



www.happyhands.org

Happy Hands

Donald W. Reynolds Education Center

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

A Christian School For Children With Hearing Loss or Communication Disorders

The Story of Booker

On November 26, 2009, we welcomed our second child, Booker, into our family. The pregnancy had seemed to go well, but we were completely caught off guard when our new little boy was taken to Neonatal ICU just hours after birth. He was there for 8 days. He was not eating well, he was not breathing well. Tests showed possible heart issues. He failed his hearing screenings. Breastfeeding Booker was a struggle and Booker was unable to gain strength; the tough compromise was made at the doctor's insistence to supplement with bottle feeding. When bottle feeding did not seem to be working, the nurses placed a feeding tube down Bookers throat. These 8 days were the longest of our lives. Eventually Booker seemed to stabilize, and we took him home.



Our first child Bella was the easiest baby. Booker was nothing like Bella. He was lethargic, cranky, he cried all the time. He seemed to wake up every hour. He sometimes had as many as 12 dirty diapers a day. At nine months of age he was far below his age group on the growth charts in every area, was being tested for heart problems, and he was being fitted for hearing aids due to his hearing problems. It was the Nurse Practitioner at our pediatrician's office who first mentioned testing Booker for Schwachmann Diamond Syndrome, a rare genetic autosomal recessive disorder that affects only about one in 75,000 children. SDS causes pancreatic insufficiency, bone deformities, and blood and bone marrow abnormalities. Booker's pancreas was not producing enough enzymes to digest the fats he was eating, hence 12 dirty diapers a day and no growth. The initial and easiest treatment for SDS

was to supplement Booker's meals with pancreatic enzymes in a pill form. Booker gained 5 pounds in the first month of his new treatment and we seemed to be gaining ground for the first time in his life. Booker has a hard time fighting off infection and bruises easily. The most serious aspect of SDS is Bone Marrow insufficiency. For the rest of his life Booker will need annual bone marrow biopsies. Our prayers were answered when Booker's recent biopsy, his second, came back normal.

When you are going through things like this as a parent, the things you remember most are the big breakthroughs, or help that you receive along the way. For us, Happy Hands was a big breakthrough. When Booker started Happy Hands in June 2010 it was such a relief. His previous preschool would not give him his medication and made us come to the facility to give him his medication. We were dealing with this new diagnosis and all it entailed, and we weren't sure how to tackle his hearing loss too. It turns out that his hearing loss is completely unrelated to his other issues, but it is just one more hurdle for our little man to jump. It is nice to have people who are experts with his hearing loss and language development. It was also a relief to know that our daughter, Bella, could attend school with her brother. Happy Hands was the answer to so many of our prayers. We were struggling to find an environment we felt confident leaving our children in. We found what we needed at Happy Hands.

Booker is living with a life threatening illness, but the sufferings we are now facing are nothing compared to the great glory that will be shown to us.

- Tom and Alexis Dahlman



MISSION:

1000 hands – 1000 hearts is an initiative designed to bring our community together to better provide opportunities for families affected by hearing loss and communication disorders. Happy Hands Education Center is seeking 1000 Hands to change 1000 Hearts. The funds will be used for providing education, counsel, therapy, and hope. Our goal is to serve the children and families of Happy Hands, as well as our community. Funds we raise will not only provide scholarship assistance and language therapy, but will also provide educational seminars on hearing loss and communication disorders free to the public.

Our goal is to find 1000 Hands to help by donating \$25 a month. Your gift will help impact 1000 Hearts of the families and children in our community affected by hearing loss and communication disorders.

We're asking that you join our mission!

LEND A HAND – PROVIDE HOPE – CHANGE A HEART

You can join today by signing up on our website, www.happyhands.org. Contact Christina Treat for further details or questions. 918-893-4812/ Christina@happyhands.org. "LIKE" us on Facebook!

Come Join Us For the 6th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Monday, September 26th

@ Golf Club of Oklahoma

8 a.m./1:30 p.m. shotgun starts

We hope to see you on the course! 100% of net proceeds benefit the children of Happy Hands by providing them with scholarship opportunities and speech therapy.

Sponsorships available! Flights are filling up so be sure to visit our website and register @ www.happyhands.org. Contact Christina Treat for further information regarding registration or sponsorship opportunities.



**Holes
fore
Happy
Hands**

New School Year...New Date for the Auction and Dinner!

Can you believe we are starting our 18th year serving children with loss communication disorders in the Tulsa area? We are growing and expanding our ability to reach children and families all the time...and we are also growing and updating our calendar of FUN-raising events. I am thrilled to let you know that our annual Silent Auction even has grown and changed and will now become 2 events to provide a better range of experiences for you, our supporters. Let me introduce our NEW Happy Holidays and Happy Hands Dinner and Silent Auction which will be held Saturday, November 12 from 6-8pm. Get a start on your holiday shopping and know that all of your money is going to provide educational opportunity to children 6 years and younger, to gain the academic and social skills they need to be successful in school and beyond. We will have gift baskets ready to put under the tree, gift cards, and even holiday greeting cards showcasing our wonderful children. Come casual or come in your favorite holiday clothes...just don't miss this chance to shop early and avoid the rush. Tickets are \$20/person and can be purchased on-line beginning October 1st on our website www.happyhands.org.

GET TO KNOW...Jan Pride

I've heard the metaphor that life is like a tapestry. The view we often see of life is like the backside of a tapestry; a jumble of threads and colors, lots of knots and frayed ends. It's hard to see any pattern or beauty. It doesn't make



any sense. But at some point enough of the tapestry is completed that when you turn it over and view the front side, you see the beauty, the plan, the whole picture. It's now in my life that I often get glimpses of the top side of the tapestry and its beauty. I know God has weaved a plan all through my life to create His perfect tapestry.

I am a native of Tulsa but grew up moving every two or three years because of my father's work. I've lived in Oklahoma, New York, California, Florida, and Saudi Arabia. I attended 9 different schools in twelve years, but Tulsa was always "home". I had the opportunity one summer as a young teen to volunteer at The Little Light House, which was a brand new school in Tulsa for children with special needs. That experience led me to choose special needs education as a career. I attended The University of Tulsa, graduating with a degree in Deaf Education in 1981.

I taught high school deaf students in Tulsa Public Schools before becoming a mother and staying home for a couple of years. I returned to teaching in Jenks Public Schools and started their deaf education program serving students in all grade levels on 4 different campuses. I was also the deaf education consultant for Beggs Public Schools and Sapulpa Public Schools and a Parent Advisor to families with deaf preschoolers through Project ECCO.

In 1996 I was called to apply to Happy Hands as the Program Director – and after much prayer and consideration, I TURNED THE JOB DOWN! God's timing seemed different from mine and His indescribable peace was just not there. For some reason I was to remain at the public school one more year. In 1997 I was offered the position at Happy Hands again and the timing was right and His peace was very evident. I have been at Happy Hands in the position of Director for over 14 years and He has weaved an amazing tapestry full of color, some knots, and even some frayed ends to create a beautiful and rich picture of His miracles, His faithfulness, and His perfect plan. I never could have imagined the wonderful and miraculous things God would allow me to be a part of through such a place as

Happy Hands. I am more than blessed to be a part of the lives of the children we serve at Happy Hands. And I am more than blessed by God's amazing provision for this ministry!

I am married to a wonderful man, Mike Pride, who is a teacher at Jenks High School. We have three children, Maggie, Mark, and Michelle; a wonderful son-in-law, Josh, and the light of our lives these days is our granddaughter, Hannah! We attend Highland Park Christian Church in Tulsa, which for 13 years was the host facility for Happy Hands. I am currently a distance education student at Southwestern Assemblies of God University and will complete my Masters degree in Early Education Administration in May 2012.

We give thanks to our volunteers. Meet Linda...

Hello, my name is Linda Richmond and I have been volunteering for Happy Hands since 2002. Happy Hands was still in the house behind Highland Park Church. We shared the playground with them. I started as just a volunteer then Jan was talking about needing substitutes one day and I advised her I had my associates so I then became a volunteer/sub. I truly enjoy sign language and think it is something that everyone should be familiar with. I enjoy the Happy Hands family and all the kids. You learn a lot about yourself when you are working with children. You find you are either a patient person or one that doesn't like silliness. Sometimes you have to be silly with the kids let them know you are a person too and you like to have fun. I also find that if I am asking a child to say please and thank you then I should do the same. So when I am asking a child to do something for me I really try to remember to say please and thank you to be a role model.

I have seen several children grow up and leave Happy Hands and some that moved away. It was so hard to see some of them move away because you wonder if they are going to get the help and attention they need. I enjoy being a volunteer because it helps me feel I am contributing something to a better cause. It is so interesting to work with each teacher and see their different skills and ways of doing things. Each class is so special and each child has such different needs to be met.

Happy Hands has really filled a spot in my heart for the Deaf. I have always enjoyed sign language from the age of 10. I think it is a beautiful language and I feel that they do more for me than I do for them by having the opportunity to be with Deaf kids and adults to help me with my signing. My goal is to be an interpreter some day. I am glad to witness Happy Hands as they continue to grow with new children each year. They bless me every time I go there.