

Security Building Donated and Dedicated at the McCarty Center



The new security building erected at the main entrance of the McCarty Center was dedicated recently. A plaque honoring Don and Dr. Eileen Fox Biswell was unveiled during the dedication.

The \$30,000 construction project cost the McCarty Center \$11,500 for materials and equipment for which donors could not be found. The balance of the project cost came from donations from the Biswell family, the practice of Doctors Fields and Fox, and labor and materials donated by various construction trades needed to complete the project.

"There wasn't much interest from the general construction companies to bid on the project because it was too small for them," explained Curt Peters, director and CEO of the McCarty Center. "That's when we were given permission by the Department of Central Services to talk to some home builders about the project."

"We felt a plaque honoring the Biswell family was an appropriate thank you for their leadership in getting this project done," said Peters, "we really appreciate their efforts."

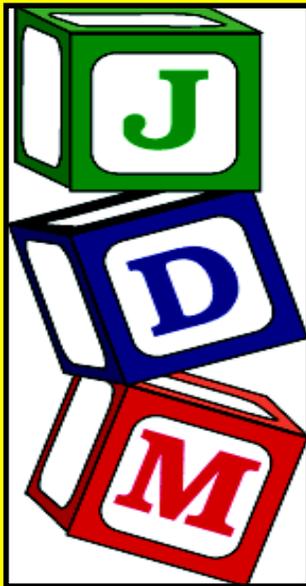
Don Biswell, president of Biswell Homes in Norman, is one of the builders that the McCarty Center contacted. Biswell was familiar with the McCarty Center and volunteered to manage the project and organize the donation of labor and materials.

Attending the dedication ceremony were Curt Peters, Don and Eileen Biswell, Cerebral Palsy Commissioners Rob McCalla, Bill Logan, John Knight and Joe Sher, Ken Younkin, McCarty Center comptroller and Joel Mann, McCarty Center director of security.



Standing next to the newly dedicated security building at the entrance to the J. D. McCarty Center for children with developmental disabilities are (l-r) Rob McCalla, cerebral palsy commissioner, Curt Peters, McCarty Center director and CEO, Don Biswell, president of Biswell Homes, Dr. Eileen Fox Biswell, Norman pediatrician, Bill Logan, cerebral palsy commissioner and John Knight, chairman of the cerebral palsy commission. The McCarty Center honored the Biswell family with a plaque on the security building for their efforts in securing donations of cash, materials and labor to build the security building.

The Building BLOCK



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The Building Block is Back

After a long absence **The Building Block** newsletter has returned with a new look.

The Building Block is an external newsletter designed to keep various constituencies of the McCarty Center informed and up-to-date on things impacting the hospital and our patients.

Initially The Building Block is being distributed electronically. If someone has passed this issue on to you, and you would like to receive your own copy just send an e-mail to ggaston@jdmc.org. Type "The Building Block" in the subject line. We will add your e-mail address to our list of Building Block subscribers.

The Building Block will be a quarterly publication with distribution planned for March, June, September and December.



Members of the Oklahoma City Metro Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority play in the sand as they check out the covered, wheelchair accessible sand box their group provided to the J. D. McCarty Center in Norman through a grant for \$2,300. Playing in the sand are (l-r) Marcia Irvin of Midwest City, Sherry Irvin of Oklahoma City, Mary Jones of Oklahoma City, Hillary Ashton of Lawton, Michelle Dawson of Lawton, Leigh Mahoney of Norman, Linda Fields of Norman, Donna Jackson of Norman and Mikki Patten of Moore.

Tri-Sigma Alumni Donate Covered Sandbox to Children

Members of the Oklahoma City Metro alumnae Chapter of Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority were on hand Saturday, May 5, to celebrate the installation of a covered, wheelchair accessible sandbox at the McCarty Center.

Tri-Sigma provided a \$2,300 grant for the purchase of this sandbox.

"This particular sandbox is an important addition to our recreational activities for the children," said Tami Minor, recreational activities coordinator for the McCarty Center. "I really wanted this sandbox for our wheelchair bound patients so they could experience sand play. Without it, they were missing out on sensory input opportunities that you can't get from any other medium."

The Tri-Sigma alumni group raises money in support of a variety of local charities and their national philanthropy project the Robbie Paige Memorial Foundation that supports children's play therapy in hospitals.

Members of the Tri-Sigma alumni group represented sorority chapters from the University of Central Oklahoma, Cameron University and the University of Oklahoma.



Gutter Dance IV Benefits Summer Day Camp Scholarship Fund

The Gutter Dance IV, a charity bowling event benefiting the McCarty Center, was held Thursday, May 10, at the Sooner Bowling Center in Norman. Twenty-three teams made up of 92 bowlers with varying degree of skill rolled them down the alley to raise money for the McCarty Center's summer day camp scholarship fund.

"This event just gets better with age," said McCarty Center director of development, Uwe von Schamann. "We more than doubled our net revenue from this event over last year. It continues to grow in popularity with our supporters. We've got returning teams that request to be placed next to other teams because of the fun they've had together in previous years."

According to von Schamann, this year's Gutter Dance raised \$7,500 and not all the money is in yet.

The Gutter Dance format has become quite popular. Bowlers bowl two games. Trophies are awarded to the first, second, third and last place teams. "Because this event is for bowlers of all skill levels we wanted a way to recognize the efforts of those who weren't bowlers, but were willing to try it for the benefit of the kids," explained von Schamann.

The highlight of the evening is the 7-10 split roll off. The top ten individual high score bowlers get one shot at making a 7-10 split. The bowler making this shot would win a 2007 Chevrolet Cobalt from Marc Heitz Chevrolet in Norman. Ten bowlers tried, but no one made the shot this year.

The Building BLOCK

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Clinical Notes from Speech-Language Pathology



by

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Alternative and Augmentative Communications

Children who have limited or unintelligible (difficult to understand) speech may benefit from an alternative means of communicating commonly referred to as Alternative and Augmentative Communication, or AAC.

Using AAC with children who have communication problems may be a short term solution that leads to verbal communication, or may be the solution for communication. The use of AAC does not decrease a child's use of verbal communication. In fact, research has shown that AAC enhances verbal communication if a child will develop verbal communication.

Regardless of your child's journey it is important to know some basic information about AAC.

What is AAC?

It is a method of communicating that does not rely on direct speech from a person. These methods encompass a wide

range of things such as gestures, facial expressions, writing, sign language, communication aids (language boards, alphabet boards, picture boards) and electronic devices.

Why does a child use AAC?

To enable them to communicate. This is the simple answer. However, it can be more complex. Children who are non-verbal, or who have limited verbalizations, need a way to express desires, needs, feelings, ask questions and share information. AAC can, on a basic level, be used to allow a child to get someone's attention, clarify a verbal message that is not intelligible to an unfamiliar listener, expand a communication message from a single word to a sentence, or at a higher level, share an idea about a topic. At any level, it allows a child to interact and develop relationships.



What are the different kinds of AAC?

Switches: These are used to activate a computer, an adapted toy (sometimes known as switch toys) or a voice output device. Switches can be used with a child who has a physical limitation that limits their ability to directly push a button with a finger, or are used to teach cause and effect. Switches come in all shapes, colors and sizes to attract attention to the switch and encourage interaction.



Speech-Language Pathologist Kathy Morton works with McCarty Center patient Michael Sauls using the Tracker Pro. This is an alternative access method that uses a small sensor placed on Sauls' forehead. The camera on top of the computer monitor picks up the movement of the sensor and moves the cursor on the computer screen. Sauls is learning to use the Tracker Pro so that he can access alternative communications using a voice output device.

PECS and PCS: PECS or Picture Exchange Communication System refers to a specific methodology to teach picture communication using picture exchange. PECS teaches a child to initiate communication with a communication partner. Initially, picture discrimination is not required. However, a child must be motivated by something.

PCS or Picture Communication Symbols refers to a set of picture symbols used to communicate via any means. There is a hierarchy for teaching picture communication. Often a child must recognize objects, then progress through photographs, symbols (PCS) and then words. Picture communication systems can be as small as pictures on an office ring that hooks to a belt loop to a notebook with an infinite number of pages.



Voice Output Communication Device: This is any device that a child either accesses directly by touching, or indirectly via a switch. The "voice output" can either be recorded speech (digitized) or computerized speech (synthesized).

Some voice output devices have only a few buttons, with messages that are recorded by a parent, sibling or other child. These are for children who can only communicate a few messages, or who use the device to make comments or simple requests. Sometimes these devices are used as a stepping stone to a more complex device that has many messages and pages.

Regardless of the system that is chosen, therapy is necessary to teach the child to be successful, and to educate the family on managing the system. Without follow-up therapy a child may not be able to access the system, become frustrated and not attempt to use it.

If you are interested in speaking with a speech pathologist about an evaluation for an alternative communication system please call me at 405.307.2870.

Uwe's Corner



with Uwe von Schamann

Director of Development

You can tell it's summer time here at the McCarty Center. There are kids here from all over the state attending our annual summer program. There are even more kids here from the metro area attending Camp ClapHans, our summer day camp. This is our third year to host a summer day camp on the grounds of the McCarty Center.

I've been on the road the last couple of months talking to civic clubs around the state. I want to thank all those clubs for giving me the opportunity to tell the McCarty Center story.

My focus for these speaking engagements is two fold: first it is to increase the awareness of our hospital. After all, the

McCarty Center is Oklahoma's center of excellence in the care and treatment of children with developmental disabilities, and we're the only hospital of our kind in the state.

Second, I'm asking civic groups and organizations to consider conducting an annual fundraising event for the hospital. Our current priority projects are our summer camp building fund and our summer camp scholarship fund.

For you golfers out there we have three events coming up that are hosted by organizations who have or are developing a long term relationship with the McCarty Center.

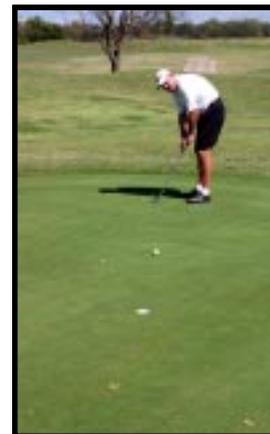
The first event is the 2nd annual Coves' Men's Golf Association celebrity golf tournament at the Coves golf course on Bird Island at Grand Lake. This event is scheduled for Monday, August 13. Each team will be paired with a sports celebrity from the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Tulsa University and other Oklahoma schools.

The second event is the Oklahoma Municipal Contractors Association tournament to be held on Monday, September 10 at the Twin Hills Golf and Country Club in Oklahoma City.

The third event is the Kappa Klassic, hosted by the women of Kappa Kappa Gamma at the University of Oklahoma. This tournament is scheduled for Saturday, September 29. This year the tournament will be played at the Westwood Golf Course in Norman.

For more information about these golf events visit our web site at www.jdmc.org. Go to the menu on the left side of the page and click on events. The contact information for each of these events is to be found there.

If you would like for me to come speak to your civic club or organization just contact me at 405.307.2804 or e-mail me at uschamann@jdmc.org. I'll be glad to set something up and I appreciate the opportunity.



Drive for show, putt for dough. Uwe von Schamann putts to the hole during the 1st annual Coves' Men's Golf Association celebrity golf tournament last fall at the Cove's golf course on Bird Island at Grand Lake in northeastern Oklahoma.

Tax Deductible Donations

We are a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit hospital. Donation checks may be made out to the J. D. McCarty Center or the J. D. McCarty Center Foundation. The IRS has designated these donations tax deductible.

For questions about supporting the McCarty Center, contact Uwe von Schamann, director of development, at 405.307.2804 or uschamann@jdmc.org.

Donation Card

Thank you for your support of the programs, services and capital building needs of the J. D. McCarty Center. Please fill out this card, cut it out and mail it, along with your check, to Uwe von Schamann, Director of Development, J. D. McCarty Center, P. O. Box 490, Norman, Oklahoma 73070.

Make your check payable to: J. D. McCarty Center Foundation

Donor's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

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Please apply my donation to:
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- Summer Camp Building Fund
- Lake Restoration Project
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