

A photograph of two young boys sitting together. The boy on the left has short blonde hair and blue eyes, wearing a dark blue polo shirt. The boy on the right has short blonde hair, wears glasses, and a blue and white striped polo shirt. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a wooden structure, possibly a play area.

SUMMER 2013

OVERCOMING
OBSTACLES

HEARTSPRING

DIALOGUE

LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Of all the not-for-profit organizations I have had the privilege to serve, Heartspring has been nearest to my heart, because my mother was a dedicated special education teacher who worked for nonprofit organizations for much of her life. As a preschooler, I remember tagging along with Mom during capital campaigns for her school. After reaching her 90's, when Alzheimer's would play tricks on her brain, Mom often thought I was one of her pupils. For me that was high compliment, because she loved her students. Throughout her life, Mom reminded my brothers and me that philanthropy, or the generous donation of funds to promote the welfare of others, is not measured by dollar amount, but by the energy and life blood each donor generates.

For those engaged in fundraising to support nonprofits, the global recession of 2007 - 2009 created stiff headwind. During recent debates on avoiding the Fiscal Cliff, there was talk about eliminating tax deductions for charitable giving, part of the IRS Code since 1917. Amidst these challenges, one of the advantages of being almost 80 years old is that Heartspring (formerly Institute of Logopedics) has learned to weather economic downturns and political winds. Our secret to success is simple: As our dedicated staff continues to provide evidence-based interventions, helping children grow and learn on a path to a more independent life, thus giving their parents and caregivers hope, we will continue to be a valuable resource to our local and global communities. Mom would be proud!

My heartfelt thanks to Heartspring for allowing me to serve. I plan to stick around for the excitement. As the incidence of Autism Spectrum Disorder continues to rise, Dr. Singleton and his team will continue to develop force multipliers, for which we will need your financial support.



Jim Wong
Heartspring Board of Trustees
Past Board Chairman
First Response Solutions, Inc.

◀ Heartspring President Gary W. Singleton, Ph.D. (left) and Chief Financial Officer David Dorf (right) present Jim Wong with an award recognizing his service as Chairman of the Board of Trustees from 2007 to 2010. Jim has been a member of the board since 2003.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

To our Heartspring supporters,

As we continue to move ahead with the Heartspring Technology Project, I am amazed by the impact and developments our data collection system has made in our school. Tens of thousands of pieces of data are collected each day, tracking everything from therapy goal progress to various goals and behaviors; it's become imperative that our psychologists and behavior analysts have access to this surplus of information to better implement successful programming to our students.

An exclusive benefit of our in-house data application, is the ability to adapt and customize its function to fit the unique needs of our residential school. We are able to gather feedback and cultivate ideas to optimize performance and efficiency. In the past year, updates have added invaluable features, such as, video models for student goals, better support for medications and upgraded analysis tools. We even created a separate iPod application, *HS Capture*, that allows staff members to take photos and videos of students and send them to professional staff for review. Our underlying goal remains the same and we continue to look for more effective ways to enhance our system with the best interests of our students in mind.

No other organization like ours has such a comprehensive tool for collecting, analyzing and monitoring all aspects of a child's life. Yet, as an organization driven by a need to lend all of our resources to the benefit of those with special needs, we are excited to share an extension of our internal data collection system to those who can utilize it. We are in the process of streamlining a separate application that could potentially alter the way data is collected and utilized throughout the world. This alternate version of our internal application is geared toward clinical settings for outpatient data tracking and recently, was expanded to Heartspring Pediatric Services. While the patent is pending, we are looking at the commercial viability of this app. It is our hope that this application can be available and easily accessible to those in our field.

I cannot emphasize enough how significant technology has become in our programming. While we move forward in implementing and expanding both the internal and external data collection systems, I am eager to explore and pursue new avenues of technology to continue to find greater tools and adjuncts for the children with autism and developmental disabilities we serve.

I am continually amazed by the amount of graciousness we receive from our community of supporters, and as the number of children impacted by various developmental disabilities grows, so does the need for your continued generosity. Because of you, Heartspring can continue to provide the resources that have proven priceless to the hundreds of children and families impacted by special needs within our community, throughout the nation and around the world. Thank you.



Gary W. Singleton, Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary Singleton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary W. Singleton, Ph.D., President & CEO

FROM INNOVATION IMPROVEMENT << TO

DATA



REAL-TIME DATA COLLECTION

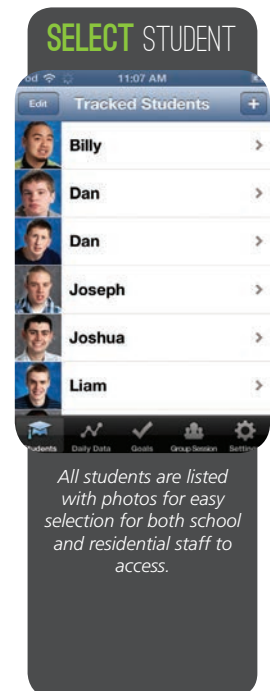
The **Heartspring Technology Project** has revolutionized how we collect and analyze data. Heartspring created this entire data collection system in-house. It's customized to fit the school's every need and can be continuously adapted. Similar applications are often created by outside agencies that do not necessarily work with the population we serve. Additionally, many competing apps are limited to track only basic behavior data or therapy goals.

Heartspring's data collection system encompasses all aspects of a student's life. Suggestions and new ideas are often considered and added to our system. In the past year, more than 12 million data points were collected and more than 1.5 million goals were tracked.

HOW IT WORKS >>

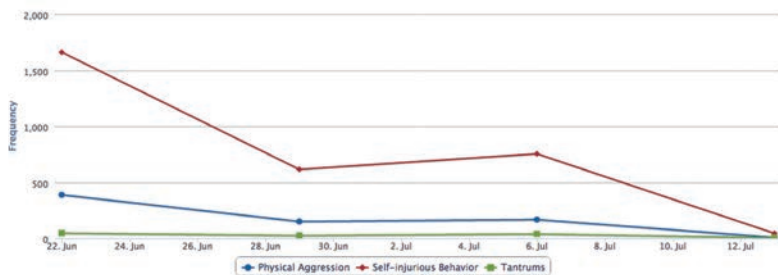
This real-time data collection system is beneficial to both students and staff. This application has opened doors to better communication among team members, as valuable information is accessible by every staff member involved in a child's daily life.

The application is simple to use. Every aspect of a child's day is easily tracked by a series of taps. The data is instantly processed and available for professional staff to analyze. With the implementation of the Heartspring Technology Project, valuable time is now available for direct care, improved analysis of each individual's education plan and greater effectiveness in programming.



COLLECTION

STUDENT BEHAVIOR DATA



INSTANT RESULTS

Up-to-the-minute data is readily available for each child's team of psychologists, behavior analysts, therapists, teachers and medical staff to analyze and better improve programming. Prior to this system, data was tracked by hand-written tally marks, which took weeks to enter into a computer. This process created "lag" time, where professionals were analyzing months-old data for student programming. The Heartspring Technology Project has improved efficiency and resulted in better programming for our students.

STUDENT INFO

Day-to-day information is available for each student. Information from schedules to emergency contacts to student support plans are accessible through this app.

MEDICATIONS

Medical alerts remind staff to distribute medication. The app also adds an easy way to track what medications were given at what times. This digital documentation has replaced hours of paperwork.

TRACK BEHAVIORS

Multiple behaviors, like aggression and self-injurious behavior, can be tracked with a simple tap. Positive behaviors are also tracked for communication/speech goals and successful prompts, among others.

TRACK GOALS

Staff can run and track various goals according to each student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Professional staff can then access data to review progress over a period of time.

AN ENERGIZING ENDEAVOR

CAFFEINE CONNECTION

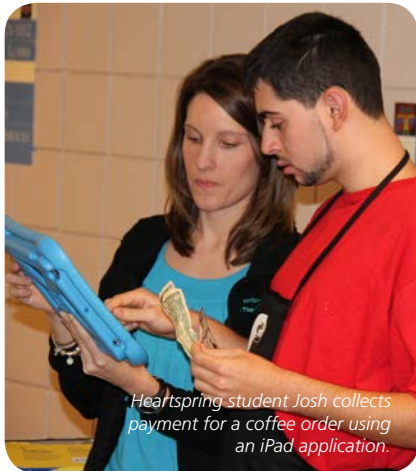
LEARNING THE STEPS >>

Heartspring student Dan works with Kara Gibson, occupational therapist, to follow the visual prompts to make coffee. Heartspring's newest on-campus employment opportunity, The Caffeine Connection, is operated almost exclusively by the students. The "coffee shop" allows students the opportunity for a "real-life" job experience, where they work on communication, fine motor and social skills.



ADDING FLAVOR TO WORK <<

Heartspring student Liam adds chocolate flavoring to a coffee order. The students handle all aspects of the on-campus "coffee shop," which includes taking orders on an iPad, collecting money or processing credit card payments, making the coffee, adding special flavors and hand-delivering orders to customers.



Heartspring student Josh collects payment for a coffee order using an iPad application.



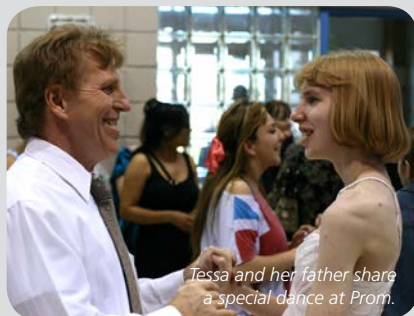
"Caffeine Connection has exceeded our expectations. We actually have students requesting to help out with it every week. The students are learning valuable skills and having fun while doing it!"

Holli Steiner, MA, CCC-SLP
Speech Language Pathologist



PRICELESS MOMENTS >>

Parent Weekend 2013 featured the annual student prom. This year's theme was "Mardi Gras." For many Heartspring families, this type of social setting is rare and extra special. Many of them take advantage of the event by mingling with other families and dancing with their children.



Tessa and her father share a special dance at Prom.

PROM



Max shares a moment with his mother before Prom.



Marixsa smiles at her mother during Prom.

<< MOTHER'S DAY

Parent Weekend 2013 was also Mother's Day Weekend. To celebrate, students made special hand-crafted gifts for their mothers. Most Heartspring students live on campus and oftentimes, far away from their families. Parent Weekend is always a special time for families to reunite and bond.

Farrakhan at Prom:



Harley and his grandparents enjoy the carriage rides.

>> FAMILY FUN

Parents and students kept the fun on campus this year during a mini festival set up at the Heartspring Conference Center. Students and families had the opportunity to enjoy popcorn and a movie, horse-drawn carriage rides and outdoor games.

PARENT WEEKEND 2013

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**DR. REBECCA ISAACS
PH.D. PSYCHOLOGIST**

After two years working as Heartspring Pediatric Services' Ph.D. Psychologist, one thing is clear—Dr. Rebecca Isaacs has a strong passion for the children she serves. Her jam-packed schedule includes everything

from providing testing and diagnoses for children ages birth to 21 to conducting individual therapy services. She often refers and teams with other therapists, as well as, provides consultations to families, when appropriate.

"Ninety-nine percent of my job is motivating the parents," Dr. Isaacs said. Many times, her job entails the "bad news," which includes letting the parents know the hard truth of their children's diagnoses, advising them on what needs to be done and cheering them on as they undergo the trying journey ahead. Regardless of the situation, the main goal for Dr. Isaacs is to advocate for the best services for each child's developmental needs. Some of the best services, she said, can be found with her counterparts at Heartspring.

"I'll put my money where my mouth is," Dr. Isaacs said. Her nephew is on the spectrum and currently receives speech therapy at Heartspring—a service that Dr. Isaacs and her family have paid for out of pocket. Her confidence in the value for these services is unmistakable, as she also continues what she "preaches" at home. Dr. Isaacs and her husband have four adopted children, two of which have special needs.

Her dedication is also inspired by the rewarding experiences that accompany her job, such as, watching clients succeed. Sometimes, quick progress in unexpected and genuinely celebrated. "The parents are always so thankful."



◀ HEARING CENTER

As the number of children receiving cochlear implants increases and technology improves, Heartspring Pediatric Services is working hard to keep up with the high demand for services for children who are deaf and hard of hearing. With the help of Molly Lyon, MA, CCC-SLP, Heartspring Audiologist and LSLS Certified Therapist, we now offer cochlear implant mapping, auditory rehab and audiology services—allowing Heartspring the ability to offer all-encompassing therapeutic services for the convenience of families who often have to travel to distant cities for complete care.

PEDALING FOR KIDS >>

PedalFest has been a critical fundraising event for Heartspring Pediatric Services for 10 years. Underinsured families from all over Kansas are able to access services for their children because of funds raised from this event. "It is exciting to see the number of people who ride so our children can improve and be successful in everyday activities," Director of Pediatric Services, Kim Becker, said.



50K | 100K | 5-MILE FAMILY RIDE

10TH ANNIVERSARY

JOIN US FOR
PEDALFEST'S 10TH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION AFTER
THE RIDE(S) FOR PRIZES,
LIVE MUSIC, LUNCH
AND A BEER GARDEN.
REGISTER AT PEDALFEST.
ORG AND JOIN US IN
RAISING FUNDS FOR
THE CHILDREN OF
HEARTSPRING PEDIATRIC
SERVICES!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2013





“WITH A SPECIAL NEEDS CHILD, YOU GET TO CELEBRATE SOMETHING ALMOST ON A DAILY BASIS!”

BECCA
CURRAN & KELYN'S MOM



(Clockwise) Curran and Kelyn explore the new Heartspring Treehouse; Curran walks on the treadmill during physical therapy; Curran and Kelyn play on the chimes in the new therapeutic play area; Kelyn works on an exercise with Speech Language Pathologist Molly Murphy.



DAILY VICTORIES.

While playing on the Heartspring Treehouse, it’s hard to keep up with 6-year-old Curran and 5-year-old Kelyn. Their glittering personalities and boundless energy will keep you smiling and exhaust you all at the same time. As they both expertly climb the treehouse’s rope ladder and effortlessly slide down the fire pole, it’s nearly impossible to think that any obstacles have slowed them down before. Yet, both boys and their family have indeed overcome many hurdles throughout their young lives.

Curran and Kelyn were perfectly healthy babies at birth. For Curran, the red flags came early when he began struggling with chewing; when he was 15 months old, he began choking on solid foods. And at the time, he could only say two words—“mama” and “moo”—another red flag. Things became progressively worse as he started having severe temper tantrums.

“We had no idea what to do or what he was trying to show us,” Becca, the boys’ mother, said.

Becca soon realized that his tantrums were directly related to his inability to communicate his needs. Curran began occupational therapy at Rainbows United and eventually, was referred to Heartspring when he turned three years old. Within a month of being at Heartspring, Curran was diagnosed with moderate-to-severe *apraxia*, a motor speech disorder characterized by difficulties with accurately and consistently producing speech.

“It was so hard going out in public and having people look at your child as he’s throwing a fit,” Becca said. “They have no idea he can’t tell us what he wants!”

VICTORIES, CONTINUED ON PAGE 15 >>

AUTISM awareness

VALUED PARTNERS >>

CARE Program partners Popeyes Chicken and Biscuits and ServiceMaster by Clean in a Wink (pictured below) found ways to go above and beyond the typical sponsor levels. While Popeyes raised more than \$7,000 through the Puzzle Pal Pin-Up Program, ServiceMaster by Clean in a Wink hosted a fundraiser at its local warehouse with all proceeds benefitting the Heartspring CARE Program.



<< AUTISM AMBASSADORS

One in 88 individuals are impacted by autism in the United States. This year's Autism CARE Walk theme, "Who's Your 1 in 88?," isn't about highlighting the statistic, but highlighting the individual. For most individuals, their families are their greatest advocates. The Autism Ambassadors and their families (pictured to the left) reminded us that awareness is a joint effort; together, we can educate our community and make a difference in the lives of the many talented individuals with autism in our area.

TOP CARE WALK TEAMS

THANK YOU TO THE
RECORD-BREAKING 2,424
REGISTRANTS FOR HELPING US
RAISE A RECORD-BREAKING
AMOUNT FOR AUTISM
AWARENESS



special thanks



A very special thank you to the women of Wichita State University's **GAMMA PHI BETA** sorority for their continued support of the Heartspring CARE Program. In November 2012, they served up a storm of grilled cheese sandwiches and raised \$4,527.15, exceeding their goal of \$4,000! Gamma Phi Beta also provided 60 volunteers for the Autism CARE Walk in April. We are thankful for a group of dedicated individuals!

NEW FRIENDSHIPS >>

As a summer camp for individuals with high-functioning autism and Asperger syndrome, many friendships bloom as a result of the understanding and nurturing environment Camp SSTAR (Social Skills Technology Arts & Recreation) strives for. Together, campers work on social skills that will help them thrive at school and in the community.



SELF EXPRESSION

Campers worked on a "Mask" project during their time at camp to learn about self expression. They painted the outside of the masks to show how they are perceived around others and the inside of their masks to show what they truly feel on the inside. This activity showed us that we need to be self-advocates and stand up for ourselves. It's all about self-esteem and believing in yourself, because it's what's on the inside that matters most.

WORKING TOGETHER

One major activity for camp this year was reworking the CARE Program's garden and greenhouse to plant a brand new salsa garden and pumpkin patch. Campers worked together to dig up weeds and plant herbs, vegetables and pumpkins.



MEET THE CAMPERS

CARLEE

AGE | 15 years old

FAVORITE COLOR | Anything that's pretty & colorful

FAVORITE HOBBIES | Taking a walk in my neighborhood, watching movies, looking at my iPhone, drawing and making my own dolls out of paper.

FAVORITE CAMP ACTIVITY | Fishing, because I never thought it could be so much fun! I caught three fish!

WHAT I LEARNED AT CAMP | How to control my anger, how to make friends, and how to show people what I feel.

BEST QUALITY | That I care deeply about everything and everybody.

THOUGHTS ABOUT THE CARE PROGRAM | Connie and Andi are very nice women. They mean so much to me; I've known them for a long time.



LOGAN

AGE | 8.5 years old

FAVORITE COLOR | Green and red

FAVORITE HOBBIES | Soccer and fishing

FAVORITE CAMP ACTIVITY | Fishing and building Legos. "I like being around Mr. Keith."

WHAT I LEARNED AT CAMP | Be respectful and how to make friends.



CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY



INSIDE & OUT

◀ GIVING BACK

Heartspring students were recognized for their community service efforts by Senior Services, Inc. of Wichita for their work with the Meals on Wheels program. Students pick up and deliver meals to local residents twice a week.

⤴ A PART OF HISTORY

Heartspring students and staff participated in a record-breaking effort with Numana, a local non-profit with a mission to feed the hungry, Volunteer Kansas and KWCH Channel 12, to pack bags of beans and rice to feed the hungry. Hundreds of volunteers gathered in this tremendous world record attempt, packing 479,034 bags and shattering the previous record by more than 120,000 bags! A representative from the Guinness Book of World Records was on site to document the record.



COMMUNITY VISITS >>

Thunder Dog, the mascot of the Wichita Thunder Hockey team, visited students in their classrooms. He trekked through snow-packed roads to get to our campus and brought teddy bears for all of the kids. We are grateful for kind-hearted organizations, like the Wichita Thunder, for making the effort to brighten our students' days.



⤴ HEROES AT HEARTSPRING

Some of the best moments at Heartspring come when local community members visit our students. Thanks to the Kansas International Guard 134th Air Control Squadron, Heartspring students received stuffed bunnies and enjoyed homemade cookies and juice after the annual Easter egg hunt.

PRICELESS TRAINING



VISUAL EXPERIENCE

Teresa Vallukulam, administrator of the Vimukti Special School in India, receives training from Carmen LaBarge, Heartspring teacher, in the classroom. This was Teresa's first experience outside of India. According to Teresa, the training she received has been far beyond "just informative." The experience has further encouraged Teresa to do more upon returning home, such as by starting a group home. It's clear her work is not finished.



INITIATING CHANGE

Frederick Sembatya, director of the Montessori Integrated School in Uganda, returned to Heartspring for additional training following a three-week training on campus in 2010. His initial training inspired him to open a group home that now serves five students in Uganda, as well as, complete his master's degree in autism at the University of South Wales, UK.

Frederick also joined Heartspring staff on the annual trip to China (above). He is pictured (from left to right) with Hope, founder of the Stars and Rain Education Institute for Autism in China, Dr. Gary Singleton, Heartspring President and CEO, Merry Barua, founder/director of Action for Autism in India and Scott Sun, director of Stars and Rain. While in China, Heartspring professionals provided training to local organizations and schools, as well as, presented at conferences to raise awareness and provide training to professionals and parents of children with autism.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

WINDOW WASHING — wash the exterior windows on campus during early summer or late fall.

CAR WASH — the 15 fleet vehicles used to transport students need to be vacuumed and washed.

HOST A SOCIAL EVENT — host an ice cream social, pizza party or summer splash

OTHER EVENT & PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

PEDALFEST — AUG. 24, 2013

LIGHTS ON THE LAKE —

NOV. 22 TO DEC. 25, 2013

COMMUNITY OF AUTISM RESOURCES & EDUCATION (CARE) —

Autism CARE Walk (April)
CARE Garden maintenance
Camp SSTAR (early June)
SSTAR Scouts

Interested in volunteering at Heartspring? Opportunities can be catered to any group's size and availability.

Contact Jill Taylor, Community Involvement Coordinator
Phone: 316.634.8761
Email: jtaylor@heartspring.org

GOING BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES

JANE WHITE MEMORIAL

Jane White had a special connection with each and every one of her 13 grandchildren. Her grandson, Colin, is a student at the Heartspring School and faces unique challenges as an individual with autism. She would often visit Colin with her husband, Bill, and loved to see Colin active in the community. "They were always deeply moved by the work of the staff and their dedication to the children of Heartspring," Jane's daughter and Colin's mother, Mia, said.

Jane and Bill not only provided financial support to continue the experiences within the community, but also served as vocal advocates. Jane often shared Colin's story and the work that was being done at Heartspring with family and numerous friends.

Much like her love for her family and Colin, Jane's passion and advocacy efforts were leaps beyond the typical boundaries. After her sudden passing, Jane's impact became clear, as her family and friends were quick to respond to supporting Heartspring in her honor. To date, the Jane White Memorial has collected more than \$22,000 in funds.

These funds will help support recreational activities at Heartspring. Jane lived an active life and was even waterskiing at the age of 73; she promoted this philosophy as a mother and grandmother. Her legacy will be carried on at a place close to her heart and in turn, will provide countless opportunities to the many children Heartspring serves. Thank you, Jane, for your devotion to providing greater opportunities to children with special needs.



CHALLENGE GRANT >>

Help raise funds for the Pediatric Services AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) Library. For every dollar Heartspring receives, a dollar will be awarded from the Wichita Community Victor Murdock Fund. Dollars raised will be matched up to a grand total of \$2,200.

This challenge grant will help fund the expansion of the Heartspring Pediatric Services Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) library, which provides new opportunities for children with special needs.

(Pictured to the right) Heartspring Pediatric Services client, Jason, is non-verbal. After therapists assessed him using several different devices, Jason is now learning to use the appropriate device to communicate his needs. "He doesn't just let the device speak for him," his mother, Keesha said, "he tries to duplicate the sounds."



TREEHOUSE —AND— THERAPEUTIC PLAY AREA

CHALLENGE GRANT

We depend on the help of valued supporters like **YOU** to help kids, like Jason, **find their voice**. Use the attached remit envelope and write "Challenge Grant" in the memo line of your check to give a gift to this cause.



Jason uses his communication device with Occupational Therapist Melissa Welters-Davis.

✓ VICTORIES (FROM PAGE 9)

With further evaluation for fine motor skills and sensory issues, Curran was also diagnosed with *hypotonia*, or low muscle tone, and sensory processing deficits.

At 18 months, Kelyn also started having trouble chewing foods and immediately began treatment at Heartspring. He was also diagnosed with moderate *apraxia*, and fortunately, did not have any sensory or *hypotonia* issues. Through it all, the family remains optimistic.

"Over the years, I've come to realize things could always be worse," Becca said. "With 'normal' developing children, you only get to celebrate the typical milestones. **With special needs children, you get to celebrate something almost on a daily basis!**"

Those little victories after years of hard work turn out to be the most priceless moments. The things many people often take for granted quickly become the proudest moments for many Heartspring families.

"I will never forget the first time Curran said his name. It was about a month before he turned five years old, and I was observing a therapy session," Becca said. Speech Language Pathologist Molly Murphy worked with Curran to help him pronounce the 'ca' sound in his name. "He just said it...and his face lit up!"

Today, both Curran and Kelyn are excelling in school. Their parents' concerns faded as the boys climbed to the top academically in their classes.

"I used to be so scared of my children's futures. Those things we often take for granted—the ability to communicate, learn in school, make friends or live a 'normal' child's life...would my boys have that?" Becca said. "Heartspring has totally changed my thoughts on that. Curran and Kelyn have come a long way, it's unbelievable!"

Have you had a chance to check out our new space? A sleeping dragon created from native Kansas limestone and sloping earth is gently wrapped around a small, rustic treehouse filled with a variety of activities from top to bottom. It is a fun, whimsical, outdoor therapeutic environment that is used across speech, physical, occupational and behavioral therapies.

Once ground broke a year ago, Heartspring Pediatric Services families and staff waited in anticipation to experience the finished project.

"Clients love the new chimes and like to play 'restaurant' up in the covered portion of the treehouse," Autism Specialist, Danielle Cramer said, "One of my clients said, 'Well, I'm going to have to just choose this for my break because it is just so much fun! I wish I could just stay out here forever!'"

TREEHOUSE DEDICATION CEREMONY

We welcome all Heartspring supporters to join us for the official unveiling of the Heartspring Treehouse and Therapeutic Play Area, which will be held on Saturday, August 3 at 10 a.m.



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WICHITA, KS
PERMIT #1209

SAVE THE DATE

LIGHTS ON THE LAKE

Launch Party



DINNER,
DRINKS,
MUSIC &
AUCTION

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 16
MURFIN STABLES | WICHITA, KANSAS

LIGHTSONTHELAKE.ORG