

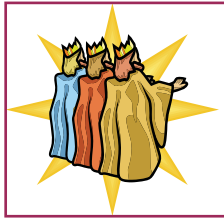
BRIDGES



STARS Newsletter
College Church in Wheaton
November–December 2010

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STARS Family Christmas Program



- **When:** Friday, December 10
6:30–8 p.m.
- **Where:** College Church Sanctuary

All STARS, friends and family members are welcome to join us for our annual STARS Christmas program titled "The Star Maker."

Our Praise in Action and Autoharp groups will present us with music. Pastor Garret Nates will speak to us while the actors get into costume, and then the Praise in Action group will present the musical drama using text inspired by "The Jesus Storybook Bible."

The music groups are practicing and working hard as they look forward to the performance!

In order to participate as an extra in the play, the STAR must attend one of the following dress rehearsal nights:

- Wednesday, Dec. 1, 6:45 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 8, 6:45 p.m.

There will also be a cookie reception following the program in the Narthex and the STARS 2011 Gift Calendar will be available for each Star Family/Ministry Worker who pre-orders the calendar.

Willing to help? Please sign up to bring 1–3 dozen cookies by contacting Ashley or registering online.

Questions? Contact
Kristin Knosp
kknosp@college-church.org or ext. 176
Ashley Korol
akorol@college-church.org or ext. 178

FROM TRANSITION TO PERMANENCE

"God's work, done God's way, will never lack God's supply"—Hudson Taylor

On Sunday, October 24, Joan Stough, board member of STARS Family Services, shared the following with the College Church family:

"Have you ever had the experience of having an unexpected guest come into your home who changed your plans for the day—or maybe the rest of your life?"

This is how one family described the birth of their child with a disability. There are very few extended families that have not been touched in some way by the mixed joy and heartache of a special needs child.

For over five decades the College Church ministry, now known as STARS, has come alongside these families, beginning with one of our original STARS, Kenny Hansen, and now serving more than 100 families under Dawn Clark's capable leadership.

The over-riding concern of parents is the ongoing care of their children after they are no longer able to provide that care. For the first time in history, many persons with disabilities have normal life expectancies and outlive their parents. One STAR parent, single mother Ann Cole, pled with God to allow her to live longer than her son Curt. She survived him and left Curt's Special Needs Trust to College Church with the hope that a group home would be established. This became the seed money to consider another dimension to the STARS ministry, to provide family style homes for adults with intellectual disabilities. With the blessing of the College Church elders, STARS Family Services was formed two and a half years ago, as a separate 501(c)(3) with its own board of directors chaired by Ray Chase. After

much prayer, planning, research and legal consultation, a highly successful pilot project with four residents was completed.



And now we are excited to announce that at the end of this year we will be opening Washington House, as a permanent residence. Carol Casey, who has volunteered with STARS for the past 25 years, will be the Life Skills Supervisor. We will seek volunteers as well as your generous financial support for this exciting new step of faith.

Our only disappointment is that this first home only meets a small portion of the need as the Board has already identified 39 individuals in our STARS program who are in need of housing immediately or within the next five years. Therefore, we have sought God's guidance and provision to embark on securing another home. We believe a divine answer came just this past week when we received written confirmation that STARS Family Services is the recipient of a generous foundation grant that will enable us to begin planning for our next home."

STARS Family Services held its first information meeting and workshop on October 28. Additional meetings will be scheduled in the near future. Please keep this important ministry in your prayers.

For more information,
visit www.starsfamilyservices.org.

-dawn

Hope's Update

Grieving a significant loss is dreadful. Faced with such daunting prospects for my beloved Cathy in early October '09, I experienced "anticipatory grief." Could this be the end of our 28-year love affair? How could one so vibrant and vital be taken—and so early? What might life look like for our children and me should Cathy be called home?



Returning home from the hospital to an uncharacteristically quiet home on October 4, I committed to maintaining our home life to the same standard as Cathy and I had to this point in the event of her death. This meant caring for our STAR, Hope, on my own and with whatever support structure might remain or emerge.

As the weeks went on, and even in the midst of what appeared to be progress in Cathy's condition, it became apparent that I would not be able to care for Hope—the demands were grueling. What would happen to Hope if I should die? Would it be fair to have Hope with me until I'm called home and not experience a better transition to a new residential setting while I'm still alive?

The grieving has not ended with Cathy's death. My son, Wesley, experienced an anguishing "secondary grief" when I mentioned the visit I made to an ICFDD as a possible residential setting for Hope—he hadn't considered how life might change beyond the void his mother left.

It was agonizing until around Easter when, with the counsel of many friends and family, and especially John and Debbie Goding, I decided it was best for Hope and me for her to live elsewhere. The Godings suggested I ask God to help me "take just the next step" and be prepared for how the Lord would open doors and provide.



Enter Rick and Sharon Mason. Rick is the younger brother of a high school classmate of mine and a former neighbor during the same time of life. I didn't know Rick at the time due to the three year age difference but Cathy and I became acquainted with Rick and his wife about 16 years ago when their second of four sons was diagnosed with Angelman Syndrome, the same chromosomal abnormality that afflicts Hope. We stayed in touch with the Masons through the years and Cathy leaned on Sharon for some of the insight they had garnered about Angelman Syndrome; Rick is an osteopathic surgeon and Sharon is an ultrasound technician.

The Masons attended Cathy's memorial service and were part of the group I counseled with. A few days after our initial group meeting on Palm Sunday, which centered on how I could keep Hope at home with me, I felt I was drowning. I called the Masons to make sure I had heard Sharon correctly in an earlier conversation that they would take Hope for however long I needed, even indefinitely. After a couple of days of conferring within the family, I received a call from Sharon that they would care for Hope. When I got this news, the tears flowed—in awe at their compassion and especially at God's abundant provision once more.

I have Hope with me most weekends so she stays connected with her family, friends and church home she so loves. How I wish Cathy was here to see how God has continued to richly provide. But then again, if she were here, this grace would not have been needed or given and I suspect the good Lord is probably letting her know as part of His riches in glory.



— Greg Schmidt

Reverse Inclusion

What is that?

By Shelley Swanson

Reverse inclusion? What is that? Every Sunday at 11 a.m., typically developing peers are joining our STARS groups for fellowship, learning and worship together—and a good dose of fun besides!

Teen STARS are joined by HYACKs (high school) Disability Ministry Team (DMT). The Teen STARS and their HYACK friends attend the first part of the worship service together and then return to the class for the lesson, crafts and games around the lesson theme. The lesson theme from the 9:30 Teen STARS class is taught in new, fun ways and friendships form as a result!



The Young STARS are joined by about six same-age peers. Their high-school-age buddies, then, help them participate in the activities and worship. They



also help our young STARS have fun with their friends. Using the same theme taught earlier during the 9:30 young STARS class, multi-sensory and fun activities teach it in different ways. After church one day, STAR Nate was talking at home about Britta, a third-grader. Nate's mother e-mailed, "Who is Britta? Is this Nate's buddy?" But this was even better: Britta is his new friend!

Hangin' With A STAR

We're off to a great start!

By Kristin Knosp

Hangin' With A STAR 2010–2011 is off to a great start! On September 26, we had our first event, which was a barbecue at the Lyons' house in Wheaton. STARS and some parents came together to eat and to visit with their college student buddies. We all enjoyed the delicious food provided by the Lyons and the families. We played games and formed new friendships which will continue to develop throughout the year. I am very excited for our upcoming Hangin' with a STAR events.



A big thank you this year's new Hangin' With A STAR student ministry leaders, Miles Greenwald and Fred Hubach, for helping to make all of this possible and also to the Lyons for opening up their home to us for our barbecue kick-off event! Also, we couldn't have this program available to our Teen and Adult STARS without our faithful volunteers, who take time out of their busy college schedules to join us. I'm looking forward to our fun year ahead!

Dawn's Birthday Surprise

60th!

By Dawn Clark

Imagine my surprise and delight when I woke up on my birthday and discovered 60 stars in my front lawn, all decorated by some of the people I love the most—STARS, parents and my co-workers. I later discovered that Kathy Brinker and a small group of STARS crept into our yard at 11 p.m. and arranged the stars. Thank you for all the ways that you, the STARS family, made turning 60 a delight. I pray God will grant me many more years to serve you.



Fall Kick-Off, September 3



Photo Booth



Hangin' With A STAR Costume Party, October 23



Calendar

November

- 5 FNF/ Parent Support Group (Shepherd's College), 6 p.m.
- 13 Support on Saturdays, 11 a.m.
- 16 Hangin' With A STAR, Wheaton College Basketball Game, 5:30 p.m.
- 19 Friday Night Fun, 6 p.m.
- 24 **No** Praise in Action (Thanksgiving Eve service, 7 p.m.)
- 28 Sunday STARS Classes (9:30 a.m. only) and **No** Autoharp Sunday evening

December

- 1 Christmas Program rehearsal (drama), 6:45 p.m.
- 4 Hangin' With A STAR, Christmas party, 2:30 p.m.
- 8 Christmas Program rehearsal (full), 6:45 p.m.
- 10 STARS Family Christmas Program, 6:30 p.m.
- 11 Support on Saturdays, 11 a.m.
- 22 **No** Praise in Action
- 24 Christmas Eve Services, 4 p.m., 8 p.m., 11 p.m.
- 26 **No** Sunday Morning Classes and **No** Autoharp Sunday evening

Praises For

- STARS Mom, Freda Davis, that she is recovering from her recent hospitalization. Pray for God's healing and wisdom from specialists.
- A wonderful STARS adult retreat!
- The five new families that have joined the STARS family this fall.
- The reverse inclusion class in the Young STARS Sunday class at 11 a.m. which is working really well.
- The Joni and Friends Disability Ministry Summit; the STARS chorus did a wonderful job and good response to workshops by Dawn Clark and Kristin Knosp.

Prayer For

- STAR Diane Freedlund and STARS mom Carolyn in the death of father and husband, Spencer Freedlund. Please pray for God's comfort.
- STARS dad Tom Barnes, who needs a kidney transplant.
- Tony Belgio who has gastrointestinal problems.
- STARS Dad Roland Tally, who will be having surgery on November 8 to remove his thyroid. Pray that there will be no cancer.
- Ministry worker needs: FOR TEN MORE REGULAR ministry workers for Friday Night Fun Ministry (FNF); For 2-3 more ministry workers on Sunday morning; for four more ministry workers for our monthly Support on Saturday's (SOS) program.
- STARS Family Services as it opens up the first STARS Home by the end of the year and President Ray Chase as he leads this endeavor.
- The upcoming STARS Christmas Program on December 10; pray for the preparations and leadership of Ministry Associate Kristin Knosp, intern Suzanne Stalker and accompanist Janet Orme.
- The STARS STAMP Trip to France where STARS and parents will be sharing Christ through Disability Ministry, on May 19-31.

Parent Support Group

December—there will be no Parent Support Group / Friday Night Fun in the month of December. Celebrate with us at the Christmas Program on December 10.

Friday, January 7—Illinois Microboards and Cooperatives (IAMC)
We welcome all parents to the Parent Support Group, but there will only be programs for Teen & Adult STARS.

STARS Family Christmas Program & Cookie Reception

Friday, December 10, 6:30 p.m. Join us in the Sanctuary at College Church. Following the Christmas Program, there will be a cookie reception in the Narthex. Remember to sign up to bring 1-3 dozen cookies. Please NO nuts! Questions? Contact Ashley at (630) 668-0878, ext. 178.

Birthdays

November

Tabatha Adamik	November 1
Anna Kroger	November 2
Bella Coleman-Sullivan	November 4
Jarrett Willhoit	November 6
Peter Stewart	November 8
David Marcy	November 9
Erin Goding	November 9
Hope Schmidt	November 10
Shannon Enk	November 14
Neal Morzak	November 19
Naomi-Ruth Westberg	November 20
Rhiannon Erwin	November 24
Matt Kuecker	November 25
Karilyn Johnson	November 27
Patrick O'Connor	November 27

December

John Canada	December 7
Jessica Wheeler	December 8
Julie Lund	December 11
Sheri Carter	December 12
Ian Kenneally	December 13
Nathan Forsyth	December 26
Becca Tally	December 29
Sarah Curiale	December 29



Come visit us!

1072 COLLEGE AVENUE,
WHEATON
(630) 682-1499

Mary Quiggle, manager
Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Donations accepted till 3 p.m.

STARS "Seeking To Always Reflect the Savior"

COLLEGE CHURCH