

The Building Block

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An e-newsletter of the J. D. McCarty Center for children with developmental disabilities

Event nets \$8,700

Gutter Dance X celebrates decade of fun and giving

Eighty-eight bowlers and a large group of spectators raised money for the Camp ClapHans scholarship fund during the 10th annual Gutter Dance charity bowling event presented by the Hal Smith Restaurant Group.

The event, held at the Sooner Bowling Center in Norman, netted \$8,700 for the scholarship fund, according to Greg Gaston, McCarty Center marketing director.

Camp ClapHans is a residential summer camp project of the J. D. McCarty Center. The camp, for children 8 to 16 years old, opened Sunday, June 9. The scholarship fund will help qualifying families offset the cost of camp tuition.

This year only two pins separated the first and second-place teams. Winning first place was a first-time entry into the Gutter Dance, the Urban Achievers with 1,214 pins. Team members were Tommie Autry, Ryan Autry, Andrew



This year's winner of the 10th annual Gutter Dance charity bowling event are (l-r) Tommie Autry, Ryan Autry, Andrew Cook and Perry Clingan. Bowling under the name Urban Achievers, this was the first time for this team to bowl in the Gutter Dance.

Cook and Perry Clingan.

Second place with 1,212 pins were perennial top-three finishers in the Gutter Dance, Tiffany's Restaurant from Noble. The team members were Donnie Hicks, Jerry Dover, Robert Kent and Randy Mac.

Third place with 1,190 pins were the Gutter Rats. Team members were B.J. Longenbaugh, Charlie Longenbaugh, Kevin Meiser and Doug Loomis.

"Every year we honor the last place team in the event," said Gaston. "We do it to recognize that team's effort and support of the McCarty Center even though they didn't bowl as well as other teams." This year's last-place honoree was team OrthoCare made up of Gary Birks, Tara Harris, Edna Hulley and 4-year-old Edison Felty.

The highlight of the Gutter Dance is the 7-10 split roll off. The top 10 high scoring bowlers received one attempt at making the hardest shot in bowling - the 7-10 split. The winner would win a 2013 Chevrolet Cruze LS provided by David Stanley Chevrolet of Norman. Ten bowlers made their attempt, but no one made the shot.

"I'm particularly grateful to our corporate sponsors who help make the Gutter Dance a success," said Gaston. "They are David Stanley Chevrolet of Norman, Johnny Carino's Italian Restaurant, Republic Bank and Trust, Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, Norman Family Dentistry and Blake Virgin, attorney at law."





Second-place winners of Gutter Dance X was the Tiffany's Restaurant team from Noble. No strangers to the winner's circle, this team has placed in the top three every year they've entered the Gutter Dance. This year they missed winning the event by two pins. Team members are (l-r) Randy Mac, Robert Kent, Jerry Dover and Donnie Hicks.



The Gutter Rats were the third-place team in Gutter Dance X charity bowling event benefiting the J. D. McCarty Center. Team members are (l-r) B. J. Longenbaugh, Doug Loomis, Kevin Meiser and Jimmy Longenbaugh with his son, Charlie.

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DME triage to aid tornado victims

In response to the late May tornadoes in central Oklahoma, the McCarty Center, the Oklahoma Healthcare Authority, Action Seating and Mobility and other healthcare providers in the area, are coming together to assist children and adults with special needs who were affected.

People with specialized pieces of mobility or medical equipment that was damaged or destroyed by the tornadoes can call the McCarty Center and ask to speak to someone in DME triage. The triage will help them get equipment repaired or obtain loaner equipment, while arrangements for permanent replacement equipment can be made.

DME triage gets a heavy donation

The DME triage project for children with developmental disabilities affected by the tornadoes that ravaged central Oklahoma just received a heavy donation in the form of weighted blankets.

Jody Bradford and her family from Owasso, donated 33 weighted blankets to help those who might have lost theirs in the late May tornadoes. Bradford and her family make these blankets in their small family business called Weight on Me Weighted Blankets.

"These are very high-quality blankets," said Maria Greenfield, director of occupational therapy at the McCarty Center. "Weighted blankets help children and adults self-comfort and calm themselves. The weight

gives an all-over deep, gentle pressure. It's like getting a comforting hug."

These blankets can be used by anyone, but are particularly helpful to children with autism.

These blankets are double stitched, 100 percent cotton. They are machine washable and dryer safe.

Bradford found out about the McCarty Center through social media. She was looking for a way to help kids with special needs who might have lost their weighted blankets in the tornadoes. Bradford found a Facebook post from someone affected by the tornadoes who suggested she contact the McCarty Center.

The McCarty Center, along with the Oklahoma Healthcare Authority, Action Seating and Mobility and other DME providers are offering to repair or obtain loaner mobility and medical equipment for children with special needs whose equipment was damaged or lost in the late May tornadoes.



The Bradford family from Owasso donated 33 weighted blankets to the McCarty Center for the DME triage project. Through this project, the McCarty Center and its partners want to help kids with special needs who had mobility or medical equipment lost or damaged in the May tornadoes get it repaired or to obtain loaner equipment, until a permanent replacement can be arranged. Presenting the weighted blankets to Maria Greenfield, director of occupational therapy, (far right) are Bill, Jody, Brianna, Alex and Gabby Bradford. The Bradfords make these blankets and have distributed them all over the world.

Summer therapy programs offered at McCarty Center for kids in community with special needs

The J. D. McCarty Center is offering some summer programs for children with disabilities that can help them learn how to play and interact with other kids, improve their social skills, explore a variety of foods and practice some yoga poses.

The summer therapy programs will take place in June and July at the hospital, which specializes in the care and treatment of children with developmental disabilities.

The therapy programs are open to children in the community who have special needs, said Reni Hanley, the director of speech-language pathology at the McCarty Center.

“We want to offer activities that children with special needs may not have the opportunity to participate in within a setting where they can get support from individuals who understand their learning style,” Hanley said.

She said the programs offer kids the chance to have fun and “the groups will allow children to learn and practice or maintain skills learned in private therapy or school-based therapy.”

The groups offered are play group, food fun, a social language group and yoga. The cost to participate in the social language group is \$90. The other groups cost \$25 to attend.

Here’s more information about each group:



PLAY GROUP

The group is for children who want to explore toys and interact with other children. It is open to preschool-age children with Down syndrome or other developmental disabilities. The group met 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Mondays in June.



FOOD FUN

The group is for children who would benefit from using their senses to explore a variety of foods. Kids will have the chance to interact with foods by looking at, smelling, touching and, eventually, tasting as they feel comfortable in doing so. The group is open to kids ages 6 to 11 who can follow simple directions and participate with other children. The group met 9 a.m to 10 a.m. in June and July 11.



SOCIAL LANGUAGE GROUP

The group is designed to facilitate appropriate social interactions with peers for children with social language impairments. The group will be offered to two age groups: kids ages 6 to 11, and older children, ages 12 to 17. The younger group will work on learning to listen, taking turns, making friends and following social rules. The older group will work on social independence, positive self-image, elements of conversation and introducing and greeting

others appropriately. This group is open to kids with social language impairments who are verbal and can follow simple directions and participate without one-on-one assistance. The younger group met in June. The older group will meet 11 a.m. to noon, Mondays and Thursdays, July 8 to July 25.



YOGA

The group will practice fun basic yoga poses, breathing exercises and relaxation techniques. All yoga poses and activities will be developmentally appropriate and can be modified to meet an individual’s physical, sensory and special needs. Yoga mats will be provided during the class. Props and visual supports will be used as needed. The is open to kids ages 4 to 8 who can follow simple directions and participate with other kids without one-on-one assistance. The group will meet from 1:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. Tuesdays on July 9, July 16, July 23 and July 30.



Camp training

Unit Leader Matt Engel demonstrates the proper way to bait a hook during Camp ClapHans staff training during the first week of June. Camp ClapHans opened Sunday, June 9.



Megan Stanek, camp director, goes over the camp schedule and procedures with her staff during camp staff training week.

Norman Conquest named one of the 50 best rides in U.S.

The Bicycle League of Norman's (BLN) annual Norman Conquest bicycle tour around Norman and eastern Cleveland County has been named one of the 50 best rides in America by Bicycling Magazine.

The 18th annual Norman Conquest is scheduled for Saturday, July 13. The ride will begin and end at the McCarty Center. The ride begins promptly at 7:30 a.m.

"We were thrilled when Bicycling Magazine named our ride one of the top 50 best in America," said Corri Ide, Norman Conquest chairwoman. "The Bicycle League of Norman has worked hard over the last 18 years to make the Norman Conquest a great ride for all levels of cyclists. We know the word was getting out about our event when we had a record 650 riders in the Conquest last year."

The BLN will once again donate the proceeds from the Norman Conquest to support the Camp ClapHans scholarship fund. Camp ClapHans is a residential summer camp project of the McCarty Center for children with special needs ages 8 to 16. Camp ClapHans opened June 9 for its first of six one-week camp sessions this summer.

"Using a staggered start by route distance in three five-minute intervals worked very nicely for us last year," said Ide. "We'll use a staggered start again this year. It really helped cut down on the starting conges-

tion last year."

The routes that contributed to making this one of the 50 best rides in America are a 10-mile town tour through Norman. It is a flat route and is a very nice family ride. Next is a 22-mile route that introduces some hills to the tour. The 46-mile route is very hilly, and the 64-mile route is seriously hilly proving to many riders that central Oklahoma is not all flat.

All the routes are supported by lots of rest stops and support and gear vehicles.

There are four ways to register for the Norman Conquest. The first is to go online at www.active.com.

The second way to register is by picking up a Norman Conquest registration form from your local bike shop. Registration forms will be available in bike shops all over Oklahoma.

The third is to register Friday night, July 12, from 5:00 to 9:00 at O'Connell's Irish Pub & Grill, on Campus Corner, 769 Asp Avenue.

The fourth way is to register the morning of the tour at the McCarty Center from 6:00 to 7:15.

Riders in the Norman Conquest can carbo-load Friday night while registering at O'Connell's. Jeff Stewart, owner of O'Connell's and longtime supporter of the Norman Conquest, will host a free pasta dinner. Non participants may eat for \$5.

Registration fees for the ride are \$30 before July 5. After July 5



A staggered start at five minute intervals based on the route to be ridden will be used again in the 18th annual Norman Conquest. The riders liked the way it reduced congestion at the start of the ride.

the fee is \$35. The town tour is \$15. Registration fees include a T-shirt, hot lunch and lots of air conditioning to cool down in after the ride, plus free post ride massages.

The BLN supports and encourages the growth of recreational bicycling in and around Norman by organizing ride events, supporting bicycle safety and educational activities, participating in local government planning for improved bicycle access and emphasizing the healthful and social aspects of cycling. For more information about the BLN, visit www.bicycleleague.com.

For more information about the Norman Conquest, visit www.normanconquest.bicycleleague.com.

For more information about Camp ClapHans, contact Megan Stanek, camp director, at 405.307.2814 or mstanek@jdmc.org.

For more information about the McCarty Center, visit www.jdmc.org.

CONQUER THE HEAT!!

CONQUER THE HILLS!!

Pi Kappa Phi fraternity members come together to help Camp ClapHans

They came, they collaborated, they built and they bonded.

They also helped make a difference at Camp ClapHans.

Twenty-one members of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity from the University of Oklahoma and the University of North Texas volunteered one weekend in April to work on construction projects to help get the camp ready for the June opening.

Camp ClapHans is a new residential summer camp for children with disabilities ages 8 to 16. The camp is an outreach project of the McCarty Center and is located on the hospital's campus in Norman.

The fraternity members cleaned canoes, built a fence behind the camp cabins, assembled rocking chairs and a fishing rod holder and installed solar lightposts. The weekend was about more than hard work for the guys, though. It was also about camaraderie and community spirit.

"This is the kind of thing where you can make a difference little by little," said Alejandro Herrera, a student from OU. "It's a fun way to spend time with your brothers and give back a little."

The fraternity members volunteered their time as part of

a service project with Push America, a nonprofit that serves people with disabilities.

Push America is the national philanthropy of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity with the purpose of instilling lifelong service in its members and enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities, according to the organization's website.

Camp ClapHans was selected as a location for one of the organization's "Give-A-Push Weekends," which are national service projects that provide funding and manpower to build and renovate structures for camps and facilities serving people with disabilities.

Coming together

Camp ClapHans Director Megan Stanek learned about Push America after seeing an advertisement on the American Camp Association website. She was instantly intrigued.

"After researching further on the mission and events Push America has been involved with, I knew our organizations were a good match for each other," Stanek said. "With this being the first year for Camp ClapHans, we had a lot of projects that needed to be completed. I liked the idea of local organizations getting involved with our camp to spread the word and be involved with us."

Drew Mathews, director of special events with Push America, said the organization ultimately selected the camp for the weekend event "because it allowed our members the chance to physically help build a brand-new camp that will serve individuals with disabilities from the ground up, and that is such a rare opportunity to be a part of a brand-new camp being built."

Mathews also awarded Stanek with a \$5,000 grant during the weekend. The money is offered to camps or facilities that host a "Give-A-Push Weekend" and is raised by Pi Kappa Phi. The money is used to pay for the materials needed for the construction projects.

Willing to work hard

Stanek said she was impressed with the willingness of the guys to tackle some big projects, such as building a 200-foot fence and cleaning up the property. "Push America brothers were willing to get their hands dirty and help," she said.

Eric Brewer, a student at the University of North Texas, said he volunteered because he thought it would be a good way to help people with disabilities and because he likes hands-on projects. He said there is satisfaction in looking at the product of that hard work.

"I like seeing things come together like this," said Brewer, who helped install the fence behind the cabins. "You can say, 'Yeah, I did that.'"

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See Push America

Push America

Branden Decker, an OU student, said one of the reasons he was willing to volunteer for the weekend is because of his connection to the McCarty Center. Decker is a hospital volunteer who comes out weekly to help with recreational therapy programs for the patients.

"I really love working with these kids and I love what the McCarty Center does," Decker said.

Push America participants said a highlight of the weekend was when they had the opportunity to meet with patients for a cookout. The guys and the kids snacked on s'mores and played games together.

Marcos Torres, a student at the University of North Texas, said what he enjoyed about the weekend was the camaraderie and the shared purpose.

"The feeling you get from helping out people is amazing," Torres said. "We're all here for the same reason and with the same drive and passion."

Mathews believes the guys who volunteered at Camp ClapHans will look back on the experience and be proud of the role they played.

"The feeling of accomplishment these men left with knowing that campers who may have never had the chance to attend summer camp will soon be able to safely enjoy the outdoors is something they'll never forget," he said.

"With Camp ClapHans being a brand-new camp, there will be an endless amount of projects and opportunities in the near future for things to be created and built that our men can return to help out with," Mathews said.



The Push America participants get together at the end of a cookout, along with McCarty Center patient Kenneth Helton-Gutierrez, who takes a seat inside a canoe.



McCarty Center patient Elijah Creek and Push America volunteer Alejandro Herrera play games together.



The Push America participants work on assembling a wagon for Camp ClapHans.

ClapHans at a glance



Camp ClapHans