



SUMMER 2014

ACHIEVING
SUCCESS

HEARTSPRING

DIALOGUE

LETTER FROM THE BOARD

As a member of Heartspring's Board of Trustees, it is often that I am reminded of the importance of our community taking the time to learn about individuals with special needs. And now, as I spend my vacation time in Colorado, I can't help but realize it more. In a roundabout way, my connection with Heartspring is tied to Colorado. My brother, Vonn and his wife, Trish, live in Denver with their two sons, Andrew and Jack. Both boys were diagnosed with autism in varying degrees when they were two years old. As a family unit, we were not equipped to know what that meant, let alone how we might help. While Vonn and Trish were working with their professionals in Denver, the rest of our family researched and educated ourselves as much as we could about children with special needs and the services available to them.



During this time, I was asked if I would serve on the Board of Trustees at Heartspring. When I met with President & CEO Gary Singleton and learned about the organization and its mission, I was sold on the opportunity. I could learn from the best and hopefully, contribute to an organization that was providing a much needed service to children with special needs and their families.

Heartspring is so much more than I expected. The services provided are so imperative. I see this firsthand in the family members that visit our board meetings and tell us their stories. For so many of these families, Heartspring is their last hope. As a member of a family with children impacted by special needs, I understand exactly what that means.

I've learned that Heartspring is so unique in many ways. With an entrepreneurial drive, Heartspring is consistently looking for opportunities to collaborate with others as a way to effectively improve or add new services. I see this illustrated in many ways, such as, working with interactive robots to break down communication barriers, collaborating with Kansas State University to identify ways that technology can aid individuals with autism and developing international outreach programs that provide the essentials in working with individuals with special needs. These opportunities, combined with the determination of the leadership team and staff, will hopefully continue the success of the organization for years to come; because, Heartspring is truly a critical source for so many families—mine included.

Brenda Koehring
Heartspring Board of Trustees
Flint Hills Resources, LLC (Retired)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

To our Heartspring supporters,

Our organization's eagerness and thirst for new technology continues to emerge and impact our community. In regards to our ever-expanding data collection application, the testing that was carried into the Heartspring Pediatric Services department proved successful and invaluable for our behavior analysts. The patent for this project is currently in its final stages and will soon be implemented on select coding within the data collection process.

While we continue to invest in improved technology, we have also maintained the search for new avenues to better serve our population. One of our newest ventures is our research with NAO Humanoids—robots that are fully programmable to interact with children with autism. These initiatives have garnered quite a bit of recognition, both locally and nationally—from our local newspaper to a nationally-distributed autism magazine. The shared interest has been incredible and we are appreciative of the tremendous support. Recently, the outpouring of interest and willingness to create partnerships has taken our ambitions to the next level. There has been discussion to trial new technology at our campus, including Telepresence Robots and an Android multi-touch platform. We find so much value in creating these relationships and watching them flourish. One of our ongoing partners, Kansas State University's School of Engineering, recently reached out to us to further some of their research for individuals with autism and disabilities—they're designing and creating new technologies that could make a large impact in the future. We are honored to have this opportunity to work with them.

Our focus has been and always will be guiding families and individuals impacted by special needs to a path toward greater independence through effective and evidence-based practices. With that vision in mind, Heartspring's Pediatric Services has expanded significantly in the past few years to accommodate the ongoing need for services in our community. We have seen a tremendous growth in behavior services, such as Applied Behavior Analysis, and a growing number of military families benefiting from those services through our organization. We are proud to provide imperative services to the one in 68 individuals and families impacted by autism in the Wichita and surrounding communities. As the number of individuals diagnosed with autism continues to grow, a new movement begins—with revised legislation, increased awareness and better opportunities.

We've seen our community come together firsthand with the record-breaking success of the 7th annual Autism CARE Walk, where approximately 4,000 autism advocates raised \$101,012 for the Heartspring CARE Program and autism awareness. We specifically would like to thank Kansas' Lieutenant Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D., and his accompanying group of autism advocates and state representatives for a momentous ceremonial presentation of the House Bill 2744 at the Autism CARE Walk. This bill will undoubtedly change the lives of the many individuals and families impacted by autism spectrum disorders in our community by expanding insurance coverage for their benefit.

It has been a pleasure for us, as an organization, to be able to celebrate and work together with so many supporters who join us in our mission of forging a brighter path for children with special needs. Thanks to your generosity, we can continue to guide and provide these essential therapies and services that remain imperative to the success of our children.



Gary W. Singleton, Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary Singleton".

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

ROBOTS

A STEP TOWARD THE FUTURE FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

He can greet you. He can dance. And he can make a room full of people laugh. He's friendly, talkative and technologically advanced. He's also programmed to be that way. Who is he? **The NAO Humanoid robot**—created by Aldebaran Robotics in France. The robot is the organization's newest learning tool and subject of several research initiatives. The main goal of the research is to see if the robots can provide assistance in educating children with autism in various environments. Oftentimes, children with autism respond well to technology, making the robot a presumably ideal candidate for social interaction. As we continue to measure and analyze research data, Heartspring hopes to incorporate the use of advanced technology, like the robots, into therapies and programs throughout the organization to create the most effective learning environment possible.



“ WE’VE ONLY SCRATCHED THE SURFACE,
SO FAR. THERE ARE SO MANY AVENUES
AND ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES FOR
CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. ”

STEVE STOFFREGEN
Director of MIS

NAO HUMANOID | FEATURES

KEY BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

- Fully programmable with state-of-the-art software for customized games and goals for clients
- Motivating & attention-grabbing
- Helps with imitation, compliance skills

SOUND DETECTION & LOCALIZATION

The NAO Humanoid robot comes equipped with microphones all around his head, allowing the ability to detect and localize sounds around him.

IMAGE SENSING CAMERAS

Two advanced cameras on the front, allowing the NAO Humanoid robot full interaction capabilities. With face detection software, the robot can detect and learn a face and recognize it the next time it sees it. The robot also has the capacity to recognize a large quantity of objects.

AUTOMATIC SPEECH RECOGNITION

English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean



ROBOT RESEARCH INITIATIVES

After the initial buzz of positive responses with utilizing NAO Humanoid robots in therapy with children with autism, Heartspring is developing research protocols of its own. Behavior specialists in Pediatric Services have spent some time observing clients' interactions with the robot versus interactions with a human in the outpatient setting. Observation has been primarily focused on greetings and the consistency of the greetings before and after introducing the robot. Research will be done in a reading group, as well. The study will analyze if the clients' interest and learning abilities improve when a robot reads a book to them, rather than when a human reads the book. Additionally, a program for anger management is in the works to be utilized in Heartspring's therapeutic residential school.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION & CONTINUING OPPORTUNITIES



Heartspring's new robot research garnered national attention after being featured in Wichita's local newspaper in an article by *The Wichita Eagle's* Kelsey Ryan. News has spread across the nation to places like Oklahoma, Washington, California, Georgia, Texas, South Carolina and even Alaska. The article was recently featured in *Autism Spectrum Quarterly* magazine (pictured), a national resource for autism news. The article can be viewed by visiting the following link: <http://www.asquarterly.com/issues/25/articles/247>.

The attention has notably opened a lot of doors to collaborations with universities and other organizations working to find out more about what the NAO robot and other technologies can do for children with special needs.

“THE ROBOT HAS OPENED UP SO MANY DOORS FOR US IN TERMS OF COLLABORATION AND RESEARCH. IT'S OUR JOB TO FIND THE MOST EFFECTIVE PROGRAMMING POSSIBLE FOR THE CHILDREN WE SERVE.”

KIMBERLY BECKER
Director of Pediatric Services

PROUD PARENTS

The Heartspring School's Parent Weekend is one of the most eventful times of the year for staff, students and families. Parents are able to see the progress their children have made during this time, as they participate in various activities as a family, watch a musical performance and enjoy a night of dancing at the annual school prom.



∨ SHOWSTOPPING ACTS

Parents got to watch students sing, dance and play instruments at the annual Parent Weekend music program. The program included student solos, songs performed by Heartspring's choir group, the Choral Sensations, and a dance to Pharell's "Happy."



GLIDING TOWARD SUCCESS

PARENT WEEKEND SKATE PARTY



New to Heartspring's Parent Weekend this year, was a new activity—skating at Carousel Skate in west Wichita. For the first time, many Heartspring School parents got to witness their kids participating in an activity that they weren't able to do prior to attending the Heartspring School program.



∧ THE BEST CUP OF COFFEE

Heartspring's student-run "coffee shop" was available exclusively for parents during Parent Weekend. Some parents got to taste and witness their children working in a "real-life" work environment for the first time. The students take orders, collect payment, brew and deliver coffee to guests.

NIGHT WITH THE STARS >>

The Kansas State Council of Epsilon Sigma Alpha (ESA) sorority hosted Heartspring's annual prom during Parent Weekend. The theme was "A Night with the Stars," complete with a red carpet, gold stars and camera-ready smiles! ESA is a longtime sponsor of Heartspring, often hosting dances and more recently, serving as the lead sponsor for the Heartspring Treehouse project.



<< KINDEST HEARTS

The women of ESA planned and created a carnival experience for Heartspring students at the annual "Day of Love" dance. Students had their faces painted, played carnival games, won prizes and enjoyed cookies and punch. ESA plans and volunteers for Heartspring dances each year for both the Day of Love dance and prom.



>> PREPARING FOR LIFT OFF

Two Heartspring students, Ty and Jacob, had the opportunity to participate in "travel training" with the help of the Wichita Mid-Continent Airport and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) staff. Ty and Jacob practiced walking through the security check point to their terminal and patiently waited in line for their bags to be checked. The preparation helps alleviate some of the stresses for the boys as they travel home for the first time via airplane. Most students come to the Heartspring School from states outside of Kansas, and travel home to visit their families during holiday and summer breaks.

BUTTONS+BOWS for autism



Edgar came to Heartspring at just eight years old. At the time, he was shy, distant and self-injurious. He didn't know how to communicate his feelings, and he had no motivation to work, play or interact with others.

Thanks to the dedication of his staff and effective programming, Edgar is now leaps and bounds above where he started. Edgar recently became a salesman for his own "Buttons & Bows for Autism" business. Edgar has his own stand and sells buttons, bows, and magnets promoting autism and other special needs up to two times a week on campus. For his classroom teacher, Carmen LaBarge, this role has added a spark to his routine. "When I first met Edgar, he was just going through the motions," she said, "This job really gives him purpose. I see a sense of pride and a renewed energy in him." According to Carmen, Edgar has taken ownership of his salesman role, and enjoys helping customers pick out their purchases, and collecting transactions. Special orders can be made by email at clabarge@heartspring.org.

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

Heartspring Pediatric Services experienced tremendous growth in the past fiscal year, providing services to more than 900 individuals—a record-breaking feat. One particular highlight in recent years is the expansion of Heartspring's Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services. ABA focuses on assessing an individual's environment and function of behavior, and establishing empirically-based and data-driven interventions to help improve behavioral outcomes.

ABA IN 2010 -VS- 2014

APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS GROWTH

	NUMBER OF	2010	→	2014
	CHILDREN SERVED	10	→	70
	SPECIALISTS/SUPERVISORS	2	→	6
	AUTISM TUTORS	5	→	18

HEARING CENTER

The Pediatric Services' Audiologist and LSL Certified Therapist, Molly Lyon, MA, CCC-SLP, is trained to diagnose, manage and treat hearing loss and auditory processing problems. A new milestone was reached as the department's first cochlear implant mapping was performed. Other services include fitting and programming hearing aids and FM systems.



INTRODUCING TELEMEDICINE

Heartspring continues to find new avenues to alleviate some of the stresses of accessing therapies and services that some families face. For many families, traveling for hours across Kansas to receive services for their children is a norm. Pediatric Services recently partnered with Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City to provide a wheel chair and seating clinic once a month to Heartspring families, where a rehabilitation doctor examines a child via video chat and consults with the parents and therapists on what would best suit the child's needs.



CYCLING FOR A CAUSE

Heartspring Pediatric Services will celebrate its 11th annual PedalFest bike ride, presented by Meritrust Credit Union, on August 23, 2014. PedalFest is a fundraiser for local families in need of financial assistance. Unfortunately, many insurance companies only cover a fraction of the cost of therapies. In 2013, Heartspring Pediatric Services awarded nearly \$160,000 in financial assistance, providing more than 3,000 therapies to nearly 200 families. Interested cyclists and families can register and learn more at www.pedalfest.org.



PEDAL FOR A

PURPOSE
PURPOSE
PURPOSE

11TH ANNUAL PEDALFEST BIKE RIDE
REGISTER ONLINE AT PEDALFEST.ORG

08.23.14

100K | 50K | 25K
5-MILE FAMILY RIDE

BENEFITING
CHILDREN WITH
SPECIAL NEEDS
AT HEARTSPRING

PRESENTED BY

Meritrust

CREDIT UNION..



FINDING HOPE.

Isaiah's 100-watt smile melts a lot of hearts and his sweet demeanor earns him a lot of hugs. Nowadays, Isaiah comes to Heartspring Pediatric Services four days a week for multiple therapies, and the road to accessing those services has been nothing short of an emotional roller coaster.

"Prior to Heartspring, we had no idea what Isaiah's future may hold," Isaiah's mom, Melissa, said. "Honestly, we had little hope."

Isaiah was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder at an early age. The diagnosis triggered additional diagnoses of autism, infantile scoliosis and a Chiari malformation. Infantile scoliosis is a curved spine, diagnosed between birth and three years of age, while a Chiari malformation (CM) is a structural defect in the cerebellum—the part of the brain that controls balance.

At only one year old, Isaiah had to endure brain surgery, and has not been able to develop speech or meet any typical milestones in growth or development.

The family came to Heartspring after hearing about the organization online and through word-of-mouth.

"Heartspring has a great reputation of helping kids with all types of special needs and providing financial help to the families that absolutely could not receive services otherwise," Melissa said.

This year, Isaiah is serving as one of PedalFest 2014's spokeschildren. PedalFest is a one-day bike ride in Wichita that raises money for the

FINDING HOPE, CONTINUED ON PAGE 15 >>

"YOU ARE YOUR
CHILD'S BEST
ADVOCATE AND
YOU WILL FIND HELP
IF YOU CONTINUE
TO DO EVERYTHING
YOU CAN TO
ACCESS IT. IT ISN'T
ALWAYS EASY, BUT
IT WILL ALWAYS
BE WORTH IT."

MELISSA
ISAIAH'S MOM



(Top) Isaiah smiles as he begins therapy in the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) classroom. Isaiah visits Heartspring several times a week to receive this therapy. (Above) Isaiah works on one of his therapy goals. He uses letters to fill in the blanks to spell out words with his ABA tutor.

Cover photo by Tobie Andrews Photography

HAPPY CAMPERS



Camp SSTAR (Social Skills Technology Arts Recreation) is a week-long summer day camp for individuals with high-functioning autism hosted by the Heartspring CARE (Community of Autism Resources and Education) Program. Packed full of fun activities, the main goal of camp was to provide the campers with the “tools” to adapt to even the most difficult situations, and encourage social interaction to create lasting friendships.

This year’s theme was “Emotional Regulation Week,” with a focus on delivering opportunities for campers to practice skills learned in morning group with peer buddies, awesome junior counselors, and staff counselors. It was truly an organization-wide experience with campers from Heartspring’s Pediatric Services, residential school and the CARE Program.

Using “The Incredible 5-Point Scale” as the foundation, the campers were given their own workbooks to use each day. As a group, counselors and campers discussed what emotions looked like, felt like, and what they could do in response to that emotion. Whether the campers were fishing, constructing LEGO toy building bricks or participating in a yoga class, Camp SSTAR counselors were able to work with each camper to maximize the lessons learned for the day.

CAMP SPONSORS >>

Thanks to the generosity of several donor organizations, including the United Way of the Plains and Autism Speaks, among others, 10 local children impacted by autism, had the opportunity to attend Camp SSTAR. These organizations also funded scholarships for nine additional campers who were ready to apply the skills they learned from previous experiences at Camp SSTAR to a new inclusive setting at the Wichita YMCA’s Camp Hyde in July. Heartspring CARE Program staff members were on hand to help provide support and guidance to those campers in this new partnership with the Wichita YMCA.



LEADING ADVOCATES >>

ServiceMaster by Clean in a Wink’s Jerry Winkley and son, Jonathan, led the Autism CARE Walk procession in a custom golf cart. Jonathan sang the national anthem during the opening presentation. Approximately 4,000 people from Wichita and the surrounding communities showed up Downtown at WaterWalk on April 26, 2014 to support the Heartspring CARE Program and autism awareness. Participants enjoyed live music by Haywired, lunch by local food trucks, a silent auction and an award ceremony after the walk. KWCH 12 News Anchor Kara Sewell emceed the event.



CARE



« HISTORIC OCCASION

The Lieutenant Governor of Kansas, Jeff Colyer, M.D., attended the 2014 Autism CARE Walk to present a ceremonial bill to event participants. Dr. Colyer presented Heartspring Director of CARE and Autism Outreach, Connie Erbert, with a copy of the autism bill. The bill represents a milestone for the autism community, as it will mandate insurance companies to provide coverage for autism-related services, benefiting the one in 68 individuals impacted by autism in the U.S.



« KANSAS REPRESENTED

Lt. Governor Colyer spoke to the Autism CARE Walk participants. His guests (pictured from left to right) included Mike Wasmer, associate director of state government affairs, Autism Speaks; Anne Hodgdon, political strategist, advocate for autism reform legislation, and board member of the Kansas Board of Healing Arts; Representative John Rubin, Johnson County 18th district representative, sponsor of the Autism Insurance bill, autism advocate; Senator Greg Smith, representative for district 22; and Senator Robert Olson, representative of district 23 and Senate sponsor of the Autism Insurance Bill.

TOP FUNDRAISING TEAMS & INDIVIDUALS



#TEAMDYLAN \$9,170

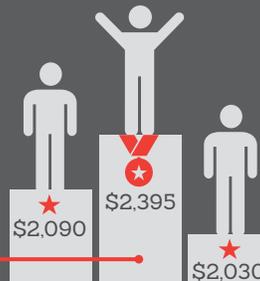
#TEAMSKIPPY \$3,235

#TEAMJORDAN \$2,110

1 MATTHEW NOAH | #TEAMSKIPPY

2 VICKI TRAN | #TEAMJORDAN

3 DAMON SANCHEZ | #TEAMDYLAN



#TeamDylan

TOP INDIVIDUALS

COLLABORATION & TRAINING

HEARTSPRING COMMUNITY AND WORLD REACH EFFORTS

INNOVATIVE IMPACT

A group of Kansas State University engineers and students is working with Heartspring to develop technology to better the lives of individuals with special needs. The collaborative work is funded by a five-year \$125,000 grant from the National Science Foundation's General and Age-Related Disabilities Engineering program. Steven Warren, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, and Punit Prakash, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, are using the grant to teach senior design courses. The students are developing custom devices and software to help the children at Heartspring. Some projects have included wearable sensors for clothing to monitor self-abusive behaviors, and mattress and bed sensors to monitor breathing and heart rates with the ability to alert staff of seizures or bed wetting.



VALUABLE TRAINING

As part of their training, the Sedgwick County Crisis Intervention Team met with Director of CARE and Autism Outreach, Connie Erbert, to learn about autism spectrum disorders and the role of first responders in emergency and non-emergency type situations. The training provides an opportunity to educate and answer questions from first responders who will most likely interact with an individual with autism at some time in their career. The partnership is another way to increase autism awareness with some critical community members which could eventually result in a life saved.



PROVIDING EXPERIENCE

A group of students and professionals from the National Taitung University in Taiwan visited the Heartspring campus for training. The group includes two professors in special education, masters-level and early childhood special education teachers and undergraduate students looking to further their knowledge and experience with working with children with special needs.

(Top) The group poses with Heartspring Occupational Therapist Tim Koontz and student, John. (Bottom left) The group toured local organizations for individuals with special needs, such as Envision, Inc. (Bottom right) A member of the group observes Heartspring student, Izzy working on a group craft project with her paraeducator.

LIGHTS..CAMERA... (TAKING) ACTION

The purpose of Heartspring's special events goes beyond the fundraising dollars. They're about spreading awareness—creating opportunities and a community of understanding—to better the lives of children and individuals impacted by special needs. In many of those efforts, media plays a significant role. With the help of **KWCH 12 Eyewitness News**, the leading television station for 6pm and 10pm news in Wichita, and Wichita CW affiliate, **KSCW 33**, the Heartspring's special events have flourished over the last year. KWCH 12 and KSCW's news anchors and staff have dedicated countless hours attending, hosting and appearing at the Autism CARE Walk, PedalFest and Lights on the Lake events. These efforts have been invaluable to Heartspring. Thank you, KWCH 12 and KSCW for your ongoing partnership!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PEDALFEST — August 23, 2014

Volunteers needed for the following tasks/duties:

- **Packet pick-up:** August 20-22, 2014
- **Set-up and check-in:** register day-of participants and pass out rider packets
- **Traffic control:** assist riders coming on to campus with finding parking and directing traffic to ensure the safety of all participants.
- **Set up** and serve lunch, clean up
- **Supply and Gear (SAG) stop:** monitor hydration and first aid stations
- **Kids Zone**

CAMPUS-WIDE WINDOW WASHING

Volunteers needed to wash the exterior windows on campus (early summer and late fall).

HEARTSPRING VEHICLE CAR WASH

Help needed to wash and vacuum Heartspring's 15 fleet vehicles used to transport students.

HOST SOCIAL EVENTS FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS AND/OR OUTPATIENT SERVICES

Host an ice cream social, pizza party, summer splash or holiday parties for Heartspring School students.

If interested, please contact Jill Taylor at jtaylor@heartspring.org.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

MONTE SHAW has been a participant of Heartspring's annual PedalFest bike ride for almost 11 years. What started out as a hobby and quest for better health, quickly became a passion and mission for Monte. After his parents passed away from heart-related issues, Monte decided to take action to maintain his health through cycling. When Monte saw a flier for Heartspring's PedalFest, he decided to form a team and fundraise for the event. After becoming the top fundraisers that year, Monte and his teammates received a tour of Heartspring, where the stories of success and impact of the therapies on kids' lives almost brought him to tears. Monte personally connected with Heartspring's mission, as he received speech therapy as a child.

Over the years, Monte has not only been a dedicated fundraiser and cyclist—raising more than \$62,000 in funds for Heartspring Pediatric Services—but has also lent his extensive knowledge of cycling to PedalFest as a member of the planning committee. His enthusiasm and volunteerism has undoubtedly contributed to the growth and ongoing success of PedalFest. Thank you, Monte!

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



THE GRASSHOPPER COMPANY

A special thank you to the founders of **The Grasshopper Company**, for generously donating \$40,000 to Heartspring in fiscal year 2013. Their passion and dedication to children with special needs provides an exemplary partnership that will surely make an impact in the lives of the children and families we serve.

The Grasshopper Company is a family-owned manufacturer of professional zero-turn mowing and grounds maintenance equipment. A pioneer and innovator of the technology since 1969, Grasshopper has transformed grounds care worldwide with the introduction of several "firsts" including swing-out dual-lever steering and PowerFold® Deck lift technology. Grasshopper's strong commitment to the environment is evidenced through award-winning innovations aimed at reducing waste and emissions throughout its products' life-cycle and recognition by the State of Kansas for its investment in advanced precision manufacturing processes.

A core value of the company is ensuring the people who propel the pace of innovation are provided the resources they need to succeed, and this investment in human capital extends to the community as well. Grasshopper believes Heartspring is fully dedicated to the mission of unleashing the hidden potential of children and individuals with special needs. *Heartspring's calling is transformational to the families it serves, and its commitment to continued excellence and quest for insight on an international scale is a formula for success Grasshopper strongly connects with.*

OUTSTANDING PARTNER

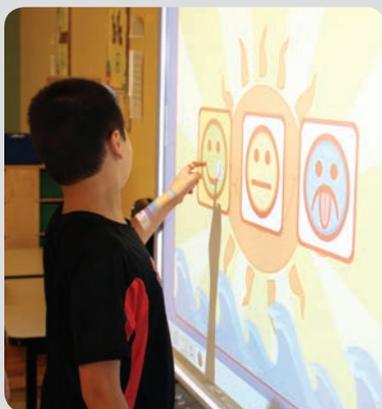
Board members from the Spirit AeroSystems Good Neighbor Fund presented Heartspring President & CEO Gary Singleton and Development Director Gretchen DiGiovanni with a check for \$50,000. The funds will provide financial assistance to local families and children in need of therapies through Heartspring Pediatric Services. The Good Neighbor Fund is managed entirely by Spirit AeroSystems employees who contribute to and allocate its funds to community organizations. With a partnership beginning in 2006, Spirit has since become one of Heartspring's largest corporate contributors.



“ THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE ATTENTION THE SECOND THE SMART BOARD TURNS ON. ALL OF THE PROGRAMS CAN BE CUSTOMIZED TO EACH STUDENT TO FOCUS ON SPECIFIC SKILLS. THE TOUCH SCREEN HELPS OUR STUDENTS BECOME MORE INDEPENDENT, BECAUSE THEY CAN USE THEIR FINGERS TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES. ”

CARMEN LABARGE, SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER

SMART BOARDS



ENHANCED LEARNING

Thanks to the generosity of the Kansas Gas Service, a division of ONEOK Foundation and the I.A. O'Shaughnessy Foundation, two classrooms in the Heartspring School were able to acquire brand new SMART Boards. The SMART Boards are interactive whiteboard systems that are part of the classroom technology used in Heartspring's residential school to create the ideal learning environment for the unique needs of Heartspring students. The interactive whiteboards that were previously used in the classrooms are outdated and required the use of a fine-point stylus, making it difficult for students with challenges in fine motor skills to use the technology for learning. These upgraded SMART Boards have touchscreen capabilities, so multiple Heartspring students can move and participate in various programs and activities with the simple touch of a finger at the same time. The SMART Boards are attention grabbing, and with their customizable programs, can help enhance the learning experience for the students. Two additional SMART Boards will be installed in the Heartspring classrooms, thanks to the women of Sigma Alpha Sorority.

FINDING HOPE (FROM PAGE 9)

Pediatric Services Financial Assistance Fund. The money raised through the event will directly help local children and families access invaluable therapies they could not otherwise afford—allowing those children the opportunities to reach their highest potential.

Isaiah, like many children who come to Heartspring, has had tremendous success through the consistency, determination and care from his family and therapists. Isaiah has continually met impressive milestones. He is working on greeting others, making eye contact, and is even learning how to communicate with an assistive communication device.

"The staff has been a huge factor in Isaiah's success," Melissa said. "They know his strengths and weaknesses. The positive reinforcement, along with continual repetition of goals, has helped him know what he needs to do to succeed in all environments. Everyone is so caring and connected to him. It feels more like a second family to him—and us!"

His success is a testament to his family's dedication to finding the appropriate services for him.

"The best advice is so cliché, but so true. You are your child's best advocate and you will find help if you continue to do everything you can to access it. It isn't always easy, but it will always be worth it," said Melissa.

Isaiah's future looks bright with his family's renewed sense of hope.

"Thanks to Heartspring, we are beginning to piece together plans for his future," Melissa said.



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Wichita, Kansas 67226
www.heartspring.org

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celebrate
LIGHTS ON THE LAKE
2014

NOVEMBER
15TH
MURFIN STABLES

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HEARTSPRING AS
WE **CELEBRATE**
LIGHTS ON THE LAKE.

ENJOY **DINNER, DRINKS**
AND **LIVE MUSIC**.
INDULGE ON ITEMS IN
OUR SILENT AND LIVE
AUCTIONS.

YOUR SUPPORT WILL
HELP CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES IMPACTED BY
SPECIAL NEEDS
ACCESS INVALUABLE
THERAPIES THROUGH
HEARTSPRING
PEDIATRIC SERVICES.

TICKETS WILL BE
AVAILABLE
SEPTEMBER 2014.