



www.happyhands.org

Happy Hands

Donald W. Reynolds Education Center

8801 S. Garnett Road
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 893-4800 Main
(918) 893-4899 Fax

*To empower children with a hearing loss
or communication disorder to flourish.*

A Christian School For Children With Hearing Loss or Communication Disorders

MY CHRISTMAS BLESSING!

By Laura Jones

Irony gets a bad rap! It almost always has a negative connotation. Well, I am living proof that irony can be a blessing in disguise.

A solid two weeks before my due date and two days before Christmas, I received my gift - my son Manuel. Due to complications after birth, Manuel spent a week in the NICU. While there he failed his newborn hearing screening. Here's the irony...I majored in Deaf Education and am the Deaf Education Teacher for a local school district. Surely Manuel would pass his next hearing screening. I was certain that he was too "busy" fighting for his life in the NICU and just wasn't responding appropriately at the time.

Well, irony won again. At three months of age, Manuel was retested and diagnosed with a moderate to severe bilateral hearing loss. It was shocking news of course, but I had been given a gift from God. He must have known way back in 1989 that my little ironic miracle would join me in Christmas 2008 and so He guided me to the University of Tulsa where I literally fell into the field of Deaf Education. Although I loved my years at TU and love teaching Deaf and Hard

of Hearing children at school, I did not really understand his plan for me until that day in the audiologist's office.

Here I was a sleep-deprived mom of a newborn who did not know which diaper brand was best, when to start feeding rice cereal, how to calm a colicky baby and all the other questions and fears new mothers face. But I could handle this challenge and gift-I already knew sign language. I knew about Happy Hands and Jan Pride and Al Proo. I knew the importance of Total Communication and Deaf Adults as role models. I knew what an IEP was and how to contact Sooner Start. Ironic? Heavens no! I was lucky and I was blessed.



I called Jan Pride almost immediately upon leaving the audiologist and Manuel was placed on a waiting list. At 7 months, he was lucky enough to join the Happy Hands family. I feel so fortunate that my son will grow up with peers and teachers who sign and even wear hearing aids themselves! I can say with complete confidence that Happy Hands will successfully prepare my child when he transitions to 1st grade.

Some might say "Isn't it ironic?" I say, "Isn't God amazing?"

Grand Opening Report

God be Praised! What a wonderful week! A parade of people near and dear to us, as well as new friends, were able to enjoy God's blessings, and be refreshed with hope and food/drink! Over 550 visitors were in the building during the 6 events held during our Grand Opening Week. We were able to share our story and God's faithfulness with many new people who are being drawn to our ministry.

We are especially pleased that the media gave great attention to us, and we were able to

highlight so many of our wonderful teachers in the media stories! You can see all the video and print stories on our website www.happyhands.org, on the home page under "Making an IMPACT".



If you missed the Grand Opening, don't despair! You have not missed your opportunity to see our amazing children and our unique facility! Tours are available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11am to 1pm.

Other times available on request. Please call ahead and let us know you are coming.

Contact Darla Otto at 918-893-4811 or email Darla@happyhands.org.

GOLF TOURNAMENT SUCCESS!

Good News! The Golf Tournament exceeded our expectations! We had a 31% net profit increase and a 33% player increase over the previous year! God gave us favor with golfers, sponsors, and the weather! Many thanks to all the volunteers and staff who worked so hard all summer and during the event to make this tournament a success!



VENUE CHANGE FOR 2011! Our next golf tournament will be hosted by Golf Club of Oklahoma, ranked as one of the top four golf courses in Oklahoma by Golf Digest! We are set to tee off on Monday, September 26, 2011! Mark your calendars now and save the date!



DIRECT FROM HOLLYWOOD!

2011 Benefit Dinner & Auction – Saturday, March 19, 2011 @ NSU, BA. This year we are adding some "glitz and glam" to our event and laying out the red carpet for all of our guests! We are also excited to be adding a LIVE AUCTION to our benefit, sure to offer some impressive items and fun. Contact Christina Treat to discuss sponsorship opportunities or to purchase your tickets to this event! You won't want to miss it! Christina@happyhands.org or 918-893-4812

Remembering...Mike Nash

All of us at Happy Hands are saddened by the passing of a long term supporter and board member, Michael Nash. Mike passed away October 31, 2010 after a difficult battle with Cancer. He was highly involved and deeply committed to the vision and mission of Happy Hands. We will certainly miss him. Our heartfelt prayers go to his family.

We are happy to be adding an **“About Me”** section in our Happy Talk to introduce you to our Administration and Staff. This month – we will meet...

Darla Otto – Development Director



Greetings and blessings to the Happy Hands extended family! I am Darla Otto, the new Development Director, and I had a great time meeting many of you at our Grand Opening events in September. For those of you who have not yet had a chance to see our children learning in this new, state of the art facility, call me and I would love to give you a private tour! Let me share a little about myself and my family... my husband Pat, son Philip, 23 years, and daughter Jacqueline, 20 years. I have always had a heart for special needs children, volunteering with Special Olympics even before Philip was born with Down Syndrome and communication issues related to developmental delay. As a business woman, I have had the opportunity to volunteer in three states with causes that improve the life of disabled individuals, including serving as a Governor's appointment to the Arizona Interagency Coordinating Council, being the Director of the disability ministry at my church, and

being a founding member of the Diversity Task Force for the Dial Corporation, a Fortune 500 company.

We moved to Tulsa in 2000 and love it here! Tulsa has been a great blessing to my family, and I am thrilled to find such a unique facility as Happy Hands. I have been a financial and prayer supporter of Happy Hands and firmly believe in the mission of preparing children with hearing loss or communication disorders for the first grade by equipping them with language skills so they can be literate. As we grow our services to fulfill the vision of this magnificent facility, we are committed to always keep our service to the children as the first and highest priority. Our new facility will allow us to embrace their families and the community in a new and better way, so watch for our continuing schedule of classes and seminars which are open to the public. Also, watch for our name in the media and in community businesses, as we are expanding our presence through partnerships with local businesses and organizations, more FUNdraising events to appeal to a wider range of interests, our monthly Supper Club hosted by our restaurant partners, and much more.

As part of the Happy Hands family, you are already a partner, so please introduce us to your friends and co-workers so they can see for themselves this world-class service found right in the heart of Oklahoma and we can find ways to partner with them to improve the lives of children in our community. I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events!

HOLIDAY SHOPPING MADE EASY!

Wanting to buy a unique Christmas gift this year, but you aren't sure where to look? Well look no further! We have special gifts for you to purchase right here at Happy Hands, sure to impress and delight! Take a look!

“God's Timing” - The inspirational story about Al Proo, Founder and Executive Director of Happy Hands Education Center, who was moved by the Lord to serve children with a hearing loss or communication disorder and their families. A must read and perfect stocking stuffer! \$19.99

Sign Language Calendars – A unique gift idea, these calendars can be used year after year! They contain undated months and over 150 signs! A special gift for anyone on your list! \$19.99

2011 Benefit Dinner & Auction Tickets – These tickets would be a wonderful gift for any person on your list! A thoughtful way to treat family or friends while supporting Happy Hands!

Contact Christina Treat @ 918-893-4812 or Christina@happyhands.org Tickets are \$45.00 each.



Happy Hands Education Center, Inc.

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Non-Profit Org.
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PAID
Tulsa, OK
Permit No. 1957

Mission:

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The Twelve Wish List Items for Christmas

- 1st Day – Paper Towels
- 2nd Day – Christmas CDs
- 3rd Day – Red, Green, and White construction paper
- 4th Day – Small Christmas trees for the classrooms,
3 foot tall (qty 7)
- 5th Day – Christmas stickers and craft items
- 6th Day – Gift cards to Mardel's
- 7th Day – Hand Soap
- 8th Day – Individually wrapped Christmas snacks
(Little Debbie cakes, etc.)
- 9th Day – Gift cards to The Apple Tree
- 10th Day – Postage Stamps
- 11th Day – Board Books for Children
- 12th Day – One month's tuition for a special child
at Happy Hands (\$550)



Help Us "Go Green"!

In an effort to "go green" and save some green, we would like to send you Happy Talk electronically. Please send your email address to Darla Otto at Darla@happyhands.org to be added to our growing list of on-line readers!

Board of Directors

Amanda Folsom Wander – President
Lisa Adams
Beth Wasson
Michael Kindschi
Dr. Christee Jenlink
Josh Reynolds

Executive Director

Al Proo

Director

Jan Pride

Development Director

Darla Otto

*We welcome Mr. Ted Miller and
Ms. Stephanie Manning to our
Board of Directors!*

Check out our Website!

Visit the newly updated Happy Hands website at www.happyhands.org! We have made some changes that we think you will enjoy! You can also access various volunteer and parent forms through our website now, as well as see photo galleries of our amazing children and staff!