



Summer 2009

Kinetic Kids

Brought to you by Kinetic Kids, Inc.

A non-profit organization providing sports and recreation activities
for children with special needs

Sport and Recreation for All Abilities.

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OUR SPOTLIGHT STAR OF THE SUMMER: MAURICIO ESNAYRA

In April 2008, our family survived one of the worst tragedies that a family can go through. Our son, Mauricio experienced a Traumatic Brain Injury after being hit by a car in El Paso, Texas. After 3 weeks in a coma, Mauricio was transferred to San Antonio for his rehabilitation. After six weeks in the hospital, Mauricio learned to do a lot of things with the help of occupational, speech and physical therapy. Immediately, we became dedicated to finding new opportunities for Mauricio and fortunately came to know of the Kinetic Kids program. He slowly started to become involved in numerous recreational activities such as: t-ball, dance, gymnastics, flag football, and swimming.

Kinetic Kids programs have allowed Mauricio to not only learn, but also enjoy the many activities that otherwise may not have been possible. Because of KINETIC KIDS, special needs children are able to enjoy so many opportunities, and parents are able to find strength in seeing their child's happiness.

Mauricio is now a happy 5 year old boy who always has a huge smile for everyone to see, demonstrating his internal and external determination to keep going day by day. He has plenty of faith and hope, and we give thanks to God for every accomplishment. We are also thankful for his brothers, who have been a fundamental part of his recovery and have supported him since the first day of the accident. Mauricio continues with his outpatient therapies and is making great progress. He is now able to walk in a walker, is attending school and enjoying many recreational activities.

Thank You, KINETIC KIDS and all your volunteers, for giving Mauricio the opportunity to enjoy and learn new skills. You have all of my respect and gratitude. Continue on, we need you.

Sincerely, Lorena Esnayra

A Huge



to
**Methodist
Healthcare
System
for
Printing
our
Summer
Newsletter!**



Our Kinetic Kids competitive gymnastics team, Above & Beyond, had a busy Spring! Not only did we host our 2nd Annual Kinetic Kids Gymnastics Invitational, but we had an opportunity to participate in 4 different Special Olympics competitions throughout Texas. At every event, our kids won many medals, but also won the hearts of many fans who saw just how special and talented our Kinetic Kids gymnasts are!!





Kinetic Kids' 5th annual "Try it Before you Buy it" event was a fantastically fun fiesta!



Kinetic Kids geared up for the 5th annual Try It Before You Buy It Event on April 24th, 2009. This event gave families the opportunity to learn more about medical equipment in a fun atmosphere where kids could play while families sought out product information. The event was held at University United Methodist Church and featured local vendors and national manufacturers of adaptive equipment, toys and orthotics displaying their products for children with special needs. Kinetic Kids' goal is to provide families the opportunity to not only view but to try out a variety of equipment. Equipment displayed at the event included wheelchairs, bathing aides, walkers, adaptive tricycles, go-carts, orthotics, toys, accessible vans, and other therapeutic equipment. Also present were community resources and nonprofit resource tables that provide services to the special needs population.



While families were discussing equipment options with representatives from different companies, kids were creating their own artwork by decorating "wheels of all kinds" for our ever popular "Parade on Wheels". Streamers, flags, and smiles were everywhere as the children paraded throughout the gym. Kinetic Kids' Music class and Gymnasts performed and gave the audience a wonderful show.



A huge thanks to KENS 5 Weatherman, Bill Taylor, who MC'd the event and did a great job to ensure everyone had fun while learning!

Kinetic Kids would like to thank our wonderful volunteers and committee members, who were all essential to our success!!

Thank You to our 2009 vendors, manufacturers, and community & nonprofit resources:

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Texas Health Steps and STAR Program
Respite Care of San Antonio
The Saddle Light Center for
Therapeutic Horsemanship





It's All About the Bike!

Kinetic Kids learn to ride a bike in one week!

Lose the Training Wheels is a national bike program that provides adaptive bikes to help kids learn to ride. Kinetic Kids is host to this great camp!

In August 2007, Kinetic Kids hosted its first bike camp to teach kids with special needs to ride a bike. Since that time, over 100 kids have fulfilled their dream of riding a two wheeled bike! The basis of the Lose the Training Wheels program is using adapted bikes with custom designed rollers in place of the back tire. This teaches children to balance, pedal, steer, and ultimately ride a bike. Success rates for children participating in the camp is 80-100%. Ideal candidates are at least 8 years of age and have some experience pedaling a bike of some sort. Furthermore, it is ideal to expect family members to be ready to carry over with bike riding once the camp is over. The camp is appropriate for children with both physical and cognitive limitations, however, participants need to be able to walk by themselves (no a/d) as their primary mobility and have the personal desire to ride a bike.

Our February 2009 bike camp enrolled 16 eager participants who enjoyed their training with Kinetic Kids at St. George Maronite Church. Thank you to Fernando Fernandez and the entire staff at St. George Maronite who DONATED their fabulous gym facility to us for that week.

Thanks to our past volunteers from the community (Valero, National Charity League, Rackspace, UTHSC PT program, UTSA, UT medical students and residents, and many more) who tirelessly walked, jogged, and motivated the kids throughout the week.

How To Register:

If you are interested in your child participating in this amazing opportunity, please call 748-5867 or email tracey.kinetickids@sbcglobal.net.

Camp Dates: August 10-14th, 2009.

Location: United Methodist Church.

Please visit www.kinetickidstx.org for more info.

How to Volunteer:

We need excited volunteers to help August 10-14th. Shifts range from 75 minutes to 4 hours per day! Call (210)748-5866 for information about volunteering at the bike camp.



Meet Mollie

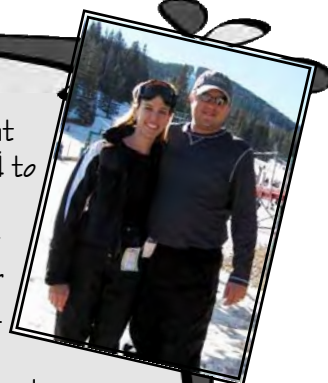
Mollie Cullinane has loved working with Kinetic Kids for the past 4 ½ years, assisting with development and fundraising. Through development work, Mollie has helped Kinetic Kids' revenue grow from \$83,000 in 2004 to more than \$460,000 in 2008. "I am so honored to be a part of Kinetic Kids!" Mollie says. "When I met Tracey and Kacey in 2004, I immediately admired their vision and the mission of the organization. It has been a joy for me to set up a development plan and to see the programs grow and flourish.

I am thrilled to be an advocate for Kinetic Kids."

Mollie and her husband Jeff have traveled the past two winters to Ruidoso, New Mexico's Ski Apache for the Kinetic Kids' Adapted Ski Program. "Jeff and I have both had a blast skiing the slopes at Ski Apache," says Mollie. But the real fun comes from seeing the happiness on the participant's faces when they ski down the slopes for the first time!"

Mollie has worked exclusively with nonprofit organizations in a variety of capacities since becoming an attorney in 2001. "I feel real satisfaction from helping nonprofit leaders and founders realize their vision. I have worked with many nonprofit organizations, but by far my most fulfilling professional relationship has been with Kinetic Kids.

I am Kinetic Kids' biggest fan!"





Cooling Off with Kinetic Kids Ski Apache 2009

Kinetic Kids would like to say a big THANK YOU to the Ski Apache Adaptive Ski Program for another amazing Snow Skiing experience!! Kinetic Kids staff and families traveled to Ruidoso, New Mexico in March for 3 days to visit the Ski Apache Adaptive Program. Eight very excited children with special needs experienced snow skiing using adaptive equipment including sit skis, walker skis, and other special devices. The instructors were amazing and everyone had an unforgettable time!! If you would like more information on Ski Apache Adaptive Program, visit skiapache.com or call (505)336-4416.



Wyatt Struxness

**NEVER quit!
NEVER stop!
NEVER Give up!**



ENDEAVOR GAMES 2009

What is the Endeavor Games all about?

*"The gun goes off, BANG, and you run as fast as you can!"
says Samuel DeRousse, first time Endeavor Games Athlete.*

Diana Neal, 2nd year veteran to the Endeavor Games says: "It's a great place to meet new friends my age and they encourage me to do my best!"

KINETIC KIDS ATHLETES TRAVELED TO EDMOND, OKLAHOMA JUNE 11-14 ALONG WITH COACHES SCOTT LEBLANC AND KACEY WERNLI TO COMPETE IN TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS, WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL, AND SWIMMING.



Gabriel Donias

Coach Scott LeBlanc - *"Our first time athletes trained and worked very hard to establish their personal best in each of the events they competed in. Many of our veteran athletes beat their personal bests this year! I am proud of the determination and fight that each of our athletes showed this year!"*



Diana Neal

**KINETIC KIDS BROUGHT
HOME OVER
30 GOLD MEDALS AND
5 SILVER MEDALS.**

Coach Kacey Wernli summed up the Endeavor Games, *"I am so proud of every athlete who pushes themselves to be the best he or she can be! They fight everyday to overcome physical challenges and this weekend showed all of us what hard work, determination, and courage can do!"*



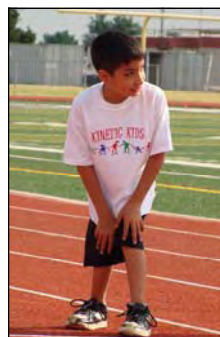
Cody Martindale



Samuel DeRousse



Daniel Velasquez



Paul Gonzalez



KEEP DANCING

*A message from longtime Kinetic Kids dance instructor
Rebecca Greebon, PT*



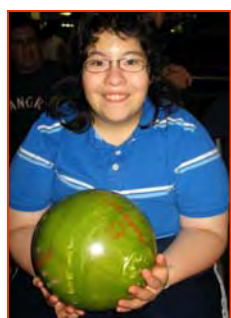
After a fantastic, fun, unbelievable time as the Kinetic Kids dance teacher, I'm hanging up my hat. With baby #3 on the way, even I have realized that my plate runneth over a bit too much. This season has been more emotional than usual for me (and not just due to hormones), so if you'll indulge me for just a minute, I want to take this opportunity to let you all know just how amazing you and your families are.

When Tracey and Kacey approached me with the idea for this program six years ago, I was thrilled with the chance to combine the two loves of my heart - dance and these oh-so-special kids. I knew it would be a phenomenal time. I had no idea just how life-changing it would prove. You brought your kids, shared them and their stories, and allowed me to be part of your world outside the therapy realm. To exist with you in a procedure-free time of music and creativity. We have laughed together, cried together, formed new friendships, and enjoyed triumphs (from choreography sleepovers to school shows to homecoming queens). I can never fully explain how much I have grown, how you've filled my heart and all the memories we've created together. Thank you for everything. You and your children brought so much color into my life - and I am a better person for it. May you all keep dancing, even if no one else hears the music.

With love and gratitude,



Miss Rebecca

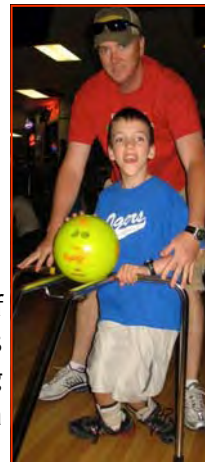


We put the FUN in Fundraising! Kinetic Kids of all ages and their families enjoyed a fun day of bowling during the Kinetic Kids Bowl-a-thon in April 2009.

The event helped Kinetic Kids families and the community to raise over \$2,500 for Kinetic Kids through Birdies for Charity. Birdies for Charity is a yearly fundraising program that is centered around the PGA Tour event, May 11-17th, during the Valero Texas Open in San Antonio. By raising such a significant amount of money, Kinetic Kids also qualified for the Top 54 Bonus Bucks program. This program enabled Kinetic Kids to be represented by an amateur team playing in the Oak Farms Dairy Charity Pro-Am and raised an additional \$1,575 on Kinetic Kids' behalf.

Kinetic Kids would like to thank all the families who participated and Physical Rehabilitation Institute and South Texas Blood and Tissue Center for making this event a success through their support and participation!

Look for the Kinetic Kids Bowl-a-thon next spring so you and your family can be part of this EXCITING family event while supporting Kinetic Kids!



PLEASE HELP KINETIC KIDS!

Families pay approximately \$65 for their child to participate in Kinetic Kids' classes. Do you know the *real cost per class per child*? It's \$250! That amount includes expenses for equipment, instructors, rental space, insurance, class administration, and more. Kinetic Kids discounts each class by at least \$185 to keep it affordable to all families and children with special needs.

In the past, Kinetic Kids has made up this \$185 difference per child per class by raising funds from outside donors and special fundraising events. But foundation and corporate gifts are much smaller this year, due to a weakened economy. Kinetic Kids needs your help!

Kinetic Kids needs to raise \$500,000 this year to run year-round sports and recreation programs for 1,260 children. Please help by making a tax-deductible donation to Kinetic Kids today. One way to donate is by going to the First Giving website where you can make a secure online credit card donation to Kinetic Kids:

www.firstgiving.com:80/kinetickids.

Thank you for helping kids of all abilities to enjoy sports and recreation programs this summer!



COME JOIN US FOR KINETIC KIDS 2ND ANNUAL COURT OF DREAMS

Friday, July 17th at the AT&T Center.

This is a terrific opportunity for Kinetic Kids and their families to experience basketball in a whole new way!

1-4pm: behind-the-scenes tour of the AT&T Center including Spurs and Silver Stars locker rooms & playing basketball on the AT&T Center's court.

7:00pm: Silver Stars vs. Connecticut Suns game seating is lower level seats at the AT&T Center & ticket includes a hot dog, chips, and soda during the game. Ticket price: \$20 per person.



Contact: Ginger at: 210-857-5797 or email ggmccullough@yahoo.com



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Pearl Stable**

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HOW TO CONTACT KINETIC KIDS

Kinetic Kids Inc.P.O. Box 690993 San Antonio, TX 78269
visit : www.kinetickidstx.org

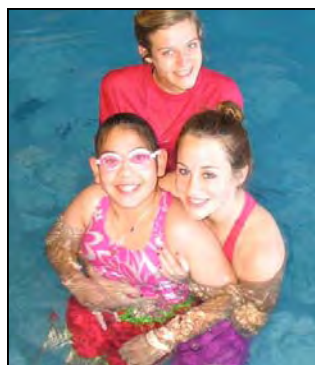
For Program Information:

Tracey Fontenot tracey.kinetickids@sbcglobal.net 210-748-5867
or Kacey Wernli: kc.wernli@sbcglobal.net 210-748-5866

Volunteer Information: volunteer@kinetickidstx.org 210-857-5797



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Kinetic Kids thanks all of our Stars!!

Our goals and dreams for enriching the lives of children with disabilities is made possible from our generous donors and supporters throughout the year. We are able to achieve such great results because of people like you. Thank you.

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