The CARING TOUCH
The Gregory Kistler Treatment Center, Inc.
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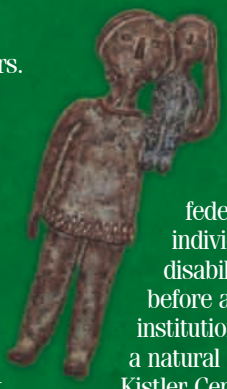
WAIVER PROGRAM EXPANDS KISTLER CENTER SERVICES

by Donna Payne

A small figurine in a California gift shop said it all to Jennifer Kistler. It was of a mother carrying her child on her shoulders. Jennifer saw it as a symbol of the weight of the world on the shoulders of parents of children with special needs.



Jennifer has an intimate understanding of the daily struggles those families face. Her brother Gregory was hit by a car at age 6 and suffered a brain injury. Several years later, her daughter, Michelle, was born with spina bifida. And as executive director of The Gregory Kistler Treatment Center Inc., she has watched families since 1978 come to the Center for help and hope.

Now, in an effort to further lighten the load of those parents, the Center will extend a special service to people with disabilities as a certified Medicaid Waiver provider. Trish Hice and Sharon DeWitt recently joined the staff at the Kistler Center to administer the program: Sharon as director; Trish as case management supervisor. The women bring with them a combined 23 years of experience in the program.

Trish & Jeremy Hice

As people choose the Kistler Center as their Waiver provider, direct-care staff as well as additional case managers will be hired.

Waiver is a state and federally funded program for individuals with developmental disabilities with an age of onset before age 22 and is an alternative to institutionalization. Jennifer sees it as a natural extension of care for the Kistler Center. "We are in a unique position to make families aware of the Waiver program early-on because their children are already coming to the Center," she said. "There is a waiting list with the state once you qualify so it's very important to apply as early as possible."

The services provided are as varied as the persons served. It can mean after-school services to allow a parent to work or 24/7 individualized care for someone with severe disabilities. Parents sometimes are so overwhelmed that regular needs get lost - those of the person with special needs, as well as the rest of the family.

"The goal of the program is to give children and adults the opportunity to learn and do new things - just live life," Sharon said. She was Michelle Kistler's Waiver caregiver for about four years. The twentysomething ladies had the chance to attend a fun day for Waiver participants at DeGray Lake near Hot Springs.

It was just one of the times Sharon got a boost from Michelle, instead of the other way around. "I hate water but she loved it," Sharon said. "They had jet skis and that was the first thing she wanted to do. Fortunately, both of us got to ride with an experienced driver!" Jennifer knew it was a trip of a lifetime for Michelle. "She would never have gone there with me. When she got home, the first thing she said was, 'We've gotta get a jet ski!'"

Sharon DeWitt & Michelle Kistler at Lake DeGray in 2003

Trish is in the unique position of being involved on both the giving and receiving ends of the program. Her stepson, 29-year-old Jeremy, has cerebral palsy and microcephaly and is a Waiver participant. When Jeremy's father Johnny died two years ago, Trish became his primary caregiver. She also has a 15-year-old daughter, Johnnie René.

"Because I have someone who helps take care of Jeremy, I recently had a cookout at our house," Trish said. "I was able to cook

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Check Out Kistler Center Online!

Waiver Program Expands Kistler Center Services *continued*

and get everything ready while staff took care of Jeremy's one-on-one needs and he was able to take part in the cookout." The care is provided as long as the need is there, Trish said, giving parents the rare sense of security." I know if something happens to me, he will be taken care of." The Kistler Center will provide services in 12 Arkansas counties: Benton, Carroll, Washington, Madison, Crawford, Franklin, Johnson, Pope, Sebastian, Logan, Scott and Yell. They will be only the second provider founded and based in Fort Smith.

Sharon sees the Center becoming a Waiver provider as a natural. "We already have the therapy component and Waiver will help us provide an array of services as the child grows".

She said one of the goals of the program is to help persons served live somewhat independently when they get older. "You have a goal to get them where they can socialize and interact with their peers," she said. And it doesn't hurt if the two become friends, like she and Michelle did. "The key for Waiver is to find the perfect match, then you have the best of both worlds."

In the beginning, parents of children with special needs always ask the same thing: Why did this happen? When the needs of their children grow, however, action replaces questions as they work to find solutions. Now, the Kistler Center will help them find the answer to the toughest question of all: What will happen when I'm gone. That figurine may well become the focal point for Waiver at the Kistler Center as they continue to lighten the load for families in our community.

Sharon DeWitt (front), Trish Hice, Jennifer Kistler

ACS Waiver Program: An explanation…

The Alternative Community Services (ACS) Waiver program serves children and adults with developmental disabilities with an onset before the age of 22. An individual is determined eligible if he or she has a primary diagnosis of Intellectual Disability, Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, Autism, or related condition, diagnosed by a qualified professional. Mental illness is not a qualifying diagnosis. The individual must have substantial functional limitations in 3 or more of the 6 areas of major life activities: self-care, understanding or use of language, learning, mobility, self-direction, or independent living.

ACS Waiver services are designed to assist individuals to acquire, retain, and improve self-help, socialization, and adaptive skills necessary to live successfully in the home and community-based settings. The Kistler Center is certified to provide Case Management, Community Transition, Consultation, Organized Health Care Delivery System Services, Respite, Supported Employment, and Supportive Living.

Why is it called "Waiver"? The federal Social Security Act of 1981 established Medicaid home and community-based waivers. The waivers allow states to forgo certain Medicaid restrictions, such as income limits, in order to provide home and community-based services to those who would otherwise receive care in an institution.

To learn more, contact:
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Cox Media Grant Awarded to The Gregory Kistler Treatment Center, Inc.

The Gregory Kistler Center is pleased to announce that Cox Communications and Cox Media have awarded the Center a $25,000 Media Grant for 2011. Every year, Cox Communications and Cox Media commit to working with a number of area organizations to support community initiatives of broad interest or importance to the communities they serve. For 2011, Cox Arkansas was able to offer ten annual Media Grants to provide airtime on multiple cable channels to run public service announcements (PSAs) for select non-profit organizations. These grants directly support efforts aligned with the company's charitable platform: Youth, K-12 education and Technology. Cox director of public affairs Kelly Zega said, "We are so pleased to serve as a media partner to the Kistler Center through one of our grants this year, as we recognize the truly outstanding contribution the organization makes to children in the region. We hope this relationship will further the impact of the Center so they are able to help even more deserving families receive the services they need."

Fort Smith Area Community Foundation

The Gregory Kistler Center was awarded a Giving Tree Grant that was made possible in part by a grant from the Fort Smith Area Community Foundation, an affiliate office of the Arkansas Community Foundation, Inc. The funds were used to purchase licenses for Laserfiche, an electronic data management system.

Arvest Bank & Walton Family Foundation

Arvest Bank facilitated the Kistler Center in receiving a grant from the Walton Family Foundation to replace some flooring at the Center.

Spina Bifida Involves Entire Family

by Nancy Steel

Jamie and Michael Cleveland probably didn't even know she was pregnant when their future daughter's development took a wrong turn. Jamie and Michael lived in Sallisaw with their older daughter, Emma, when Jamie became pregnant for a second time. Jamie, now 31, is a stay-at-home mom and former kindergarten teacher. Michael, 37, operates Michael's Catering in Sallisaw. They were looking forward to having a sibling for Emma, who is now 3.

Jamie said her early pregnancy was uneventful and she had regular checkups at Redbird Smith Indian Health Center in Sallisaw. The staff monitored her closely because she had developed high blood pressure during her pregnancy with Emma.

"I was 35 weeks pregnant when they did an ultrasound at Hastings Hospital in Tahlequah," Jamie recalls. "They said they saw 'something' on her back but it didn't look like spina bifida."

Jamie was referred to Schusterman Center in Tulsa for further evaluation and a series of sophisticated imaging tests confirmed a diagnosis of spina bifida.

"We knew then that she would have problems, but it was after she was born that we learned just how spina bifida would affect her," said Jamie.

A series of surgeries, work with Sooner Start para-professionals every other week, and twice a week appointments with physical therapists Kristen Ricketts and Alex Foti have given Allie a firm foundation for continued progress toward independence.

Kristen Ricketts, physical therapist, works with Allie to improve her sitting balance while reaching.

Allie was delivered by cesarean section at Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa. The beautiful brown-eyed baby weighed in at a healthy 7 pounds, 5 ounces. She also had a portion of her lower back that was open, exposing a sac consisting of spinal membranes, part of her spinal cord and exposed nerves.

"They brought her to me, all wrapped up with her beautiful little face showing. I kissed her face and they whisked her away to Saint Francis Hospital," Jamie said.

Of the three types of spina bifida, Allie was born with the most serious, meningomyelocele. The day after she was born, surgeons at Saint Francis inserted the vital material in the protruding sac, repositioned the affected vertebra in her lower back and closed the opening. Allie was placed on a ventilator; a routine procedure to make sure the tiny patient received enough oxygen.

"She pulled it out, and she was breathing so well on her own the ventilator was not replaced," Jamie said. "She's been a little fighter right from the start."

Allie spent a total of seven days in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Saint Francis before the family returned to Sallisaw. Before her release Jamie and Michael were taught how to change the dressing on her back. "It was really like a great big Band-Aid," Jamie said with a laugh. "A giant Band-Aid that went across her back."

Jamie breast-fed Allie and the family began settling into a relatively normal routine for a family with a newborn and a toddler. But Allie was only two weeks old when she returned to Tulsa for surgery to treat hydrocephalus, a common complication of spina bifida. Hydrocephalus, sometimes called "water on the brain," occurs when excess cerebral spinal fluid is produced. If the fluid has no way to escape, it builds up causing the head to swell and putting pressure on the brain. Untreated, hydrocephalus leads to brain damage.

Physical therapists Alex Foti and Kristen Ricketts help Allie to stand in a standing frame.

Treatment consists of inserting a shunt under the skin that drains excess fluid from the brain into Allie's stomach. The surgery went well but unexpected difficulties with its performance required another trip to the operating room for a shunt revision.

Allie also was born with congenital tight heel cords, hip dysplasia and clubfoot. The heel cord (Achilles tendon) is a fleshy, fibrous tissue that connects the heel of the foot to the muscles of the calf. The strongest tendon in the body, the Achilles tendon enables walking, running, jumping and standing on the toes.

Allie's tendons were short and stiff, keeping her feet in a toe-down position. She was put in leg casts to help reposition her feet when she was 3 weeks old and continued to wear casts until she was 4 months old. Allie's casts were then replaced with bilateral lower extremity braces as the next step in repositioning her feet. Surgeons made an incision above Allie's heels, cut and stretched the tendons, reattached them and made casts for each foot to allow the tendons to heal properly.

Allie is under the care of orthopedic specialists at the Shriners Hospital for Children in Shreveport, La. She normally is checked every six months, but goes more often if needed.

Today Allie is much like any 14-month-old child. She's curious, engaging and quick to reach for her toys. She appears very

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Spina Bifida Involves Entire Family *continued*

independent sitting with a Kistler Center therapist and playing with a basket of toys. Allie learned to hold her head up pretty much on schedule and she can push her torso up with her hands and arms, and roll over but with little nerve function to her legs she cannot stand alone.

Allie "practices" standing every day in a standing frame that supports her and has a tray for toys or snacks. She wears braces to keep her feet properly positioned and at night she wears knee immobilizers.

"Allie's come a long way since the first time we saw her," said Ricketts. "She's made a lot of progress and our goal is that eventually she can walk with either a walker or forearm crutches."

Foti agreed. "She's sitting independently and stands with support. She's not 100 percent but she's getting there."

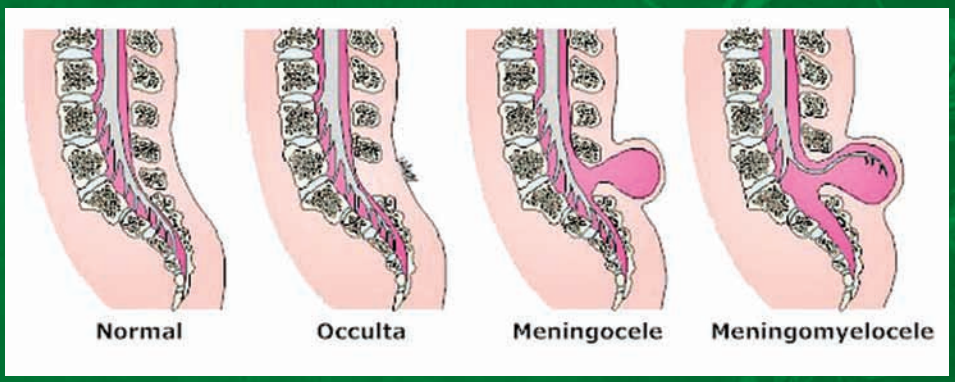
"We hope she will be crawling by the time she's 2, and that she'll be pulling up, too," said Jamie. "I'm so grateful to the Kistler Center. It's given me comfort knowing there are professionals who look at her and work with her. And to see her progress, that's just wonderful. Everybody here has been wonderful to us, and it's a family thing." Emma goes along with Allie and plays in the physical therapy room making treatment seem perfectly normal.

October is Spina Bifida Awareness Month, Down Syndrome Awareness Month, National Disability Awareness Month, and National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Allie transitions in and out of side-sit with the help of physical therapist, Kristen Ricketts.

PLAINLY SPEAKING

Spina bifida occurs during the first 28 days of conception when the embryo's neural tube – which will develop into the brain and the spinal cord that is encased by the spine – fails to close properly. Depending on the severity of the condition, the location and amount of exposed tissue, spina bifida is classified by its severity.



Spina bifida occulta is the mildest form. Children with this form of spina bifida usually have no symptoms because the nerves are not involved and the condition may never be discovered unless it is revealed during unrelated X-ray or other medical imaging tests.

Meningocele (mujh-NIN-juh-seel) is a type of spina bifida that allows fluid to leak out of the spine and make bulges in the skin. Because the spinal cord remains inside the protective vertebrae of the spine, the bulging sac is more easily repaired and there is little to no damage to the nerves.

Meningomyelocele (mujh-NIN-juh-my-uh-loh-seel) is the most serious form of spina bifida. Paralysis, foot and leg deformities, bladder or bowel control and other issues often accompany meningomyelocele.

Babies born with meningomyelocele also commonly experience accumulation of fluid in the brain, a condition known as hydrocephalus. Most babies with meningomyelocele will need a ventricular shunt — a surgically placed tube that allows fluid in the brain to drain as needed into the abdomen. This tube might be placed just after birth, during the surgery to close the sac on the lower back, or later as fluid accumulates.

Many children with meningomyelocele have or develop a tethered spinal cord. The cord is attached to surrounding tissues and cannot move up and down freely as it normally does. This can cause foot or leg deformities, hip dislocation, or scoliosis. The problems can worsen as the child grows and the tethered cord is stretched.

The exact cause of spina bifida is not known. Research has established that a deficiency of folic acid, a water-soluble B vitamin, can cause neural tube deformities in the earliest stages of pregnancy. But it is also thought that genes and the environment play a role in the development of spina bifida.

Everyday about 8 babies born in the United States have spina bifida or a similar birth defect of the brain and spine.

The Gregory Kistler Treatment Center, Inc.

Bryson, Layne and Walker Goins

November 8, 2011

Dear Friends of the Kistler Center,

On December 3, 2006, I gave birth to triplets. I had been admitted into the hospital 3 weeks prior just in case labor began. Based on the ultrasounds, we simply knew to expect three babies. That was scary enough for me. Having triplets was going to be a challenge. My boys were 7 weeks premature. At birth, Walker weighed 3 lbs., Layne weighed 3 lbs. 11 oz. and Bryson weighed 3 lbs. 7 oz.

After their birth, I learned that two of my babies had spina bifida, meningocele. All three boys were quickly sent to Children's Hospital where Walker and Bryson each had back surgeries. All three boys had to stay at Children's Hospital for their first 40 days. Then for their entire first year of life, all three boys had to stay on monitors and oxygen. I knew we would have a long road ahead of us, but that we could get through it.

During their stay at Children's Hospital, we were told not to get our hopes up. Walker and Bryson may not ever walk and could need wheelchairs. The diagnosis they had been given could cause them to be very disabled. These are not words a new mother wants to hear. I'm not sure which I did more during that time; cry or pray. When the boys finally came home, their pediatrician told me they HAD to get into the Kistler Center. I had never heard about the Kistler Center and had no idea then, that the Center would become such a vital part of our lives. Two of the boys started physical therapy at only 6 months old. Bryson received therapy at the Center for two years and has since graduated from physical therapy. Walker is still receiving physical therapy weekly and is working hard now to strengthen his gait. Both boys are walking and still making fantastic progress.

The therapists at the Kistler Center are so encouraging and loving. They have been such a big part of my children's lives and a huge part of their successes. I really appreciate the hard work of each and every person at The Gregory Kistler Center. They have made an immeasurable difference in my boys' lives now and for the future! I am so grateful for that. They have proven to me that miracles do happen!

Thank you to all the physical therapists and all the staff at the Center. We are very blessed to have such a facility in our area. Words cannot express the gratitude I feel. The future of many other children depends on the services these therapists provide.

Please consider making a donation today to The Gregory Kistler Center so there will be more wonderful success stories to share in the future!

Sincerely,

Marty Goins

Marty, Bryson, Layne & Walker Goins

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Look for this button! You may now make a secure donation on the Kistler Center's website. Simply go to www.kistlercenter.org and click on Donate Now.

The Michelle Kistler Memorial Endowment Fund

In loving memory of Michelle Kistler, the Board of Directors of The Gregory Kistler Treatment Center, Inc., has established an Endowment Fund. This endowment, through its earnings, will be used to help fund needed therapy to more of our special children so the Board of Directors can continue the philosophy of never turning a child away for financial reasons. Additionally, as the Kistler Center's Board directs, some earnings may be directed to operational activities to sustain and grow the Kistler Center's ability to provide the most up-to-date occupational therapy, physical therapy, and/or speech-language therapy possible for children. Contributions may be made as a single gift or spread over several years.

I (we) will support **The Michelle Kistler Memorial Endowment Fund**, that will be used to help fund needed therapy to more of our special children so we can continue our philosophy of never turning a child away for financial reasons. I (we) commit to this fund a total of $ to be given as follows.

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A Gift That Keeps On Giving

The Gregory Kistler Treatment Center has been serving the needs of challenged individuals and their families in Western Arkansas and Eastern Oklahoma for over 32 years. With your contribution, we can continue to help people with special needs live life to their fullest capability. A wonderful way to show your support is by honoring someone who is (or was) special to you.

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Betty Cummings

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Cindy & Ashton Womack

Corrections

If we have reported your gift incorrectly or failed to include your gift, please call the **Kistler Center at 785-4677.** Thank you for your support!

CALENDER OF EVENTS

ON-GOING Burger King Receipt Drive

APRIL is the Kistler Center month at Burger King to drop receipts in the collection box inside the restaurants.

Burger King wants you to "Have It Your Way" ALL-YEAR-LONG and help Kistler Kids too!

The Kistler Center will receive 10¢ for every receipt of food or drink purchased at any Burger King restaurant in Fort Smith, Van Buren, Alma, and Poteau. Just place your Burger King receipts in the collection box at any Burger King restaurant, at the Kistler Center or mail to the Center at 3304 South M Street, Fort Smith, AR 72903. The event is sponsored by Neubauer Restaurants Corporation.

Cell Phone Collection Drive

We are also accepting empty Deskjet Printer Cartridges ONLY.

On-going

Another great way to help raise funds for the Kistler Center with little effort or cost!

Collect old and unused cell phones or empty deskjet printer cartridges (no laser cartridges) from family, friends, and your office to help Kistler's Kids. To donate, bring your old phones or cartridges to the Kistler Center, Moore Dental Care, Rhodes Chevrolet, Sutherlands or to Michelle's AT&T Store in Roland. Value is determined by style and newness of phones. These phones will be refurbished and/or recycled. Printer cartridges are recycled.

To request a collection box for our on-going event, call Kathie at 479.785.4677

The Gregory Kistler Treatment Center, Inc.

Children's

Christmas Party

Monday December 5th, 2011

6:30pm - 8pm

Grand Avenue Baptist Church Activities Building

921 North 39th Street

Pictures with Santa and goodies for the children will be provided!

Must RSVP by November 10th

Party sponsored by Window World

11th Annual!

I Tri Indoor Triathlon

February 2012 - Date TBA

Location: Marvin Altman Fitness Center
810 Lexington Ave., Fort Smith (For directions, call 479-441-5469 or email FortSmithTri@gmail.com)

Open to the first 100 individuals who return their completed registration form and entry fee. Team divisions consist of all-male, all-female, and mixed. Teams can be 2 or 3 racers.

Events	Age divisions -- male and female			
500-yard pool swim	12-15	20-29	40-49	60-69
10-mile stationary bike	16-19	30-39	50-59	70+
3-mile run on track				

Award Categories: Best Overall Male Award, Best Overall Female Award, Awards three-deep in each age group and in All Male, All Female & Mixed Teams.

Ceremony to follow soon after last participant crosses finish line.

FEES: Individual $40 • Team, per each member $20
Late registration fee will be $50

Proceeds go to The Gregory Kistler Center. Additional donations are greatly appreciated and can be made with entry fee! For more information, see our Facebook group: Fort Smith Arkansas Triathlons or send e-mail to FortSmithTri@gmail.com

For more information about events, call 479.785.4677 and ask for Kathie.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

SATURDAY
MAY 5, 2012

10TH ANNUAL

A NIGHT IN THE CARIBBEAN

SHARING THE SPIRIT

Ashley Bishop

Speech-Language Pathologist, Ashley Bishop, interned at the Kistler Center from August to December, 2010. She graduated from the University of Central Arkansas with a Master of Science degree in May, 2011, and immediately joined the Kistler Center staff. Ashley lives in Van Buren with her husband, Austin, and enjoys spending time with family, taking walks, and watching movies.

Charity Rowden

Charity Rowden was recently promoted to Team Leader for the Speech Therapy department. As Team Leader, she hopes to build an even stronger and more knowledgeable and unified Speech Therapy department. Charity earned her Master of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Central Arkansas in August 2007. Due to great experiences during her clinical practicum at the Center, she decided to immediately join the Kistler Center staff following graduation. Charity lives in Fort Smith and enjoys spending time with her family, church family, and friends.

Emily Robertson

Emily Robertson interned at the Kistler Center from January to April 2011. She earned a Master of Science degree from the University of Central Arkansas in May, 2011, and then joined the Kistler Center staff as a Speech-Language Pathologist. Emily lives in Van Buren with her husband, Philip, and dog, Carly. She enjoys painting, baking, game nights, and spending time with friends and family.

Emily Vernon

Emily Vernon interned at the Kistler Center in the fall of 2010. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma, Tulsa, Oklahoma, with a Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy in May, 2011, and joined the Kistler Center staff. Emily grew up near Seattle, Washington, and was on the rowing team at the University of Tulsa. She recently married Howard Vernon. Emily and Howard live in Fort Smith and enjoy spending time at the family farm.

Mandy Webb

Mandy Webb joined the Kistler Center in June as an office assistant. In this role, she is instrumental in helping the office to run efficiently. Mandy lives in Van Buren and enjoys outdoor activities and spending time with her family.

Shanae Core

Shanae Core joined the Kistler Center in September as an Administrative Assistant. In this role, she assists the Executive Director and helps to ensure the efficient operation of the Center. Shanae lives in Ozark with her husband, Garrett, and cat, Kara. She enjoys spending time with her family, painting landscape portraits, and taking naps. Her lifelong dream is to one day own the Hobby Lobby chain.

Tracy Gibson

Tracy Gibson, local sales manager for Cox Media, was elected to the Kistler Center Board of Directors in April. Tracy says, "Since the late 1980's, the Kistler Center has had a special place in my heart. As a partner with Advertising Plus, I was involved in the production of the very first video for the Center. It was then that I saw the relationship between the children and the Center was developed out of love and compassion, not that of a client or customer. Seeing first-hand the enormous impact of the Kistler Center on the lives of the children and their families inspired me". Tracy and wife, Janice, live in Muldrow and have two teenage children, Colby and London.

Sharon Dewitt

Sharon DeWitt recently joined The Gregory Kistler Treatment Center as the Director of Waiver Services. She received a B.S. in Psychology in 1997 from the University of Central Arkansas. Sharon is responsible for the overall administration of Waiver services. Sharon has worked with individuals with developmental disabilities for 14 years. Also, Sharon has been the primary care giver for her dad, Nick, who has been battling the effects of Alzheimer's for many years. Sharon and her husband, Nathan, live in Charleston with their children, Katie and Tanner.

Trish Hice

Trish Hice recently joined the staff of The Gregory Kistler Treatment Center as the Waiver Case Management Supervisor. In this role, she is responsible for oversight of goal development, implementation, monitoring, and modification of Person Centered Service Plans for individuals served in the Waiver program. Trish has 18 years' experience in the field of developmental disabilities. Trish lives in Ratcliff with her daughter, Johnnie Rene', and son, Jeremy. She enjoys outdoor activities and spending time with family and friends.

WISH LIST

Remember the Kistler Center as you shop:

AA batteries • AAA batteries • Copy paper • Dishwasher soap

Dishwashing soap • Facial tissue

Hand sanitizer, large size • Laundry detergent

To purchase these special order items, please call Jennifer at 479.785.4677:

Changing Verbs to Nouns & Metaphors

& Smilies Fun Deck ~ $25

Fantastic Card Holders ~ $25

Oral Motor Tools ~ $75

The Gregory Kistler Treatment Center, Inc.
3304 South M Street
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903

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Crystal Stenback, speech-language pathologist
Sharon DeWitt, director of waiver services
Trish Hice, case management supervisor
Jim Sauls, maintenance

Call or visit us online to learn more about the services provided at The Gregory Kistler Center - 479.785.4677 • www.kistlercenter.org.

Aquatic Therapy encourages new and different movement patterns. Children are helped to develop balance, motor planning and postural control. Independent movement is encouraged for children who have little opportunity on land. And finally, water therapy is fun and motivating.

Occupational Therapy helps children develop awareness, strength and coordination needed for self-care, early learning and academic skills. Children who have sensory integration problems and learning difficulties can also benefit from treatment.

Physical Therapy designs specific activities to help children learn coordination and muscle control needed for sitting, crawling, standing or walking. It aids the child in developing body awareness, balance, strength and coordination.

Speech-Language Therapy promotes a child's ability to produce speech and to understand the spoken word. It addresses a child's rhythm of speech, breath control, vocal qualities and alternative communication methods, as well as oral-motor and feeding skills..

Waiver Services are designed to assist individuals to live successfully in the home and community-based settings. Services are provided to children and adults with developmental disabilities with an onset before age 22.

Please consider the Kistler Center in your will.

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