



2016



Stepping Stones
children's center



919-708-7866

1550 KELLY DRIVE
SANFORD, NC 27330





Letter from the president

What would this day be like, if we all could not give thanks for living in Lee County, North Carolina? Each year there is an increase in the number of individuals with developmental disabilities whose lives are made better by the Stevens Center. The Stevens Center exists and supports these individuals solely as a result of the support forthcoming from the folks of Lee and surrounding counties.

As we remain steadfast in our resolve to fulfill our mission in a thorough and efficient manner, Stevens Center and our associate program, Stepping Stones Children's Center, thank you all for your continued support and contributions throughout 2016.

What a good place to live.

Bill Bates
President of the Board



Letter from the director

2015 was an eventful year for the Stevens Center.

In August of 2014, we reopened Stepping Stones Children's Center, to provide quality care for children that are developing at a typical rate, as well as those with diagnosed delays or disabilities. In February 2015, Stepping Stones received its four-star licensed rating. It has grown to include 29 children of all backgrounds, ethnicities and abilities.

At the same time, nothing has slowed down at the Stevens Center. We assisted 19 people in getting jobs. 34 individuals receive ongoing community based support services. Dozens of youths attended summer camps. And I could continue....

Our success is dependent upon people in our community that believe that individuals with disabilities can and should be an active and respected part of our community. Thank you for the role you play.

Roger M. Bailey
Executive Director

Stevens Center Mission Statement

Professional
and caring
assistance based
on the specific
needs of each
unique person



Significant
long-term
disabilities
beginning before
age 22, or for
children younger
than four, a
developmental
delay



The
Stevens Center provides
personalized support
for individuals with
developmental disabilities
to live **fulfilling lives**
in a **welcoming
community**.



A self-directed
life based on an
individual's choices

An
informed
community that
accepts and respects
difference in people,
and assists others
when needed



office@stevenscenter.org
www.stevenscenter.org

www.facebook.com/stevenscenter

Board of Directors

The Stevens Center is committed to having at least half of the individuals on its board be a direct family member of an individual with a developmental disability, or for them to have a developmental disability themselves. Currently five of the eight individuals serving on the Board of Directors have a developmental disability, or have a son or daughter with a developmental disability.



From left to right, Ruth Washer, self-advocate; Ron Hewett; Nancy Adams, parent; Debbie Lowther, parent; Vice President David Dudley, parent; Treasurer Linda Foushee; President Bill Bates. Not pictured: JoAnne Cameron, parent

SSCC: New Staff New Therapies

Stepping Stones Children's Center (SSCC), a program operated by Stevens Center, is a four-star rated, quality childcare center for children of all abilities, delays and disabilities from birth to Kindergarten.

Karla Pomilio-Hancock has joined the staff of SSCC as Program Manager. She has extensive experience working with children of all abilities including five years at Stepping Stones Children's Center, most of which were as a lead teacher. She also was employed by Lee County Partnership for Children for a dozen years where her position included improving the quality of childcare in our area. Pomilio-Hancock believes in community involvement, which has included serving on the boards of Habitat for Humanity and Communities in Schools of Lee County.

"I am thrilled to be part of the SSCC team!" said Pomilio-Hancock. "My passion is people and everyone, regardless of their different abilities, has the right to participate in this thing called life. I want to help the children, parents and staff of SSCC be the best they can be!"

SSCC is open Monday through Friday 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. It is important to note that quality child care is not simply babysitting. The children at SSCC are stimulated daily in a safe environment by trained staff using developmentally appropriate materials. SSCC has some openings, particularly in the infant room. Please call 919.708.7866 today for a tour and see for yourself!

Speech therapy and occupational therapy are now available on site. Speech therapist Sharon Hahne and

occupational therapist Paula Boehm each have over 25 years experience in their respective fields. Blue Cross, Medicaid, Tricare and private pay are all accepted. Children attending Stepping Stones can receive therapy as part of their day.

Attending Stepping Stones is not a requirement to receive therapy services. To meet the therapists, schedule an evaluation, or make an appointment, please call Stepping Stones Children's Center at 919.708.7866.



**Stepping Stones
Children's Center**



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WINNERS

The WINNERS program at Stevens Center assists people with disabilities in breaking through the unemployment barrier. Job seekers are referred from the North Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. Most of the referred job seekers have developmental

disabilities. Others have a disability along with a barrier to employment, such as a criminal record or lack of a high school diploma or GED.

Beth Bray, Employment Specialist for Stevens Center, spends time with each individual to develop a Person Centered Employment Plan that serves as the outline for the job search.

As Bray puts it, "Finding the right job for the people we serve is

my goal, versus trying to fit people into a job. My job is to create win-win situations for employers and job seekers.

"Sometimes this means visiting with local companies to observe their day-to-day operations and requesting if I may try the tasks in order to

SUCCESS

In 2015, Stevens Center assisted 19 people with finding successful employment in Lee County.

determine whether a job seeker with a disability can do the jobs with or without reasonable accommodations."

Often, tasks carved out from several jobs can be combined into a new job that is tailored to fit the

skills, preferences and level of supports required for an individual. At the same time, this meets the needs of the employer. One such job created this year is "Tote Washer."

The individual cleans out, power washes and stacks totes so order selectors



Jessica Thomas, a beneficiary of the WINNERS Program

may restock them for delivery. It allows the individual to earn a competitive wage while saving the company time and money that would have been utilized for a more highly skilled employee to perform this task.

Jessica Thomas, a Stevens Center job seeker, had worked in the food service industry for five years prior to becoming a stay-at-home Mom. When her son

entered preschool, she wanted to go back to work. Bray went to Sagebrush Steakhouse to speak with manager Lonnie Houston about what types of job would be a good fit for Jessica. With Jessica's bubbly personality, it was decided that a hostess position would be perfect. Bray worked with Jessica for two weeks on learning the menu, answering the phone and taking call-in orders.

When asked how the partnership has worked for him, Houston stated, "I believe that every person deserves a chance. At the same time, they have to be able to do the job. Beth was able to refer a person who is a perfect fit for our hostess position. Partnering with the Stevens Center was a good business decision."

NC Vocational Rehabilitation can be reached at 919.775.2247



Our **national CARF accreditation** is evidence that our organization strives to improve efficiency, fiscal health, and service delivery, creating a foundation for continuous quality improvement and consumer satisfaction. This assures the persons we serve, and their families, that our services are focused on their unique needs. Community-Based Support (NC Innovations and IPRS) and employment (WINNERS) services of the Stevens Center are accredited by CARF.



AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION

Evening and Saturday daytime in Lee County.

Who can ride?

- Any person with a disability (may be age, accident, or birth-related)
- An aide can also ride, if needed for your safety

What do you need?

- Riders will first have to register and get a free photo ID from the Stevens Center.
- You must provide evidence of your disability.

When can you ride?

- Thursday evening from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- Friday evening from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

How to schedule a ride?

- Transportation will be scheduled through the Stevens Center by calling (919) 776-4048
- Thursday rides must be scheduled no later than NOON Tuesday
- Friday and Saturday rides must be scheduled no later than NOON Wednesday

How much does it cost?

- One-way fare is \$1 cash, with correct change

1576 Kelly Drive, Sanford, NC 27330,
Ph (919) 776-4048, Fax (919) 774-7711



**FOR
RENT**

RENT THE STEVENS CENTER MULTIPURPOSE ROOM FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT

Our space is great for:

- Birthday Parties
- Dinners
- Quinceañeras
- Church Dinners
- Wedding Receptions
- Training Events
- Gospel Concerts

Rental includes tables and chairs for up to 300 people, a 12' x 24' platform stage, and room setup and teardown. Kitchen is available.

Call 919.776.4048 to check availability and rates.

NC Innovations provides inspiration to college student



Since birth, Jeremy Denison has had difficulty with balance and walking, using his hands, and talking. He has received therapy throughout his entire life that has made him more independent. Equipment, such as a motorized wheelchair and touch screen computer,

also help. But, according to Jeremy, receiving NC Innovations services through the Stevens Center is what really opened the world up to him.

"I don't have to depend on family to help me do the things I want or need," says Jeremy. "My support worker does it for me."

The support worker helps with routine things like preparing meals and doing laundry. However equally important to Jeremy, the services permit him to be an active part of the community.

Depending on the day, Jeremy may be seen shopping at Wal-Mart, helping with a fundraiser at the Sanford Piggly Wiggly, assisting Gene Dickens at a DJ event, attending a local or high school sports event, or in class at Central Carolina Community College's Sanford campus as he pursues a degree in business administration.

"Because my fingers are a little stiff," Jeremy explains, "I use audio books for class. I dictate work assignments and test answers to my support worker, and she records the information."

"College lets me be a 'normal' human being," Jeremy continues. "I have a chance to talk to people my own age, who can relate to what I am going through."

Jeremy's mother, Christine Denison, sees the impact the program has had on her entire family. "It is a compromise," Christine says. "You give up some privacy by having a non-family member in your home. In return, you get someone that is willing to help."

Due to the support provided by the Stevens Center, Christine is able to spend one-on-one time with her daughters. They are able to 'girls-only' things, while Jeremy pursues his own interests.

"I can attend a school event, and Jeremy can choose to come or stay home," Christine says. "He is able to make the same decisions as other young men his age."

"Having a support service in our home took some getting used to," Christine admits. "Now, having this support is almost like a lifeline – I don't know what we would do without it."





Connections program provides balance

For most people, life after high school involves going to college or getting a job. For many people with developmental disabilities, life after high school involves staying at home unemployed, or attending a segregated day program for adults with disabilities. The Stevens Center's Connections program seeks to provide a balance between the two.

Connections facilitates relationships between the eight adults in the program and the community. People from the community give time to the program, and in return receive the satisfaction that comes from knowing our community is a better place because of their efforts. Adults in Connections develop bonds with one another and friendships that

extend beyond the program time.

The program participants also connect with the community through volunteer activity. Activities include helping with Communities in Schools of Lee County, at nonprofit thrift shops, at food pantries, and with the annual Broadway Our Way spring festival.

Connections is designed for adults with developmental disabilities that are no longer in school, live at a private residence and do not receive other publicly funded support services. Individuals must be able to use the restroom and eat without assistance, and need only peripheral supervision. For more information, call the Connections Program Coordinator at 919.776.4048.



VOLUNTEERS



In 2015, the Stevens Center:

- **Provided direct support to 303** individuals with disabilities
- **Provided 12,413** units of service (defined as one service to an individual on a day). Of these, 9,826 units were provided in the community, and 2,587 were provided on-site.
- **Trained 197** people on disability-related topics.

Monday through Friday on average:

- **10 people** received a service at the Stevens Center facility each day, AND
- **An additional 34 people** received community-based support each day.

DONATIONS

Enclosed is a gift of \$ _____

THIS IS A GIFT FROM:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

DONOR LEVELS

- ☐ **Bronze \$25**
- ☐ **Silver \$50**
- ☐ **Gold \$100**
- ☐ **Platinum \$100+**
- ☐ **Other \$ _____**

This gift is memory of/honor of (circle one)

PLEASE SEND CARD TO:

___ Mr. & Mrs. ___ Mr. ___ Mrs. ___ Miss

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

☐ Please add me to Mailing List

Online Donations at www.stevenscenter.org

☐ Please add me to Mailing List Email: _____

The Stevens Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are tax deductible as permitted by law.

Financial information about our organization and a copy of our North Carolina Charitable Solicitation License SL003027 is available from the Stevens Center by calling 919-776-4048 or from the NC State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 1-888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the State. To assure that we are wise stewards for the community, the Stevens Center has an annual audit completed by an outside accounting firm.

SUMMER CAMPS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTHS



Financial Assistance Is Available
We welcome youths of all abilities and disabilities

The Stevens Center is located at 1576 Kelly Drive, Sanford NC 27330

One mile past Central Carolina Community College

Go online to stevenscenter.org and select Calendar/Registration or call (919) 776-4048



Party, Paint & Playtime for 3 - 4 year olds

Activities include arts and crafts, music and motion, story time & more

Thursdays July 7, 14, 21, 28 • 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. \$20 for all

Kids Can Connect for 5 - 8 year olds

Activities include art, music and motion, drama, basketball, & more

Thursdays July 7, 14, 21, 28 • 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. for all

READY Day Camp for 6 - 16 year olds

Registration includes team building exercises,

computer lab, reading program and field trips

Monday through Thursday July 11 - August 4 • 8 a.m. - Noon \$130



Free-to-Be-Me for 9 - 12 year olds

Mix & Match Your Day! Basketball, dance, art, games, music & more

Monday through Friday June 20 - 24 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. \$35

Pack a snack and be ready for a whole week of fun

Summer Connections

Current Events, computer lab, practical use of basic reading and math skills, exercise, nutrition, and fun! As a summer program for high school students

who have a disability and are 17 or older, registration is \$450.

Monday through Thursday June 13 - August 18, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Larry Goins Basketball Fundamentals

for 7 years to adult

Three day co-ed skill-building clinic

Focus on dribbling, passing, shooting, & lay-ups.

Three day, Mon Tues Thurs June 20, 21, 23 • 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

\$20 for this 3 part program



Annual Golf Tournament

at Tobacco Road Golf Club

Tuesday, August 9, 2016

Registration includes:

- 18 holes of golf with cart
- Beverages
- Hot Chick-fil-A lunch
- Merchandise prizes

Choice of 8 a.m. or 2 p.m. Shotgun Start
8 a.m. Captain's Choice, flighted play
2 p.m. Texas Scramble, flighted play

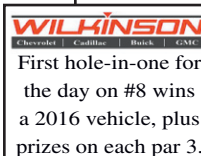
Register as a 4-person team or single

Thanks to our confirmed
Platinum Sponsors

FIRST BANK



Mike
& Mary
Robertson



For information on event sponsorship or registration, call 919-776-4048 or log on to www.stevenscenter.org

Net proceeds benefit the Stevens Center, which provides personalized support for individuals with developmental disabilities to live fulfilling lives in a welcoming community.



Stevens Center Valentines Dinner & Auction

Prime Rib Dinner and Home-baked Dessert

Bring-your-own wine permitted; glasses provided

Dinner music by Karen Huey String Ensemble

Entertainment and dance music by Joyful Noise

Saturday, February 13, 2016

at the Stevens Center • 1576 Kelly Drive in Sanford

\$25 per person

\$200 Table Sponsor includes dinner for 6 and \$110 tax deduction

Tickets available at:

- Stevens Center 1576 Kelly Drive, or call 776-4048
- Stepping Stones Children's Center 1550 Kelly Drive
- Hair Associates 2109 Tramway Rd.



MEDIA
SPONSOR

TICKETS MAY ALSO BE PURCHASED ONLINE at www.stevenscenter.org

Childcare

for this event is available next door at Stepping Stones Children's Center. \$16 per child.

Call 919.708.7866 for a child-care reservation.