



# KINETIC KIDS

SUMMER 2012 NEWSLETTER

## LOCAL ROYALTY: KINETIC KID MARIAH KILBOURNE COMPETING FOR THE CROWN

Have you seen this royalty around town? Kinetic Kids veteran, Mariah Kilbourne was crowned Ms. Wheelchair Texas this past March. As part of Ms. Wheelchair Texas 2012, Mariah has been traveling the great state of Texas serving as a spokesperson for those with disabilities. Mariah says, "Ms. Wheelchair Texas is about the opportunity to encourage yourself and others to embrace your (dis)ABILITIES, & be strong role models, leaders and active positive participants in their communities & society at large - without any limits! I'm so excited & blessed to be able to serve in this role year!"



Mariah wants to use her year as Ms. Wheelchair Texas to encourage everyone to be 'inclined' for inclusion & promote inclusion in many ways - from work to play! Though cliché to say that "world peace" is the ultimate goal for most pageant contestants, Mariah would say that my ultimate purpose is to create a peaceful world for people of all abilities so that they may be included, respected, & valued as active participants in their

communities and society at large - without any limits or barriers. And boy has she made the most of her reign so far!

Mariah will compete in the national Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant in Rhode Island this August & you can help her win! Voting for the People's Choice award is now up. People's Choice Award is an opportunity for friends & family to vote for their favorite contestant. If you have a chance before August 10th, you may vote online at:

[http://www.mswheelchairamerica2013.org/home/peoples\\_choice](http://www.mswheelchairamerica2013.org/home/peoples_choice). Just scroll down to Texas, and you'll see her name (Mariah Kilbourne) and vote. The winner will be announced live at the Pageant August 10th.

Mariah embodies Kinetic Kids' belief that by creating opportunities, educating & empowering individuals—you can transform lives. We're rooting for San Antonio's own Ms. Wheelchair Texas to take home the title & take her mission to be 'inclined for inclusion' to a national audience! Way to go Mariah!



## Family Field Day!

**Kinetic Kids** is excited to offer a **Family Field Day** to wrap up a summer of outdoor fun! Kinetic Kids participants, parents & siblings are invited to come out for some friendly competition. There will be a variety of games & races for every ability.

Be prepared—you may get wet! Stay tuned for more details.

You don't want to miss out on this exciting event!

Save the date **September 8, 2012** from **9-Noon**.

Check out our website for more information.

### A Huge

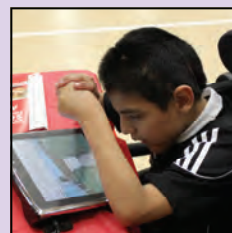


to  
**Baptist  
Health  
System**  
for  
Printing our  
**SUMMER  
Newsletter!**

## Kinetic Kids Hosts our 8th annual Try It Event



Kinetic Kids hosted its 8th annual "Try It Before You Buy It" event on Battle of Flower's Friday, April 23rd this year. The event gave families the opportunity to not only **learn about and view products & services**, but also to try out a variety of equipment available to the special needs community. Local vendors, community resources & national manufacturers displayed their products and services for children with special needs. Equipment included: wheelchairs, walkers, communication devices, adaptive tricycles, orthotics, toys, accessible vans, and other therapeutic aides. Kinetic Kids' Cheerleaders also showed off their amazing talents with a special performance. Kinetic Kids would like to thank University United Methodist Church, emcee Rev. Reese Henry, all of our volunteers & committee members for helping make this event such a success! Keep an eye out for our next **Try It Event** scheduled in 2013! It's sure to have even more wonderful products & services available to the special needs community of San Antonio!



**Thank You 2012 vendors, manufacturers, community & nonprofit resources:**

### PLATINUM SPONSOR

EPIC Health Services

### GOLD SPONSORS

Freedom Concepts  
MK Prosthetic & Orthotics

### SILVER SPONSORS

Sammons-Preston  
(Division of Patterson Medical)  
Summit HME, Inc/Lift & Go Mobility  
Texas ADA Home Remodeling  
Townsend Rep Group



### BRONZE SPONSORS

Accessible Designs, Inc  
Columbia Medical Ottobock  
Pediatric Therapy Associates  
Santé Pediatric Services

### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

A-Plus Pediatric Rehab  
AccessAbility Home Modifications  
Ageless Living Home Health  
Alamo Mobility Dynavox

Himmel Home Health  
Integrated Behavior Solutions  
Pediatric Rehabilitation & Behavioral Services  
Water Way Babies

Achievers' Center for Education  
Any Baby Can  
Autism Community Network  
Children's Association of Maximum Potential (CAMP)  
Christus Homecare Equicizer

### NONPROFIT TABLES

Fragile X Alliance of Texas  
Kinetic Kids  
Monarch Academy  
Pressing On  
Project Mend  
Respite Care of San Antonio  
The ARC of San Antonio

The Center for Health Care Services  
The Saddle Light Center  
U/Ability  
Variety The Children's Charity of Texas



**Kinetic Kids Fishin' Fun!** At the beginning of the summer, Kinetic Kids families had the opportunity to go fishing at Calaveras Lake with **Cast for Kids** and **CPS Energy**. The fish were bitin', boats were runnin' and kids were smilin'! Many children had the first catch of their lifetime! A great time was had by all! Thank you Cast For Kids and CPS Energy for hosting such a fun event for Kinetic Kids!



**AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE:** As you may know, Kinetic Kids utilizes numerous facilities throughout San Antonio to provide programs for our amazing kids. One facility in particular has gone out of their way to allow us time and space in their wonderful facilities on campus for MANY years.

A huge **THANK YOU** to the **UNIVERSITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD** for all you have done in helping us bring so many programs to the special needs population of San Antonio!



We'd also like to express our gratitude to UIW's Assistant Director of Athletic Training Facilities, **SCOTT LEBLANC**, who also happens to be a **KINETIC KIDS LONG-TIME INSTRUCTOR** for many of our wheelchair sports, competitive sports & aquatics programs and is our resident Recreational Therapist. We are so thankful for the time & talents Scott has shared with Kinetic Kids for more than 7 years.

## Going the Distance for Kinetic Kids Save the Date for our 2nd Annual 5K

On **Saturday January 26, 2013**, the second annual **Kinetic Kids 5k** will be held at **Roosevelt Park/Mission Reach**. This beautiful course along the Mission Reach is fully accessible. The timed race will begin at **8AM**. At **9:30 AM** our **Kinetic Kids** will have their own opportunity to compete by walking, running or rolling along a smaller portion of the Mission Reach. Awards, t-shirts, snacks & beverages will be provided.

We are currently looking for **sponsors & volunteers** to help us with this wonderful event for the whole family.

Contact Peggy Neal at [peggyneal09@gmail.com](mailto:peggyneal09@gmail.com)

What better motivator to start the new year off right than with a 5K for a great cause! Start training today and keep an eye out at [www.kinetickidstx.org](http://www.kinetickidstx.org) for more details!



Samuel DeRousse



## KINETIC KIDS TAKE THE THUNDER OUT OF OKLAHOMA AT THE 2012 ENDEAVOR GAMES



Gabriel Donias &amp; Paul Gonzales

Kinetic Kids competed at the Endeavor Games in track and field and wheelchair basketball events in June. 10 athletes with physical disabilities competed in a variety of events and brought home 56 gold medals and 3 silver medals!



Coaches Scott LeBlanc and Kacey Wernli with Junior Athlete of the Year Wyatt Struxness

Kinetic Kids would like to congratulate the 2012 Kinetic Kids Endeavor Team: Diana Neal (23 years), Mariah Kilbourne (24 years), Arturo Liendo, Jr. (9 years), Wyatt Struxness (15 years), Samuel DeRousse (11 years), Gabriel Donias (9 years), Paul Gonzales (10 years), Daniel Velasquez (15 years), Brett McClendon (8 years), & Cynthia Oyler (14 years).

Kinetic Kids athletes made history this year! **Wyatt Struxness** was awarded Athlete of the Year and also beat the national time in the 100 meter for his age group. **Samuel DeRousse** broke the national record in the discus event and **Gabriel Donias** set national records for his age category in the discus and the turbo javelin. **Daniel Velasquez**

broke the national record in long jump.

**An exciting update on recent events:** Kinetic Kids had 2 athletes, Wyatt Struxness & Daniel Velasquez, who qualified for & recently competed at the **National Junior Disability Championship** in track and field in Mesa Arizona. **Wyatt Struxness** competed in and won 5 Golds in shotput, discus, javelin, 100 meter & 200 meter events. **Daniel Velasquez** competed in 100 meters, 200 meters, 400 meters, 800 meters, Shot Put, Javelin, Discus, & Long Jump & brought home 8 Gold medals. Both athletes have high hopes to compete in the 2016 Paralympic Games.

Congratulations to all our athletes! Kinetic Kids is proud of your will and determination to strive for and achieve your personal best!

To learn more about Kinetic Kids or the Endeavor Games, please call (210)748-5866 or visit [www.kinetickidstx.org](http://www.kinetickidstx.org).



Diana Neal &amp; Mariah Kilbourne



Daniel Velasquez &amp; his parents.



Cynthia Oyler



Brett McClendon



Arturo Liendo

## Fundraising updates in 2012:



You may have seen Kinetic Kids new **Development Director - M'Rhea Lochte** (pronounced like "Marie Lock-tea") out at programs this year. M'Rhea was born & raised in College Station, but is a graduate from Texas Lutheran University majoring in Communications with a minor in Public Relations. Since graduation, M'Rhea has worked in Development (fundraising and event coordinating) for University of Texas Medical Branch, C.A.S.A. of Central Texas, and most recently with Special Olympics Texas.

You will often see M'Rhea at Kinetic Kids special events and programs throughout the year. Outside of work, M'Rhea maintains an active schedule in Boerne with her new husband, Jason Lochte. She is active in her local church and is often found in jeans and boots headed to the stable for her favorite pastime- horseback riding. The Lochtes are excited to welcome a bouncing baby boy to their family this fall.

M'Rhea is coordinating all fundraising efforts including sponsorships, special events, and much more for Kinetic Kids! She brings an enthusiastic, fresh outlook and we are thrilled to have her as part of the Kinetic Kids team. Welcome, M'Rhea Lochte!



# SAVE THE DATE KINETIC KIDS HOOTENANNY

Please join us for this great evening of FUNdraising!  
Our goal to raise \$200,000 to support Kinetic Kids programs  
is completely within reach, we just need your help.  
So, mark your calendars and shine your boots!

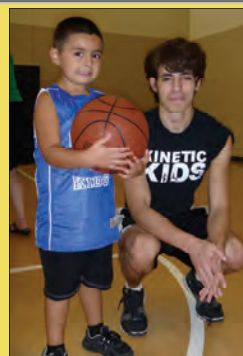
**FRIDAY 10 • 5 • 12**  
DOORS OPEN AT 6

★ PEARL STABLE ★

|                                        |                             |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Event Sponsorships<br>\$1,500-\$10,000 | Individual Tickets<br>\$100 |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|

WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING DONATIONS  
FOR OUR LIVE AND SILENT AUCTIONS!!

Please visit [www.kinetickidstx.org](http://www.kinetickidstx.org) for more info  
on sponsorships, tickets, or auctions.



This is Aaron Martinez with his volunteer Angel Leal. Aaron gets so excited on basketball days! I asked him what he liked about basketball and he said, "my friend Angel". I asked, what do you like about Angel? He said, "that he plays basketball with me".

The amazing staff and volunteers at Kinetic Kids have given my son a chance to be part of a team, without being singled out for his delays, a place to feel welcome and encouraged and an opportunity to enjoy himself. I see the faces of the staff and volunteers light up as much as the kids and parents when they master a skill. These are truly genuine people that we are blessed to have met.—Erica Martinez, Aaron's proud mom. **Your support makes stories like these possible. Thank you!**

Thank you to all who supported the **Mother's Luncheon** in May, Over \$18,000 was raised to support Kinetic Kids programs!



We raised over \$10,300 and will receive additional incentive funds from **Birdies for Charity** later this year!

Thank you to all who participated!

# Volunteer Voices

**"To the world I may be ONE person, but to ONE person I am the WORLD." Our Volunteers make a WORLD of difference in the lives of Kinetic Kids!**



Working with Kinetic Kids has been one of the greatest blessings in my life. The infallible nature of the kids made me understand that quitting is never an option. They know the

value of life and how to live it to the fullest. This experience has changed my perspective on life to the extent where I will never go a day without trying to change someone's life for the better as these kids did mine. Thank you Kinetic Kids staff and kiddos for the amazing opportunity.

—Brian Murray,  
Kinetic Kids  
Volunteer &  
Intern 2012



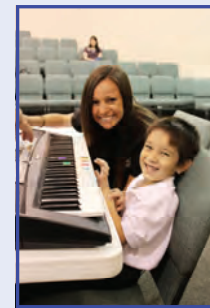
I love being a part of Kinetic Kids! The excitement exuded by all at Kinetic Kids is wonderfully contagious! Encouraging children with different abilities in the development of self-esteem, courage, independ-



ence, and happiness has truly been a unique blessing. I am honored to watch incredible children and teens grow and learn as they develop and achieve awesome new skills and abilities. I am so proud of all my buddies, past and present! —Fiora McRae Kinetic Kids Volunteer 2012



"Volunteering for Kinetic Kids has been such a rewarding, exciting, and eye-opening experience. The bonds and friendships I have made with the kids is irreplaceable. Being able to witness the success and be a factor in their success is the best feeling in the world! This organization gives them an opportunity to succeed and gain skills they



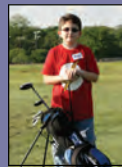
didn't think were attainable, but most importantly they have FUN which is the most important part!"

—Sabrina Ponce, Kinetic Kids  
Volunteer & Intern 2012

## Kinetic Kids Corner:



I love playing tennis. It is really fun. I really like Coach Larry, my buddy Austin (he is my best friend) and Coach Holly is really nice also.—Kinetic Kid Frankie Enrione



Aiden Hobbs, getting "Tee'd up" for Golf.

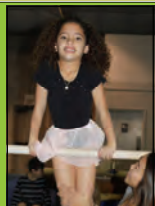


Danyale Fernandez crossing the finish line during Track practice.

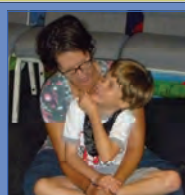


In Loving Memory of our beloved Kinetic Kid, basketball extraordinaire—Nathaniel Barker. You were a true gentleman & brought joy to us all. You are dearly missed.

Kinetic Kid Rhaya Edison keeping rhythm during Musikids



Gymnast Fayth Neish working hard.

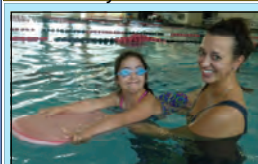


Cooper Thompson enjoying Musical Theatre

Baseball star Isaiah Gutierrez proudly posing with his trophy & Coach Tyler



Aden Cuchran on the balance beam.



Elyse Hernandez confidently demonstrating her swimming skills with her volunteer.

## Tiffany Saenz Neal, DPT: From Volunteer to Physical Therapist My Journey With Kinetic Kids



Kinetic Kids has always captured my heart and was the deciding factor in my career decision. I started my journey as a **VOLUNTEER** with the Swim & Music programs in 2007 and was instantly captivated and fascinated with the beliefs and mission of Kinetic Kids. I had never felt such reward and joy as I did when

watching each and every participant develop a special bond with their volunteer and succeed in a skill that might not have ever been imaginable. I simply knew I had to do more!

After approval through UTSA, I started as an **INTERN** with Kinetic Kids in 2008 attending every program, gaining experience through hands-on opportunities, and learning from the skilled therapists on the Kinetic Kids staff. I had never been happier & once again knew it was time to do more!

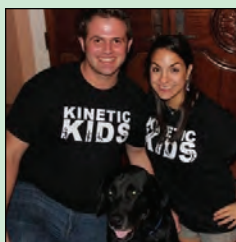
I accepted the position as an **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** with Kinetic Kids upon completion of my undergraduate degree & began the application process to physical therapy school at UTHSC-SA.

In August 2009, I resigned from Kinetic Kids to enter Physical Therapy school full time, but could never stray far from Kinetic Kids, so I stayed on board as a **VOLUNTEER** and Swim **INSTRUCTOR**. This summer I



graduated and passed my board exam, allowing me to take the position as a **PEDIATRIC PHYSICAL THERAPIST** at Warm Springs Rehabilitation Hospital (out-patient care) and finally join the Kinetic Kids staff as a **PROGRAM DIRECTOR**—the position that will once again allow me to engage in the lives of many very unique & special children of Kinetic Kids.

Kinetic Kids was also responsible for leading me to two loves in my life. First, Diana Neal, who I was very fortunate to have worked with not only as a Kinetic Kid but also as her **PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT**. She has truly been and continues to be an inspiration in my life. Through Kinetic Kids & Diana I met Ricky, Diana's brother—who became my loving husband in 2009. Once again, Kinetic Kids struck a place in my heart that left a permanent print. I am so grateful to be a part of



*Kinetic Kids...And Kinetic Kids is incredibly thankful for your passion and commitment to this organization and to these kids. Thank you Tiffany for your continued love & support. You are a tremendous asset to Kinetic Kids!*



## THIS SUMMER, KINETIC KIDS ENJOYED A FUN NIGHT OUT AT THE SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS GAME.





Kinetic Kids Inc.  
P.O. Box 690993  
San Antonio, TX 78269

NON PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 803  
SAN ANTONIO, TX

### Kinetic Kids thanks all of our 2012 Top Sponsors!!

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!**

#### PRESENTING SPONSORS:

Blue Bird Auxiliary  
Kronkosky Charitable Foundation  
The Najim Family Foundation  
Republic National Distributing  
Company LLC  
Valero Energy Foundation  
Graham & Elizabeth  
Weston

**THANK  
YOU!**



**THANK  
YOU!**



#### GOLD SPONSORS:

St. Luke's Lutheran  
Health Ministries  
The USAA Foundation, Inc.

#### SILVER SPONSORS

The Bell Family Foundation

### HOW TO CONTACT KINETIC KIDS

Kinetic Kids Inc. P.O. Box 690993 San Antonio, TX 78269  
visit : [www.kinetickidstx.org](http://www.kinetickidstx.org) for program schedules, newsletters, videos & more!

**For Program Information:** Call: **210-748-5860**

or email: [Register@kinetickidstx.org](mailto:Register@kinetickidstx.org)

**For Volunteer Information:** email [Volunteer@kinetickidstx.org](mailto:Volunteer@kinetickidstx.org)



[www.facebook.com/kinetickids](http://www.facebook.com/kinetickids) ➡ You'll find exciting updates & even more pictures!