

summer 2015 newsletter



SAVE THE DATE

Family Field Day

September 12, 2015
9am-noon

Don't miss this fun event!
There will be games and races
for every ability!
You might even get wet!
See www.kinetickidstx.org for
more information!

THANKS TO U!



Thank you
for printing
this newsletter!!

Going to the Xtreme

The Xtreme division is Kinetic Kids' newest and most competitive division. Programs in this division are designed for athletes with both the skill and the desire to compete at a higher level.

Xtreme athletes will have expert sport specific coaching for elite skill advancement. In some of the sports in this division, there is also the opportunity to compete both locally and nationally throughout the year, depending on the sport. Enrollment in Xtreme sports division requires specific skills, pre-requisite benchmarks and try-outs. Spots in this division have oversight of a PT or OT and do not utilize volunteer support.

Fees for each sport program are based on the duration of the program, amount of competitions held, and specialized equipment. Watch for Xtreme options on the next Kinetic Kids schedule!



Cheer For All To Hear

Six years ago, Kinetic Kids started the first San Antonio special needs competitive cheer team and we are now recruiting for the 2015-16 season! The program is open to children ages 6+ who can follow directions without assistance of a volunteer and are ready and willing to commit to a competitive practice and competition schedule!

Cheerleaders must attend ALL practices and competitions. They will practice weekly for 6 months, compete in 3 local competitions and attend a national competition in Dallas. If you have a serious competitive streak and want to be a Kinetic Kids cheerleader, contact Robyn at robyn@kinetickidstx.org for more info!!



Karate Packs a Punch

Kinetic Kids introduced karate to our lineup this past spring...and boy was it a HIT! Athletes learned technique, history and teamwork with this exciting new program. With guidance of our amazing new coach, Megan, athletes perfected a series of skills, including the favorite roundhouse kick, backfist punch and defense. At the finale, athletes showed off their skills by proudly performing a kata to a cheering crowd. Karate returns in the fall--don't miss it!

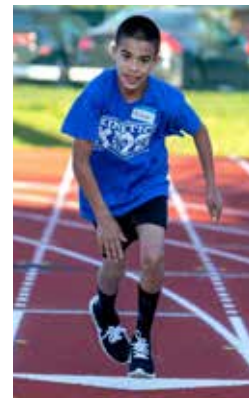


SPOTLIGHT STARS: Michael & Nicholas Sandoval Brothers. Friends. Athletes. by Sandra Sandoval



Michael and Nicholas joined Kinetic Kids in 2008. They have participated in multiple sports including: track and field, tennis, gymnastics, dance, musical theatre, swimming & basketball. Nicholas and Michael are typical brothers...they love each other one minute then they can fight the next. Despite all that, they are each other's biggest fans and always cheer for one another!!!! I'm proud of both of my boys!!!

Michael Sandoval is 11 years old and diagnosed with mild cerebral palsy and septo optic dysplasia. Michael's favorite sport is track and field. He loves to run and now that he is getting older, he loves to compete. Michael has grown a lot and has improved in his times and distances in the last few years. He has earned numerous gold medals in the Texas Regional Games and the Endeavor Games. On June 14, 2015 at Endeavor Games in Edmond, Oklahoma, Michael set a national record for his long jump!! He is so proud in his accomplishment and so are we! Michael just completed the 4th grade at Gallardo Elementary School where he participated in general education with resource support. He received an award in school for "Most Athletic".



Nicholas Sandoval is 12 years old and diagnosed with Down syndrome. His favorite sport is basketball. When he first started participating in basketball, he shot the ball underhand



(granny shot). The coaches always tried to get him to shoot overhand, he would try but would always go back to shooting how he was comfortable...underhand. Thanks to the patient and persistent Kinetic Kids coaches, a couple years ago he began shooting overhand. He is well respected by his typically developing peers due to his basketball skills. Nicholas also enjoys dancing. The world is his stage. He really enjoys listening to music and singing along.

Nicholas just completed 6th grade at Losoya Intermediate School. His electives (which he went to independently with the general education population) were P.E. and percussion where he played the drums in his first school concert this year. Nicholas even participated in an after-school D.A.R.E. program in which he was a Junior Police cadet and attended biweekly meetings after school. Nicholas has blossomed and grown so much. Thank you to all the Kinetic Kids staff and volunteers for all of your support and for providing my sons the opportunity to participate and have fun!!

BORN TO BIKE!

Kinetic Kids' annual Bike Camp presented by Dralla Foundation will be held August 10-14. Over 35 children with special needs will learn to ride a two-wheeled bike for the very first time... in just 5 days! The Dralla Foundation and Junior League of San Antonio are generously supporting this fun camp.



Know a child with special needs who is 8 or older and walks without an assistive device but isn't riding a bike yet? Contact tracey.kinetickids@gmail.com for more details! Want to experience the joy and excitement first hand? Sign up to volunteer for this great camp! Email volunteer@kinetickidstx.org for more details and keep an eye on our Facebook page for lots of fun pictures and updates!



Attitude of Gratitude

Two Thousand Smiles Without our donors, Kinetic Kids wouldn't exist. Dreams wouldn't come true. Two thousand smiles wouldn't light up two thousand faces. Being part of a team would always remain a wish, not a reality. Parents wouldn't get to see their child shine as they accomplish a feat that no one thought was possible for a child with special needs. But, because of you, we do exist. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for donating to Kinetic Kids through the Valero Birdies for Charity program and through The Big Give SA. Because of our 525 donors who cared enough to give, we raised \$42,887! On behalf of the kids we serve, thank you for believing in them.



One Man's Generous Heart for Kids The Najim Family Foundation leads our list of top 100 donors for the lifetime of our organization. With their first gift of \$25,000 in 2007, the Foundation has continued to be a loyal donor every year since. Founder, Harvey Najim, has contributed a total of \$84 million to his namesake foundation since its inception and has pledged another \$125 million to his foundation within 3-5 years, was named to BusinessWeek's list of "The 50 Top American Givers" in 2008 and served as Kinetic Kids' Honorary Chair for our Hootenanny Gala in 2009. Harvey, in speaking about his benevolence to children's charities, said, "... I've always been close to children. I felt children were the future of our city, country, and the world." Thank you Harvey and the Board of Directors for going above and beyond for so many years to support our efforts to provide sports and recreation to children with special needs. We truly couldn't do it without you!

Benevolent "Bean Counters" Since its founding in 1993, Darilek, Butler & Associates, PLLC has provided a full spectrum of services including accounting, financial reporting, auditing, taxation and consulting that positions their clients to achieve financial and professional success. Kinetic Kids has been the beneficiary of their expertise over the years as senior partner, Steven Butler, CPA, and Darendia Klentzman, CPA, provide oversight and consultation to make sure our financial records are in 'tip top shape' and to 'top it off,' they do it for FREE. Kinetic Kids thanks you!!



'Espacial' Thanks Earlier this year, Diana Neal and Miguel Castro campaigned for and were selected as Duke & Duchess for the Fiesta Especial® Royal Court. Together they represented Fiesta Especial demonstrating to others the abilities of all individuals to achieve their dreams and also highlighting the leadership and contributions that individuals with disabilities make in our community each day. Diana & Miguel raised over \$12,716 to benefit children and adults with disabilities, giving \$5,786.11 to support Kinetic Kids programs. Thank you Diana & Miguel for demonstrating leadership in the community and for your tremendous support of Kinetic Kids programs.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SMILE MAKERS!

Kinetic Kids Thrives Thanks to Your Support!

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Individual Gifts of \$50+ since December 1, 2014

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Dylan Holbein
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Matt Hudson & Kim Hallmark
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Eryn Ivey
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Denise Jones
John Jones
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Jennifer Kollman
Barbara C. Kyse
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John & Julie Maguire
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Paige Martin
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Lew & Laura Moorman
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If we have missed listing you, please let us know.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Over the years we've seen many young athletes blossom into independent, strong, proud, dreamers and leaders in their schools, their communities and beyond. Here are a few fantastic examples, both then and now....

Yvette St Pierre

20 years old, Traumatic Brain Injury at age of 3



First Program

2004 dance, gymnastics and then bike camp

Favorite Memory

Dancing to the songs *You Raise Me Up* and *You Are Beautiful*. These songs have become like my life's theme songs.

Recent Accomplishments:

Currently attending San Antonio College

Impact

Kinetic Kids has impacted my degree choice. I see how far I have come and the overwhelming impact that Kinetic Kids, along with other influences, has had on me. Now that I am able, I want to have the same impact on children with disabilities. I plan to become a recreational therapist.



Mariah Kilbourne

26 years old, Cerebral Palsy

First Program

2003 Gymnastics & Dance, then WC sports and Track & Field

Favorite Memory

Forming lifelong friendships. For the first time, I met peers who were facing similar

challenges to me. They used walkers and wheelchairs for mobility, just like myself. That was life-changing at a very important time in my life - middle school and high school.

Recent Accomplishments

- 2010: Graduated Summa Cum Laude from Texas Lutheran University with a degree in Communication Studies.
- 2012: Crowned Ms. Wheelchair Texas.
- 2013: Crowned Ms. Wheelchair America, traveling across the nation as an advocate for people living with (dis)ABILITIES!
- 2014/2015: Kinetic Kids Ambassador - Discovering Disabilities Days.
- 2015: In search of a fantastic career that utilizes all my amazing talents :)

Impact

Growing up with Kinetic Kids helped me:

- believe in my abilities and all the things that I CAN do.
- know that I could do sports, like my peers.
- know that there are other people like me.
- gain life-long strength and confidence.
- be a strong advocate for myself and others with (dis)ABILITIES.



Steven P. Lopez

22 years old, Down Syndrome

First Program:

2002 t-ball then basketball, dancing, golf, swimming and tennis.

Recent Accomplishments:

- Graduated from Southwest High School in 2013.
- Has learned different work skills on the job at Peter Piper Pizza, Texas Road House, Home Depot, Sears, JCPenney, Macy's, HEB, Chick-fil-a, Big Lots
- Homecoming King in 2013, Steven was the first special needs to student ever to wear the crown at Southwest High School.
- Participated in Special Olympics, the Miracle League and The Best Buddies program.
- He also attends St. Bonaventure Catholic Church where he completed his First Communion and Confirmation and volunteers in First Communion parent class
- He will participate & volunteer in vocational programs.
- Steven plans to attend college as soon as a program is available so he can graduate like his brother.

Impact

According to his mother, "while participating with Kinetic Kids for many years, Steven has learned that he can do anything and loves any challenge. The environment Kinetic Kids offers is superior as he has always felt welcomed and comfortable with everyone. Kinetic Kids treats all of the participants with dignity and respect and that's what helps them succeed in life."



Miguel Castro

20 years old, Spina Bifida



First Program

1999, t-ball then wheelchair basketball & tennis, music & art.

Recent Accomplishments

- Sophomore in Political Science at Northwest Vista College
- President of Project Dem At Northwest Vista, a political organization of Democrats.

- A member of the Student Government Association and the Senator of Campus Operations.
- I am really involved in my community and love helping others.
- Plan to transfer to Texas A&M University-San Antonio

Impact

My participation with Kinetic Kids boosted my self-esteem, gave me confidence and helped me become a leader.



VOLUNTEER VOICES

Interns: Countless hours for an incredible cause

Throughout the year, Kinetic Kids is honored to provide multiple internship opportunities for students in the health & therapy fields. Our hope is that they gain knowledge and insight about working with children with various diagnoses and what it takes to run a non-profit organization like Kinetic Kids. If we're honest, they work hard. They attend nearly every program, transport equipment & supplies, work with & learn about children with various abilities, and put in up to 500 hours in a semester. They learn the innermost workings of our organization and are a key component to helping every program run smoothly. We appreciate every minute they dedicate to Kinetic Kids and welcome them in as a part of our forever Kinetic Kids family. At the end of every internship, they share the sweetest comments. Here are excerpts from three of our most recent interns:



"Being a part of Kinetic Kids was an amazing experience that I am more than happy I became a part of. I gained knowledge about different diagnoses and working in recreational settings with PT/OT skills. I put in over 500 hours with Kinetic Kids and plan to continue by volunteering even more. I am applying to OT school this fall!"

— Bibi Agbesanwa

"Working with Kinetic Kids has been such a viable experience in furthering my education and future career! Never have I experienced such a lively and caring group of individuals in my lifetime. While interning with Kinetic Kids I gained 450 hours of hands-on experience that has helped me to achieve the qualifications necessary to graduate with my bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University Corpus Christi. The memories I gained from my experience will not soon be forgotten and I look forward to making many more happy memories with Kinetic Kids on my way to becoming a future occupational therapist!"



— Monica Winn



"I cannot express how much gratitude I have for Kinetic Kids and how much it has changed my life. I feel that this organization not only helps the life of kids with disabilities but also every volunteer that has had the pleasure to be part of it."

— Ilse Guzman

OUR OLDEST & NEWEST PROGRAM DIRECTOR

JUDITH GUERRERO!



Judith joined Kinetic Kids as a volunteer in 2008. "The first program I signed up for was basketball and I was hooked!" She volunteered at various programs and even coached a few. After becoming a physical therapist, Judith became a

program director in 2011. Shortly after graduating, Judith got the travel bug and took off across the country as a traveling physical therapist. However, she couldn't stay away long and as soon as she stepped foot back in Texas, she was back in action with Kinetic Kids! Judith returned to her role as a program director, helping with everything from baseball, tennis and track & field. In fact, she just returned from the Endeavor Games!

What does Judith love about Kinetic Kids? "It allows kids to be kids and participate in sports like any other child would. I love the smiles on their faces when they accomplish even the smallest things. I love the enthusiasm they give for practice. I enjoy watching the pure joy on their parents' faces as they watch them



participate in sports. Our Kinetic Kids inspire me and so many with their perseverance to overcome all obstacles in their way, dedication to give a 100% effort in everything they do, and the pure joy they display when they accomplish anything and everything! Also, I love all the LOVE that takes place



at programs between parents, volunteers, coaches, program directors and kids!"

What do WE love about Judith? She embraces all that life has to offer and is always up for a challenge. She's an incredible advocate for her patients and a dedicated and talented therapist. Welcome back Judith! We are lucky to have you on our team!

Many of the pictures featured in this newsletter and on our Facebook page are courtesy of our wonderful Kinetic Kids photographer Ternell Washington aka "Kinetic Kids Paparazzi." Kinetic Kids would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU for so beautifully capturing the joy our kids and volunteers experience in all of our programs!





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SAVE THE DATE 2015 HOOTENANNY

Please join us for this great evening of FUNdraising.
Mark your calendars and shine your boots!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
PEARL STABLE DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM

EVENT SPONSORSHIPS
\$500 - \$15,000

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS
\$125

Donate to the Live or Silent Auctions!

For more info on sponsorships, tickets or auctions, please visit
www.kinetickidstx.org or email catherine@kinetickidstx.org.



sports & recreation for all (dis)abilities

Tracey Fontenot & Kacey Wernli
Co-Executive Directors

Volunteers
volunteer@kinetickidstx.org

Program Information
210.748.5860

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