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www.happyhands.org

Happy Hands

Nonald W. Reynolds Education Center

4401 E. Garner Road
Broken Arrow, OK 74011
(918) 893-4800 Main
(918) 893-4800 Fax

Employment limited with a hearing loss
All communication through a teacher

A Christian School For Children With Hearing Loss or Communication Disorders

JAMES MICHAEL JOHNSON



On November 17, 1999 I received the greatest blessing of my life. James Michael Johnson was born at 32 weeks gestation with gastroschisis, which is a condition where the abdomen does not close, much like spina bifida and cleft palette.

He had numerous surgeries during the five months he lived in the EOPC unit at St Francis. After one of these surgeries, a ventilator tube contained bacteria which caused a very serious infection. It was necessary to give permission for treatment with a particularly strong medication and sign a waiver for possible side effects including hearing loss. It is likely this medication is what caused nerve damage to both of his ears.

At about one year of age, Michael was not walking, did not startle at sudden sounds and had stopped any attempt at baby talk so we knew something was not right. His hearing was tested and tubes were inserted. It was determined he had over a 50% bilateral hearing loss.

At the age of twenty months we enrolled him at Oklahoma School for the Deaf Preschool where he remained until kindergarten. OSD is not a year round program but we learned of Happy Hands for assistance with summer care on a part-time basis. Michael learned to sign before he learned to speak and because of his new ability to communicate we saw a confident, happy child emerge from the angry frustrated child he had become. He is now fluent in English and is mainstreamed in the 4th grade in a public school system, but he has that second language of American Sign Language.

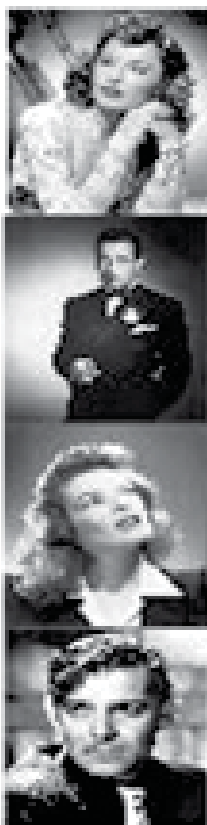
Michael has spent every summer at Happy Hands where he has always received excellent care and encouragement. I don't know what we would have done especially in the early years when regular daycare would not have been adequate. Today we still utilize Happy Hands for after school and summer care because we know Ms. Jan and the teachers understand children with hearing loss and their special needs.

We thank God for the tremendous blessing Happy Hands has been to our family.

Amy Johnson

HAPPY HANDS AFTER SCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAM

Happy Hands offers a unique program for elementary aged deaf and hard of hearing children after school and during summer break. Here children can continue to receive language rich activities, reading help, and "community" all with a spiritual emphasis. They also have computer games, a Wii, Smartboard activities, gym time, and much more to stretch their minds and muscles! Happy Hands provides bus transportation to Wright Elementary in Tulsa Public Schools where the TPS deaf education program is housed and accepts other children who have transportation provided by their district or privately. For more information or enrollment, call 918-893-4800.



Save the Date: March 19, 2011

Direct from

HOLLYWOOD

HAPPY HANDS

2011 Charity Benefit & Auction

Northeastern State University
3100 E New Orleans, Broken Arrow
Building A 6:00-9:00 pm

Please join us as we “lay out the red carpet” for this exciting event! Join us for a gourmet dinner buffet, live music, silent auction, and LIVE auction sure to impress and entertain! Let’s come together and make this benefit a fundraising success for the amazing children of Happy Hands! All proceeds raised help support our students and families by providing them with scholarship assistance as well as speech and language therapy.

Please help make a difference in the life of a Happy Hands child and join us for a “night among the stars”.

We hope to see you on the red carpet!

*Business/Semi-formal attire

*Purchase tickets on-line at www.happyhands.org or
call Christina Treat @ 918-893-4812, Christina@happyhands.org

*Sponsorships available from \$10,000 to \$500! Sponsor the event, or a table.
Your donation is helping a child!

*Biggest fundraising effort of the year!



Mark your calendars!

On May 7th & 8th Happy Hands is teaming up with the
Tulsa Wind Riders Club for the 2011, 18th Annual Festival of Kites!



The Festival of Kites is an 18 year tradition in Tulsa, held at 43rd Street and South Garnett Road. The Tulsa Wind Riders Kite Club has graciously offered to make this year’s festival a benefit for Happy Hands! Bring your family and friends for two exciting days of Professional kite flying, Fighter kite demonstrations, Kite making for kids, and a showcase of local businesses and vendors. There is no admission or registration fee! Make this a Mother’s Day to remember and join us for some community fun!

10am-5pm Saturday & Sunday

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...

Nicole Gonzales – Operations Director

Children are perfect examples of what it means to come to Jesus with simple child-like faith. Every morning as I walk through the doors at Happy Hands, I feel surrounded by a host of little cherubs and I count my blessings.

I was born in Tulsa and attended the University of Tulsa. My husband, John and I have three beautiful children- Jessica (24), John (21) and James (17). My background in operational management began when I was first asked to develop a national recruiting and training process for a large insurance and investment firm. The initiatives gained national attention and the current policies are modeled after those early efforts. At 27, it seemed a natural progression to open my own business, Gold Coast Coffee Roasting Company. I found the challenge exhilarating! The company grew into five divisions, with sales in 52 states, international supply lines and 45 employees.

After running the operation for 11 years, I sold the business and was hired to run operations and recruiting with a large financial firm. This caught the eye of another large financial operation and I was offered the Director of Operations position and to be a member of a Strategic Planning Leadership team. My responsibilities included developing the training and

marketing program for five states, three core offices and several off-site operations. While the challenge of managing operations at these firms was challenging, I realized that the Lord had other work in store for me. My husband and I had noticed the new Happy Hands building being erected and not really knowing what it was I felt called to apply for a position. I had the opportunity to meet Al Proo and the Directors and tour the new facility. I was very moved by these special children and the mission of Happy Hands. I was inspired and amazed by these beautiful children and I hoped that my background would lend itself to the daily operations and the vision of this ministry. Fortunately, I was offered the position! I am now a part of our mission;

To empower children with hearing loss and communicative disorders to flourish.

and I welcome the opportunity to support these amazing teachers by providing accounting, budgeting, human resources and facility operations services.

Each day I marvel at our teachers who share joy, warmth, and dedication that clearly demonstrate their calling. Ephesians 4:11 tells us that Christ, in His grace, gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors, and some teachers, “...to prepare God’s people for works of service.” All of the staff at Happy Hands have a special, God-given gift to build up the body of Christ and to prepare His “little ones” for life. I am truly blessed to be a part of Happy Hands.

IRA Holders Can Still Make 2010 Charitable Distributions

Persons aged 70½ or older can again enjoy tax savings by making charitable gifts directly from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), thanks to a provision of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010, which was signed into law December 17, 2010. The act also allows charitable distributions made from an IRA in January 2011 to be declared as 2010 gifts, should the IRA holder wish to do so. Please contact Darla Otto for more details on qualifying donations.

Shop at Target

When you shop at Target with your Target Red Card, Target will donate 1% of your purchase back to the school of your choice. Designate Happy Hands as your choice school when you apply for your Target Red Card. **Go to www.target.com.**



Happy Hands Education Center, Inc.

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Broken Arrow, OK 74012
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Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tulsa, OK
Permit No. 1957

Mission:

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

Wish List Items

- Paper Towels
- Hand Soap
- Postage Stamps
- Post Card Stamps
- Board Books for Children
- Gift Cards to The Apple Tree
- Classroom Stickers

WE RECYCLE!

If you have any of the following, please drop them off at Happy Hands in the lobby. This is a year round fundraiser!
Thank you!

- Old Cell Phones (no accessories)
- Printer Ink Cartridges
- Copy Machine Ink Cartridges



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
- Stephanie Manning
- Ted Miller

Executive Director

Al Proo

Director

Jan Pride

Development Director

Darla Otto

Operations Director

Nicole Gonzales

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!