

Stepping Stones Learning Center



41 COLEBROOK DRIVE ROCHESTER, NY 14617
 PHONE: 585-467-4567 * FAX: 585-467-6973

BREAKING THE BAILEY FAMILY GROUND

It's time to celebrate! Stepping Stones Learning Center will be breaking ground soon on renovations to our new school! After months of fundraising for our "Campaign for Kids", Phase I of our project has finally become a reality. We anticipate closing on the purchase of the property, in the former Chase-Pitkin store building located at 2111 Hudson Avenue, by the end of September, 2013. Phase II of the project will be the actual build-out of the building, starting sometime early this Fall. That will keep us on target to start the 2014-2015 school year at the new facility.

The "Campaign for Kids" Cabinet Members are still actively

fundraising for this project to reach our goal of creating a place where the children that come to SSLC will have an opportunity to grow

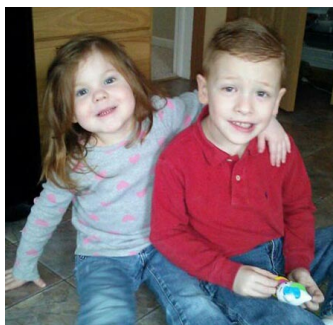


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May 6, 2010. This is the day that Liam was diagnosed with Autism and the day that would change our lives. We had just had our baby girl 5 months earlier, My Husband Bill was scheduled for a military deployment and I was still working full time. We started with early intervention therapy at home 3 hours each week.... we had no idea that was nowhere near enough! Bill was thankfully taken off the deployment to be able to focus on Liam and after a few months I left my job to stay home with Liam and Gracie and work with the therapists that were coming to the house so I could learn more of how to help Liam. It wasn't until we began researching other states and what they offered that we realized he should be getting MUCH more! We found New York State to offer so much more....more of what he needed to be successful and have a better chance of being integrated with typical children as he grew.

Fast forward to August 2012this is when we found Stepping Stones! We had already moved twice to try to

get Liam more, but it still wasn't quite enough. We made yet another move and came to Rochester so Liam could start school here. Our daughter was by this point at preschool age so she began attending as a typical developing child in the classroom.... and LOVES it! Both Liam and Gracie love walking



through the doors of Stepping Stones! They are both welcomed with smiles and hugs. Stepping Stones will always be a special place for us....it's a place where some of the staff have become like extended family, they have taken our kids both in the clinic setting and the classroom setting and taught them so much. Wherever we go people always ask us what brought us to Rochesterit's certainly not the winters!!! Stepping Stones has been worth every sacrifice we have made and in return Liam (and Gracie) have grown tremendously thanks to the hard work, determination, and compassion their staff has shown and given both of our children. Our only regret is that Liam couldn't stay just one more year...kindergarten was calling his name!"

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO/FOUNDER

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe summer is over and we have successfully completed the first few weeks of a new school year!! The 2013-2014 school year will truly be a turning point for our organization. SSLC is looking forward to closing on our new school building the end of September, build out to take a year and then the 2014-2015 school year to open at 2111 Hudson Ave. This will also be our 20th year anniversary and a time for celebration!



During this past school year, staff and board members have worked very closely with the Ad Council to develop our Brand Platform and create a communication plan (our strategic plan for the future). We are now working on a new logo and tagline to better represent our agency and become the banner for our brand. Look for its unveiling in the near future to understand our identity, value and what we do on a daily basis.

We now have our road map for the future. It guides our staff, administrators and board on the course of where we are heading. It sets our direction for the many changes that occur around us. This reflective and thoughtful work helps to keep us on the correct path. We have taken the time to think about who we are, where we want to go and how we can always be "living the brand".

Thank you again for all your past support. I look forward to seeing everyone during the year.

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BREAKING GROUND

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and learn in a state-of-the-art environment. The new facility will offer much needed program space that will allow us to provide more programs and services to a larger population of children and youth. If you would like to help support the "Campaign for Kids", contact Don Sinton or Dawn Jennings in the Development Department. They can be reached by phone at 467-4567 or via email at dsinton@steppingstoneslearning.com or djennings@steppingstoneslearning.com.



MIKE FESS SSLC CLASS OF 1994 WILL "DRAW FOR AUTISM"

In 1994 Stepping Stones Learning Center was one classroom with two teachers serving nine children; Mike Fess was one of those nine

children. Mike was four years old when he was diagnosed with Autism and began receiving services here at Stepping Stones Learning Center in our very first class. Very early in his life, Mike had an affinity for art and now enjoys drawing animals in support of various events around the community. Mike can finish most of his drawings within three minutes and can do nearly anything from dogs

to dinosaurs! After graduating from Irondequoit High School, Mike attended a two year transition program through the school district, BOCES and St.

John Fisher College learning various life skills. We recently contacted Mike and his family to ask if he would be willing to donate his time and talents in

support of our festival and Autism Program; he "jumped at the chance" says his mother Sheila. So be sure to stop by his table at our festival on Saturday September 28th and help us celebrate Mike and our Autism program!



STEPPING STONES LEARNING CENTER IS FULL OF ACTIVITY

Our September program is off to a great start! Below is an update on each of the programs on site.

CLASSROOM

Classroom program consists of 2 toddler classrooms (1 of which is integrated), 6 pre-school classrooms (ALL integrated) and 4 special classes. ALL of these classrooms have embraced the HighScope Curriculum which is a well respected curriculum with 40 years of implementation and research to support its approach. Classrooms will have small group activities focusing on developmental milestones related to NYS Common Core and HighScope's Key Developmental Indicators. These group activities will be developed based on the teacher's direct knowledge of the children's strengths, areas of challenge and interests. Classrooms will have "work" times (previously known as play times) that are planned by the children. This life skill of planning PRIOR to doing will be something reinforced on a daily basis with the children. There are several other important components to the HighScope curriculum. Please be on the look out for a Parent Informational Meeting regarding this new curriculum later this Fall.



CLINIC

Clinic children are busy as well. Relationships between therapist/teacher and child are being developed and therapy is occurring smoothly and happily. Clinic staff worked hard prior to the start of the school year cleaning, organizing, and creating a welcoming learning environment for the children. Stop by and see!



OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OPWDD) PROGRAMS

This program initiated an After School Social Skills Program a year and half ago. The program began with 6 adolescents, 1 student volunteer from a local high school, and 3 staff members and was designed to foster social skills in a group setting with typically developing teens. The response to the program was very positive and now the program has grown to over 30 adolescents participating 6 different sessions weekly (4 occurring at our Colebrook site and 2 occurring at Pieter's Life Center as part of a collaboration with the local parent advocacy group, Autism Up). We have also 8 students from local high schools who are willing to volunteer at these groups. We expect continued growth in this program and hope to open 2 additional sessions by 2014.

SSLC's OPWDD programs also include a variety of other supports to families in the community such as: Autism Support, Behavior Support, Medicaid Service Coordination, Intensive Behavior Support, Community Habilitation, Respite Camp (over school breaks), Service Access, Family Education and Training and Intensive Parent Training



LET'S "MAKE THE PIECES FIT" FOR AUTISM!!

It's that time of year again! It's time for our annual 10th annual 5K Race/1 Mile Walk and Family Festival "To Make the Pieces Fit" for Autism. Scheduled for Saturday September 28th, this annual event is the largest fundraiser in support of our highly regarded Autism programming for children and youth up to age 21. Brought to us once again by our dear friends from Ward and Schmerbeck, P.C Public Accountants, the day begins with a certified 5K Race that travels through the beautiful neighborhoods surrounding our school. The race begins at 9:00 AM and will be started by our friends Mike and Wendy Nolan, the developers of I-Square here in Irondequoit. At 9:30 we have



our very popular 1 Mile Family Walk; a leisurely neighborhood stroll. By the time the runners and walkers cross the finish line, our very popular Family Festival will be in full swing, with games, pony rides, music, dancing, fire trucks, police cars, food and more! The festival is being hosted by our good friend Senator Ted O'Brien. For more information or to register for the race or walk, please visit our website SteppingStonesLearning.com

or call Don Sinton at 585-467-4567.

Thank you to the following Underwriters and Sponsors of this event, we could not succeed without them!

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Stepping Stones Learning Center

MISSION STATEMENT

Stepping Stones Learning Center is committed to serving children, their families, and the community, through collaborative ventures for the provision of quality programs and services to achieve the highest level of success for all participants.

VISION STATEMENT

SSLC strives to be the advocate and leader in the development and implementation of inclusionary services for children of all ages and backgrounds through the design of programs that meet the child's ever changing needs. This is achieved in part by holding of prime importance the matching of values and goals held by the family and our high quality staff.

STEPPING STONES LEARNING CENTER'S CULTURE IS CREATIVE

- C**ustomer satisfaction
- R**ecognition for employees
- E**fficient practices
- A**ccountability is key
- T**enacity of employees
- I**nformed stakeholders
- V**isionary attitude
- E**xcellence overall

VALUES ACHIEVED EVERYDAY AT STEPPING STONES LEARNING CENTER

Dignity ~ Equity ~ Honesty
Integrity ~ Initiative ~ Respect