 55
VOLUNTEERS 118
VOLUNTEER HOURS 1089

INCOME
$2,875,495

EXPENSE
$2,907,232

WORDS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONT.

I also remember when a Toyota executive named Hiro Adachi joined the Florence Rotary and immediately became involved, pleased to be an active member in an organization that could help the community. At every meeting he respectfully stood and participated in the Rotary custom of saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

When I coached baseball, a Japanese player on another team, I believe his name was Kenske, wore a yellow glove like the Japanese baseball pitcher Hideo Nomo and had the batting stance of Ichiro Suzuki. That reminded me of my childhood; playing whiffle ball in the backyard and mimicking players on the Big Red Machine – Pete Rose’s crouched stance, Tony Perez’s gyrations.

It saddens me to see Toyota families come and go from Northern Kentucky, returning home to Japan. One departure in particular really moved me. Twelve years ago, a young girl, Maho, was on my youngest son’s academic team in elementary school. At first she was a shy and reserved fourth grader, but a year or two later she was smiling and giggling with her classmates. I will never forget when Maho and her mother handed me a decorative Japanese folding fan – a goodbye gift; a sign of gratefulness. Maho, once private with her emotions, was now a young teenager who openly wept as she handed me the gift. Maho has made the world smaller for me; I know so many good people that now live far away.

I hope these are the things we will remember. Their spirit of generosity. The true graciousness behind their involvement in the community. The respect and thoughtfulness given toward others. The good friends we have made.

So, thank you Toyota, my friend, for your past and continued support of all of us. We will miss you.
Jackson Johnson, cont.

Jackson is treated by 10 physicians at Cincinnati Children’s, attending at least one appointment per week on average. He has many ongoing medical issues including but not limited to: Cerebral Palsy, Chronic Lung Disease, Oral and Pharyngeal Dysphagia, Hypoxemia, Hypoglycemia and temperature regulation difficulties, vision problems (Jackson can only see approximately 10 inches from his face and is considered legally blind), sensorineural hearing loss (deaf in one ear), spasticity in his movements and global developmental delays. He requires constant monitoring and nursing care; nightly oxygen for breathing, suctioning throughout the day, and a continuous feeding pump for nutrition.

Due to his lung disease, he suffered approximately 27 bouts of pneumonia and was hospitalized for nearly five weeks total last year! As a result of his compromised immune system he is essentially homebound throughout the winter to early spring.

As a toddler, Jackson now weighs 40 pounds and will benefit greatly from the Wish List as he is growing and learning every day! Rebekah and J.J. would like to extend their thanks to all who so generously donated to the Wish List to help fulfill Jackson’s wish and the wish of others. They are looking forward to seeing their son reach new milestones and achieve to his maximum potential!

Bill Bach, cont.

Although Bill did not attend the Annual Dinner to see his painting on display, he was excited that it was included and confident that it would be well received, as staff and coworkers who had watched his progress from start to finish were impressed and complimentary of his work.

Before dinner began, the painting caught the attention of Meridian Bioscience Vice President, Larry Baldini, who studied the painting for several minutes. He purchased the painting and took it home at the end of the evening.

Bill was told about the sale of his artwork the next day and was excited to learn that the piece had been sold so quickly during its first display.

It turns out that Mr. Baldini had not purchased the painting for himself, but for a friend who is a big fan of Batman and whose birthday was soon approaching: Police Chief Tom Synan Jr. of the Newtown, Ohio Police Department. When Mr. Baldini presented the one-of-a-kind gift to his friend, Chief Synan posed for photos with his painting. The pictures were e-mailed to New Perceptions to be given to Bill, who now knows where and with whom Batman resides.

Bill was flattered by this gesture from two busy, professional, kind-hearted men.

Bill generally does not care to do similar projects within a short time period, but may soon paint a portrait of Gotham City’s Chief O’Hara using his Bat Phone to give to a special cop in Newtown.
Find us on social media

Wish List

- DVDs
- Wii games
- Notebooks, pens, pencils
- Art/Craft Paint
- Varnishes, stains, antiquing gels
- Canvases or canvas panels
- Large sheets of newsprint, sketch paper or thin cardboard sheets
- Gift certificates and passes to local restaurants, stores, events, and activities
- Silent Auction items / donations

Renew Your Kroger Plus Card

EASILY DONATE TO NEW PERCEPTIONS

Did you know that you can quickly and easily donate to New Perceptions by swiping your Kroger Plus Card at the register?

Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com to designate New Perceptions as your charity of choice.

DON’T FORGET: You must renew each year!

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WWW.NEWPERCEPTIONS.ORG

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See photos of what’s happening
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