


Stevens Center

2017





Message from the president

Greetings from the Stevens Center.

I hope throughout the Lee County community you are all off to a great 2017. The new year stimulates anticipation of a fresh beginning and that is exactly what the Stevens Center is about—opportunity. Let me give you an example.

Near the end of last year, a young couple brought their child to Stepping Stones Children's Center, a licensed childcare center operated by the Stevens Center. The couple told our Executive Director, Roger Bailey, that the primary reason they moved to Sanford was because of the special needs of their child and the availability of an agency like the Stevens Center. They went on to say that, just as important, they wanted to live in a community that truly demonstrated its warmth and inclusiveness by providing services like those of the Stevens Center.

I believe this is a true testimonial about the giving spirit of our community, how we are recognized for our generosity and what a central role the Stevens Center plays in identifying the type of community we live in. At the Stevens Center, staff, volunteers and board members take our mission statement very seriously: Provide personalized support for individuals with developmental disabilities to live fulfilling lives in a welcoming community.

As you begin the new year, I invite you all to learn more about what that mission means, what the Stevens Center is all about and how you can play a part in this as well. Please contact us to learn more. We would love to hear from you.

Looking forward to a great 2017 for our community and the Stevens Center!

Ron Hewett
Board President



Message from the director

Just what does the Stevens Center do?

First, we help individuals that have a diagnosed developmental disability—a significant disability that begins before age 22—to receive the support they need to be active and included members of the community.

As you read this tabloid, you will see that this support takes many forms. For some individuals, it means receiving assistance with personal care. For others, it means being taught to perform personal care independently. For some, it means learning the skills to be a contributing volunteer. For others, it means receiving assistance to be a valuable employee.

Second, the Stevens Center helps the community overcome the normal intimidation many of us feel when first meeting an individual who has a disability. Programs at the Stevens Center provide a 'safe zone', where individuals from the community-at-large have opportunity to interact with others who have a disability. Typically, in a very short time any uncomfortableness fades, as people begin recognizing how much they share in common with a person who has a disability, and that such individuals generally only want to be accepted for who they are—another member of our community.

The residents of Lee and Harnett Counties, the area principally served by the Stevens Center, have consistently demonstrated their willingness to figure out how residents with disabilities can be included. For that we thank you.

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



www.stevenscenter.org

www.facebook.com/stevenscenter

[www.facebook.com/steppingstones - sanford](https://www.facebook.com/steppingstones-sanford)

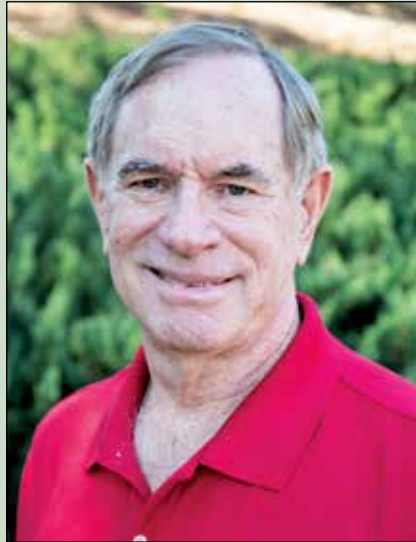
Board of Directors

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 four of the eight individuals serving on the Board of Directors have a developmental disability, or have a son or daughter with a developmental disability.



Cathy Swindell

"The Stevens Center is a place where people of all ages with developmental disabilities and their caregivers can go to learn, play, serve and build relationships so that they can have productive, fulfilling lives. We all benefit when that happens."



JJ Cuff, Board Vice President

"The Stevens Center is about building new relationships, which equates to new friendships. Each friendship is special. In turn, these friendships make us happy. By building new friendships we are all working to make us a better community."



Patricia Freeland

"I am very proud to be part of an organization that provides inclusive activities and personal growth opportunities to all individuals in this community, not only on the receiving end, but on the giving end as well."



Nancy Adams

"The Stevens Center provides a strong foundation of hope and pride to those with disabilities. It enables them to take pride in how far they have come and shows them how far they can go."



Ron Hewett, Board President

"The Stevens Center is truly a community resource. Not only does it support people with developmental disabilities, but it also brings us all together so we can show our community's heart."



Linda Foushee, Board Treasurer

"I am involved with Stevens Center because they provide personalized support for individuals with disabilities and their families. It helps these individuals grow within our community."



Ruth Washer

"The Stevens Center really helps people."



Debbie Lowther

"The Stevens Center is effective in providing personalized support to individuals with developmental disabilities, so they live more fulfilling lives."



Stepping Stones fills void

Zach and I became first-time parents when James was born on March 31, 2013. We were fortunate enough that Zach's job allowed him to work from home full time, so he was able to care for our son.

When James was a year old, he was diagnosed with a speech delay, so we started teaching and learning sign language. Zach was also offered a better job, which meant he would no longer work

from home. My parents were able to assist with caring for James while we started looking for childcare, one that would be able to accommodate a non-verbal child.

I had heard great things about Stepping Stones Children's Center, but they were closed when I started looking for childcare. In August 2014, a friend (and former Stepping Stones parent) told me that they were planning on reopening.



(Note: After being closed by its original operators in 2013, Stepping Stones Children's Center was opened by the Stevens Center in 2014 as one of its programs. Stepping Stones Children's Center is a licensed four-star facility

that includes children that are developing at a typical rate, as well as those with diagnosed delays or disabilities.)

That November, my parents were not going to be able to watch James for about two weeks, so I called Stepping Stones,

and was able to send James. The staff was great, they quickly learned the signs James knew and then began teaching him more signs.

James enrolled fulltime at Stepping Stones in January 2015. He was 22 months old and still not talking. When he began speech therapy a month later, his classroom teachers were very enthusiastic about working with his therapist to continue what she worked with him in their sessions. James finally started talking July 2015.

Enrolling our second child, Natalie, this past February was an easy decision. The staff have become more than care providers, they have become family.

As told by Jamie Osborne

**Stepping Stones
Children's Center**



919-708-7866

**1550 KELLY DRIVE
SANFORD, NC 27330**

A SWEET DEAL

Candy company finds **WINNERS** in Sanford area workforce

After his father retired from the family business, Mike Hiera decided to relocate to the south. That is why Boston Fruit Slices now produces handmade candy from a facility in Sanford.

"I was initially looking at another city," Hiera said, "and then I met Bob Joyce, Economic Development Director for SAGA. He helped me compare the cost of real estate, locate an appropriate facility, and offered an incentive package that enticed me to come to Sanford."

"Of course, next I had to find my workforce, which I was building from scratch. I attended a public policy luncheon hosted by the SAGA, and that is where I met Beth Bray."

Beth Bray is the Employment Specialist with the Stevens Center's WINNERS (Worker Initiated Networks for New Employment Relationships) program. She is a liaison between NC Vocational Rehabilitation, job-seekers that have a qualify-



BETH BRAY AND MIKE HIERA

ing barrier to employment, and employers in need of good employees.

"Usually," said Bray, "there is a job in the community for people receiving services through Vocational Rehabilitation, if they really want to work. The key to success is identifying the individual's skills and interests, and then matching those to an employer's needs."

After looking at the job openings, Bray referred

two jobseekers for an interview. Hiera hired Sam to assist with cleaning. He also hired Brittany, as part of the candy-making crew.

"Sam has been a great employee," Hiera shared. "Beth helped us with his initial training, to be sure he understood all the responsibilities. Sam is great at his job. He is meticulous, and willing to help wherever he is directed. After cleaning, he will change into sanitary

attire and finish his shift helping in the factory or warehouse."

"During Brittany's job interview," Hiera continued, "she shared that her goal was to move from production and into a white collar job. We started her on the floor, where she demonstrated tremendous work ethic, and an outstanding positive attitude. When we grew to the point of needing help in the front office, there was no

question but that Brittany would get the job."

"Beth was very good," Brittany said. "She helped me stay focused. I was expected to help look for my own job. I found job possibilities, and filled out applications.

"It only took about a month for us to find work. I could have probably gotten a job on my own, but not the one I wanted. A lot of job seeking is about having connections. Beth opened doors that I probably could not have gotten through on my own."

Hiera agreed. "We have a workforce of about 22 people, and about 200 applications on file. With the support Beth provides, before and after a person is hired, it just made sense to hire a part of my work crew through the WINNERS program.

"Beth also assisted me in completing paperwork for tax credits due to hiring individuals that received assistance through Vocational Rehabilitation. However, the tax credits did not drive the decision to hire; they were only icing on the cake. My decision was based on needing qualified, dependable workers. And that is what Beth has provided."

In 2016, Employment Specialist Beth Bray assisted 19 jobseekers find employment.

Employers can call Beth Bray at 919-776-4048.

Jobseekers for WINNERS come through

- Referral from the Sanford office of NC Vocational Rehabilitation (919-775-2247)
 - Individuals receiving NC Innovations (formerly CAP) supported employment services that are seeking employment in Lee County.
- For information, call 919-776-4048.



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 is 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

One mother was concerned that her eight-year-old daughter, Katie, still could not tie her shoes. Ten-year-old Ken's parent was frustrated that her son would not bathe. Another family was discouraged because when they wanted to eat out, John would only sit quietly when they ate at a single fast food chain.

It is expected that as a child grows he will become more and more independent. And by the time a person turns 18, parents expect that he or she can, more or less, take care of themselves. However, when an individual has a developmental disability, progress toward independence is usually much slower, and total independence is usually out of reach.

NC Innovations, which several years ago replaced CAP services, is a Medicaid-funded program throughout North Carolina. NC Innovations can provide in-home and community-based support to individuals of all ages who have a developmental disability.

Once a person qualifies for services, the individual or their family chooses a service provider. Currently, over forty individuals in Lee, Harnett and Moore Counties receive their services through the Stevens Center.

AVAILABILITY

To receive NC Innovations services, a person must first be qualified through Sandhills Center. For an assessment or more information, families may call Sandhills Center at 800-256-2452.

"Paid staff do not replace the role of the parent," stated Executive Director Roger Bailey. "Rather, staff supplements parent time, absorbing some of the additional responsibilities that are a result of the individual's disability.

"For instance, Katie's mom had been trying to teach her to tie her shoes, but without success. In part, this is because Katie's mom has to

balance the time Katie needs with the needs of the rest of the household, including Katie's three brothers. When staff came in, the staff focused exclusively on the needs of Katie. She could take the time to instruct Katie every time she put her shoes on, without it impacting anyone else. She was there only for Katie. And within months, Katie was tying her shoes independently.

"When it came to bathing, Ken would play a waiting game with his mother. She would have him go into the bathroom, but he would fre-

quently refuse to undress and bathe. After a couple hours she would need to give up, to take care of other responsibilities in the household. When Stevens Center began providing NC Innovations services, the same thing happened, except because the only responsibility staff had was to help Ken, they could wait him out. Ken learned that staying clean is non-negotiable. Now he takes his bath or shower without any prompting.

"John is another success story," Bailey continued. "staff was able to slowly acclimate him to other restaurants, because her time was solely devoted to John. Now John enjoys dining with his family at many different restaurants."

State and federal records document that, on average, it costs less to provide paid supports that help an individual continue to live in a private home—usually their parent's home or their own apartment—than to pay for them to live in a licensed setting such as a group home. More importantly, NC Innovations services provides the support an individual needs to be an active and included part of the community where they live.

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Rather, staff supplements parent time, absorbing some of the additional responsibilities that are a result of the individual's disability."

— Roger Bailey
Executive Director

CONNECTIONS

Supporting individuals with disabilities

Research demonstrates that people are healthier and happier when they have relationships with other people. If an individual has a developmental disability and is not employed, it is easy to be isolated at home. The Connections program alleviates this for some individuals and provides a more typical adult lifestyle.

Elizabeth Colebrook has been the Activities Coordinator of Connections since 2013. She said, "My goal is to keep the participants connected to the community. In addition to supporting participants as they volunteer or are otherwise involved in the community, I also have a steady stream of volunteers and guests come to the Stevens Center."

"A person who has a disability still has so much to give," continued Colebrook. "A big part of my job is helping a person match their skills with a volunteer opportunity in the community."

An example of how the process works occurred with a collaborative project with the Salvation

Army. After reading an article in The Sanford Herald about the Salvation Army, Colebrook invited their local Director, Chris Kelley, to speak to the group about services they provided.

"Afterward, the opportunity to be a bell ringer was presented to the group," said Colebrook. "Those that chose to participate decided to take on the responsibility of covering a day at Piggly Wiggly in Sanford. Some volunteered several times during the campaign.

"The volunteers went alone or with another person. If you have a larger group, it tends to be a distraction to the community; the community tends to focus on the fact that the volunteers have a disability, rather on the fact they are competent volunteers supporting a cause they believe in."

The success of the small-group approach was clear, when a person from Piggly Wiggly wondered why she had seen no one from the Stevens Center participate in bell ringing. She did recall observing participation by another agency,



which brought a larger group of people with disabilities to stand around a single kettle. In contrast, any attention given to Connections participants was not because they had a disability; they were seen by the public as able adults supporting a worthy cause.

The conversation highlighted the benefit of Stevens Center philosophy of supporting individuals with disabilities as respected and included members of the com-

munity. By having people volunteer individually or as a twosome, attention focuses on their role as a giving, involved member of the community rather than on the fact that s/he receives support for the Stevens Center or that s/he has a disability.

To be a guest or regular volunteer with the Connections program, contact Elizabeth Colebrook at 919-776-4048 or connections@stevenscenter.org.



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.

VOLUNTEERS



In 2016, the Stevens Center, not including services provided through Stepping Stones Children's Center:

- **Provided direct support to 335** individuals with disabilities
- **Provided 14,306** units of service (defined as one service to an individual on one day). Of these, 10,593 (74%) were provided in the community.
- **Trained 180** people on disability issues.

In 2016 Stepping Stones Children's Center, a program of the Stevens Center:

- **Provided quality licensed childcare** where about one in seven children have a delay or disability.
- **Provided 6,109** units of childcare service (defined one child in childcare for one day) and 2500 units of speech and occupational therapy.

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 financial 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 - 5 year olds

Activities include arts and crafts, music and motion, story time & more
Thursdays July 6, 13, 20, 27 • 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. \$28 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 10 - August 3 • 8 a.m. - Noon \$130

Spencer's Art Camp for 8 - 12 year olds

Open to children of all abilities. Each class is different, including basic drawing, clay and painting. Each class includes all your tools and supplies.

Classes are limited to 10 students.

Tuesday—July 5, 12, 19, and 26 —9 a.m.—11 a.m.

\$60 for four classes or single classes at \$20 each.

Larry Goins Basketball

Fundamentals for 7 year old and up, grouped by age

Three-day co-ed skill-building clinic

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

Monday through Wednesday, June 27-29 — 8 a.m. to noon

\$25 for this 3-part program

CAMP REGISTRATION FORM

576 Kelly Drive, Sanford 27330

Additional registration forms available at www.stevenscenter.org or call (919) 776-4048

Date _____

Child's Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Street Address and Mailing address _____ City State/Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ Email Address _____

What school does child attend? _____

Age _____ Birth Date and Year _____ Gender: Male Female

Health Information

Personal Physician _____ Telephone (____) _____

In case of emergency, please contact:

Name and relationship Telephone Number _____ (____) _____

Special Medical or Disability Concerns None Please specify: _____

Other information we should know that will help us provide a safe and enjoyable experience for your child: _____

Food allergies: _____

Does your child receive special education services in school? _____

If yes, under what label? _____ (NOTE: This information is kept confidential, but helps us know if we are reaching all of our community—youths with and without disabilities)

My Child's photo may be posted/published in the The Sanford Herald, stevenscenter.org, facebook.com/StevensCenter

with my child's name without my child's name I do not want my child's photo posted/published

I understand and agree to abide by the following liability statement:

I understand that Stevens Center activities have inherent risks and I hereby assume all risks and hazards incident to my participation in all Stevens Center activities. I further waive, release, absolve, indemnify, and agree to hold harmless the Stevens Center, and its employees, organizers, volunteers, supervisors, officers, directors, participants, as well as, all persons transporting participants to activities, from any legal claims, liabilities, damages, and costs for any physical injury or damage to my personal property sustained during the use of the Stevens Center property and/or my participation in Stevens Center activities.

In the event of an injury, I authorize Stevens Center staff and volunteers to provide first aid and appropriate emergency medical care. I accept responsibility for all emergency medical expenses.

Print Name of Child's Legal Representative Signature Date

Please return this form with the registration fee to Stevens Center, 1576 Kelly Drive, Sanford, NC 27330. (Do not mail cash; make checks payable to Stevens Center.) If you need to be considered for financial assistance, call us at (919) 776-4048.

Activity Cost Total

1. _____ \$ _____

2. _____ \$ _____

3. _____ \$ _____



Annual Golf Tournament



at
**Tobacco Road
Golf Club**

**Tuesday,
Aug. 8, 2017**

**Registration
includes:**

- 18 holes of golf with cart
- Beverages
- Hot Chick-fil-A lunch served 12:15- 1:15
- 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****

**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.**

Thanks to our 2016
Platinum Sponsors

FIRST BANK



Mike
& Mary
Robertson



First hole-in-one for
the day on #8 wins
a 2017 vehicle, plus
prizes on each par 3.

