

Providing Services to Children with Cerebral Palsy and Other Developmental Delays for Over Sixty-Five Years

Boyer Embraces Family, Helps Daughter Grow

Stephanie Thompson knows her daughter Nicole is bright and clever. She loves *Dora the Explorer*. She is creative and enjoys coloring, dressing up, doing puzzles and building things with blocks. At 16 months she would crawl into bed and tuck herself in, and at 18 months she could dress and undress herself. But as Nicole got older her family started to become concerned with her speech and social skills. Stephanie's mother, a daycare provider of 40 plus years, had recently attended a seminar on sensory processing disorder and suspected that a lot of Nicole's behaviors were red flags for autism spectrum disorder. Stephanie's concerns were confirmed after speaking to Nicole's pediatrician.

Nicole's dad, Mike, recalls how it felt when Nicole was diagnosed with autism at 21 months.

"For me, as Nicole's father, I was heartbroken. At two years old, it was not what I wanted to hear for my daughter. I was scared to death because I knew absolutely nothing about autism. You want the best for your children and to hear that they may have limitations is hard to handle. It meant learning about how to best help Nicole so that autism does not limit her as she progresses through life."

"Boyer welcomed our family with open and embracing arms. I felt so safe, and I knew they would help us through this!"

Nicole was initially referred to the local hospital and school district by her pediatrician, but it wasn't until a family friend mentioned Boyer that Stephanie called. Boyer employs evidence-based practices to help children with autism, like Nicole, and other conditions, reach their highest potential. To begin Nicole's treatment,



Photo by Stephanie Thompson

Nicole with Boyer preschool teacher Amy Barnes.

Stephanie connected with Boyer Family Resources Coordinator Jenny Thies. "She was such a wealth of information and got everything rolling in hopes to get Colie in as soon as possible."

Nicole started attending preschool classes at Boyer as well as participating in individual occupational and speech therapy sessions. "All the staff took us by the hand and guided us through the start of something that could have been a very scary thing for Colie and our family, but it wasn't. Boyer welcomed our family with open and embracing arms. I felt so safe, and I knew they would help us through this!" One concern Stephanie and Mike had was making sure Nicole's older brothers understood the new challenge facing their family. "With the great guidance of Boyer they made the reality less scary. Both boys took turns attending classes with me

Continued on page 4



Visit Boyer Children's Clinic Online

Visit www.boyercc.org to find:

- Links to information and online resources for early childhood development
- Pictures of our events, volunteers, classrooms, and more
- Recent newsletters and annual reports
- Volunteer opportunities and upcoming events
- Videos about Boyer, our programs and the families we serve
- Online donation opportunities that support the children and families at Boyer Children's Clinic
- Address update forms; tell us which types of mail you want us to send you, or sign up to receive our e-newsletter

If you have questions or comments about this newsletter, please contact Michael Stewart at mike.stewart@boyercc.org

Invest Today for a Child's Tomorrow

When you include Boyer Children's Clinic in your planned giving, you may be able to take advantage of significant tax benefits, while simultaneously providing for the care of tomorrow's generations at Boyer. Your planned gifts help ensure that future challenges and economic fluctuations will not impede Boyer's mission of providing the best solutions for each child and family, regardless of their financial situation. Please consult your tax advisor for more detailed information on how you can leave a legacy of hope for the children at Boyer Children's Clinic. 🙌

Mission Statement

Boyer Children's Clinic improves the quality of life of children with neuromuscular disorders or other developmental delays by providing the best solutions for each child and family.



Vision

Each child in the Greater Seattle area will have the opportunity to reach his/her full developmental potential, and each family will have the skills and support to parent its child.

Core Value Statements

- 1) Promote independence and physical, cognitive, behavioral, communication, emotional and social growth in children.
- 2) Honor each family's unique strengths and challenges.
- 3) Deliver services in a culturally sensitive, family-centered manner.
- 4) Provide services in settings that are appropriate to the child and family.
- 5) Provide services to children and their families regardless of their ability to pay.
- 6) Support and grow a superior staff that develops and delivers the highest quality services in a team environment.
- 7) Maintain a strong and stable financial structure.
- 8) Provide quality stewardship of public and private funds.
- 9) Foster ongoing working relationships with key medical, business, civic and educational partners.
- 10) Be a leader and valued resource in the community promoting services for children.
- 11) Support and encourage diversity in all phases of the agency's operation.
- 12) Advocate on behalf of the children we serve and their needs and interests.

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Meet Joanna Vong: Boyer Volunteer and Therapy Student



Therapy school and would love to work for Boyer one day.

Why do you volunteer at Boyer?

“I love kids, especially the ages birth to three. They brighten your day. Also, since I am interested in becoming an occupational therapist I wanted to get some experience and learn more about pediatric therapies in particular.”

What do you like most about Boyer?

“What I like most about Boyer is that no one is turned away regardless of whether or not they can afford services. I feel like Boyer reaches out to as many people as they can in the community. I also think the staff is amazing, so compassionate, caring and supportive.”

What have you learned from you time volunteering at Boyer?

“I have learned so much it is hard to pick just one or two things! Overall I think I have learned how to communicate with children much more effectively; the Sign Language and hand motions used in the classroom were new to me. I have also learned so much from the therapists I have shadowed, which makes me even more excited to start OT school.” 🙌

Joanna Vong is a Seattle native who recently graduated from the University of Washington. She has volunteered at Boyer since June 2010 both in the classrooms and by shadowing our occupational and physical therapists. She is currently applying to Occupational

Meet Our Volunteers is a new feature to recognize and thank the volunteers who support Boyer throughout the year in a variety of positions. If you know a Boyer volunteer whom you'd like to recognize, please contact Eileen Burke at 206-876-3520 or eileen.burke@boyercc.org.

INSPIRING JOURNEYS 2011

AN AUCTION GALA TO BENEFIT BOYER CHILDREN'S CLINIC

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, November 5, 2011

6:00 P.M.

Fairmont Olympic Hotel

Spanish Ballroom

Seattle

*For procurement, sponsorship or registration inquiries,
please visit www.boyercc.org or email
kathleen.barry@boyercc.org or call 206-876-3519*



Photo by Stephanie Wright Photography



Nicole working with special educator Kris Echigo.

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and Colie. Boyer was great at bringing them into the activities and showing them the best ways to help her.”

Her family became more comfortable with her new diagnosis and Nicole began to thrive under the one-on-one time spent with her therapist. Stephanie recalls Nicole learning to sign “more” within the first week and how quickly she would learn to do something new. “Many times I felt myself hold back tears, because of the great progress and accomplishments she was making in such a short period of time.”

One specific therapy method that benefited Nicole was the use of video to teach new skills. Children with autism can have a hard time focusing their attention on real people, but research has shown that they are able to focus and learn from people in videos. In Video Modeling, a child can learn a functional skill by watching a video

of a person performing a specific behavior. In Nicole’s case, it helped solidify her ability to imitate the hand motions that went along with the songs sung in her preschool class.

Nicole’s occupational therapist, Caroline Umeda, adapted Video Modeling and other evidence-based approaches proven to be successful with older autistic children, to help Nicole. Due to the success of these intervention strategies with Nicole, Caroline Umeda and one of Nicole’s special educators, Kris Echigo, recently presented their work with Nicole at the first Judith Moore Evidence-Based Practice Lecture Series which focused on autism and early intervention practices. The title of the lecture on January 20, 2011 was “The Neurobiology of Autism: Implications for Early Intervention Practice.” Individuals from a variety of professions and backgrounds including occupational, physical, and speech therapists, family resources coordinators, pediatricians,

and members of other early intervention programs attended the very successful event.

When asked if they would mind if Nicole was included in the case study, both Stephanie and Mike agreed it was the least they could do for Boyer. “Considering all that Boyer has done for us, with teaching us how to help Nicole, with letting all of our family come and participate in her education, from just being a great bunch of people and friends for Stephanie and Nicole, I was beyond happy to help Boyer by letting Nicole be a case study. I felt it was the least we could do to help repay Boyer for everything they have done NOT just for my daughter, but for our entire family.”

Before attending Boyer, Nicole would only make eye contact with her mother and was easily frustrated. Since starting services at Boyer, Nicole is now able to communicate her needs and wants in a variety of different ways which reduced her frustration, and she is much better at making eye contact with other people. Stephanie says her family is so grateful. “Boyer has been the best thing for Colie, and our family. I saw Colie and myself grow so much closer because of the gift of information that Boyer gave to me!” 🐾



Photo by Stephanie Thompson

United Way of King County Makes a Difference

United Way of King County provides critical financial, volunteer and training support to Boyer to meet our mission, and we support United Way of King County to reach its priority of fostering school readiness for young children.

In 2010–2011, United Way of King County will contribute over \$157,500 to Boyer for our work in their Priority Area of Early Learning. Specifically, Boyer's services help parents or guardians acquire or strengthen their parenting skills and help children with developmental disabilities or delays achieve the highest possible level of functioning.

United Way of King County funding is a critical source of support, allowing Boyer to offer services to any child in need regardless of their family's financial circumstances. When you make a donation to United Way of King County, you are making an investment in the whole community. United Way of King County offers training opportunities, links volunteers with nonprofit organizations, and funds almost 160 local agencies. Whether you choose to support the United Way of King County's Priority Areas or designate your donation directly to Boyer Children's Clinic, we deeply appreciate your continued support. 🙌



Photo by William Wright Photography

June Vision Screening for Boyer Clients

Save the date!

On Monday, June 27, 2011 from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. Dr. David Epley will be conducting vision screening tests at Boyer, available to all Boyer children who are not currently under the care of a pediatric ophthalmologist. There are limited spaces so please make an appointment. For more information or to make an appointment call Boyer at 206-325-8477. 🙌



South Seattle Satellite

Boyer Children's Clinic offers therapy and education services at our South Seattle Satellite, located at the Seattle Children's PlayGarden. Please talk to your family resources coordinator about scheduling at this location. 🙌

Contributions from October 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010

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Benefiting Boyer Children's Clinic

6:30 P.M., Thursday, April 28, 2011

Theo Chocolate Factory
3400 Phinney Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98103

Visit www.boyercc.org to register