

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

Calla Grows with Support from Boyer Team

It might just have been a really scary but highly unusual incident in young Calla Maxwell's life. Born healthy – “everything was easy-peasy,” said Sara, Calla's mother. Baby Calla was reaching all her milestones without concern until, at eight months old, she developed a high fever and then had a seizure. “I had no idea what was happening,” Sara said. The seizure lasted more than eight minutes, giving Sara time to run with her baby to the neighbor, a doctor, who told Sara to take Calla to Seattle Children's Hospital immediately.

Calla was examined and released, with the hopeful diagnosis of an “atypical febrile seizure.” “There was no real concern at that point,” Sara said. But at her next well-child pediatrician's visit, Calla was showing signs of delay. “She wasn't rolling over, she wasn't walking, there were just some big gross motor delays,” said Sara. By her one-year visit, Calla's pediatrician recommended the Maxwells take Calla to Boyer Children's Clinic for an evaluation.

Not knowing what was going to happen was a very difficult time for Calla's family. “When you're in the trenches with your own little one who needs something different, you can feel lost and afraid and have no idea what to do,” said Calla's dad

Ryan Maxwell.

Sara, Calla and Ryan met Kelvie Buckley, Nurse Coordinator, one of Boyer's medical staff who helps evaluate children when they first come to Boyer. Calla qualified for



Photo by Ryan Maxwell

physical therapy services and was assigned to a team. Boyer believes that using a team of professionals is the best way to deliver services to young children with developmental disabilities.

“It's about partnering,” said Denise Swanson, Education Department Coordinator and Calla's Special Education classroom teacher. Teams help build an atmosphere of collaboration, giving the family and each team member access to experts in a variety of disciplines who already know the child and who

can help identify emerging issues and provide alternate options for solutions. “You may view an issue one way, but a different professional might have another point of view and offer another solution that works,” said Swanson.

Boyer's team approach differs from how services might be delivered in other agencies. Some agencies offer a single care provider – a child is assigned a single care giver who then works across all disciplines throughout the child's time receiving care. Other agencies will not assign a specific team, but rather have the child work with whomever is available on a “drop-in” basis. Swanson said that both of these approaches have benefits and drawbacks, but with Boyer's team approach, we can tailor how care is delivered based on each child's individual strengths and needs.

Teams also offer flexibility and can start with a small number of people – fewer new adults for each child to get to know – and then grow over time, depending on the changing needs of the child. Boyer therapists can work well across disciplines because they have access to a broad range of expertise among their colleagues. “You don't have to have quite so many people

Continued on page 3



Judith Moore Evidence-Based Practice Lecture Series

The Neurobiology of Autism: Implications for Early Intervention Practice

with Renee Watling, PhD., OTR/L

Thursday, January 20, 2011, 5:30 - 8:00 P.M.

Boyer Children's Clinic Conference Room

The Judith Moore Evidence-Based Practice

Lecture Series commemorates the life and work of Judith Moore, Boyer's Executive Director from 1979 to 2009. Participants at this inaugural session will hear from Renee Watling, PhD., OTR/L, on the clinical implications of the neurobiology of autism. After Dr.

Watling's presentation, three Boyer practitioners will present a case study. Join us at 5:30 p.m. for hors d'oeuvres and networking. Dr. Watling's presentation begins at 6 p.m. with the case study to follow. Space is limited so please email Kathy Stewart at kathy.stewart@boyercc.org today to confirm your reservation.

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.

Board of Directors Winter 2011

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Boyer Appreciates Everyone of Our Volunteers!

Each year, hundreds of volunteers of all ages make it possible for Boyer Children's Clinic to provide educational, therapeutic, and family support services to children and families. There are many volunteer opportunities available, including:

Classroom

Educational programs are one of the core services offered at Boyer. Help us by giving time to a child and assisting with daily classroom activities.

Office Support

We can always use a hand in our administrative offices. Volunteers help us send out fundraising and informational mailings, organize files and supplies, answer phones and assist with many other necessary tasks.



Volunteers from Perkins Coie, Microsoft and Wright Runstad & Company spent a day helping during United Way of King County's Day of Caring at Boyer.



Photos by Kathleen Barry

Fundraising & Special Events

Boyer fundraising activities are necessary to support our programs. Help us behind the scenes with organization and preparation, or

with recruitment of volunteers and potential contributors.

To learn more, please call Jason Wilson at (206) 325-8477 or email jason.wilson@boyercc.org. 🙌

Calla Grows with Support continued from page 1



involved with a young child, because that can be overwhelming," Swanson said. This was one advantage that particularly helped Calla, who came to Boyer just after her first birthday. At first Calla's team consisted of her parents and two

Boyer staff members. Sara Fox, a physical therapist, was assigned to work with Calla on her motor issues, and Jenny Thies, became her Family Resource Coordinator.

Fox and Thies went to Calla's home to meet her family and complete an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The IFSP document guides a child's care, describing the child's present abilities, the types of services that will be delivered, and setting out goals and objectives that the team hopes the child will reach; the IFSP is updated every six months. In Calla's case,

the focus was on her motor issues, specifically rolling, getting in and out of sitting positions, getting into a standing position, and preparing to learn to walk.

"It was hard work for her," said Fox, who describes Calla as "an adorable and intuitive child." Swanson credits Calla with a great sense of humor and a lot of determination. Fox explained that she will take her time to master a new skill, "but once she has it, she has it down."

Six weeks after starting therapy, Calla started crawling. Sara said she and Ryan realized how much they needed Boyer's expertise to help face their daughter's challenges. "I could see that Calla was frustrated. As a parent you try everything you can think of to motivate your child. But it took a specialist with that knowledge and that's what made the difference."

Sara and Ryan are another great strength on Calla's side, said Swanson. It can be difficult for families to hear about new challenges and suggestions. "Every

Continued on next page

Calla Grows with Support continued from page 3

family grieves, even the most together,” Swanson said, but the Maxwells are “open to anything that will help their child.”

Soon Calla’s parents and the other members of the team realized Calla was facing challenges around communication. The team called for a “Team Assessment,” a type of evaluation that looks comprehensively at a child to assess all areas of need, and determine a plan. Calla qualified for services in communication and education. Kalli Goodwin was added as Calla’s speech therapist and at 18 months, Calla joined Swanson’s preschool classroom.

Sara was excited to have Calla in preschool at Boyer. “She is so social, it was great to get her around other kids, but not in a place where I was always feeling bad about what

“As a parent you try everything you can think of to motivate your child. But it took a specialist with that knowledge and that’s what made the difference.”

she wasn’t doing or where I always had to explain. Boyer is such a safe place for her, she’s so comfortable, you can see her thriving.” Being in a purely “typically developing” environment like the nursery at church can be overwhelming for Calla, and challenging for Sara and Ryan as well. “It’s hard on parents if that’s all you see. Boyer normalizes us and our experience. Everyone here – the staff and the other parents – just get my kid.



Sara, Calla and Ryan Maxwell

They see what’s great about Calla.”

As Calla continued to grow, Fox grew concerned that Calla continued to face fine motor delays and could benefit from preparing for more “kindergarten skills” like pre-writing and paying attention in a group. After consulting with other members of Calla’s team, Nancy Glidden-White joined to provide occupational therapy. Adding one more person to the team is always done with consideration, as even older children can be challenged to form new relationships with additional adults. The team needs to be aware of that particular child’s temperament, stamina and level of comfort.

“It’s the ‘just right’ challenge,” explained Fox. “You want to optimize and maximize the learning that occurs for each child, but you don’t want him/her bored or over-stressed.”

In Calla’s case, the team consulted with Dr. Anne Leavitt,

Boyer’s Medical Director, who suggested she might do well with a restructured approach to how and when she received specific therapy sessions. Now Calla sees some of her therapists as part of her classroom time, participating in the routines of art, snack or circle with the help of her physical or speech therapist, and goes to other appointments for therapy outside of class time.

“I really appreciate the way the therapists have worked together from the very first, looking out for a range of issues, the continuity of her care; it’s very reassuring that they’re so committed to seeing her as a whole child,” said Sara.

“We have been so tremendously blessed by Boyer and all who work there. What tremendous progress Calla has made.... we would feel lost without all of your support. We have great hope now that we wouldn’t have without Boyer,” said Ryan. 🙌

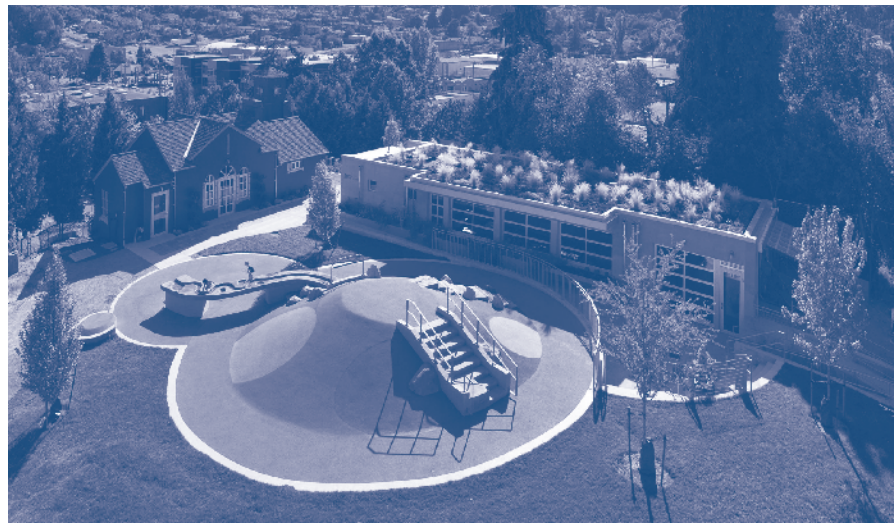
Boyer Announces South Seattle Satellite

Boyer Children's Clinic is pleased to announce the opening of a new south Seattle therapy facility located at the Seattle Children's PlayGarden at Coleman Field in the Rainier Valley.

The new space will allow Boyer to expand our capacity to serve up to 10% more children a year by offering additional occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech/language therapy services at the site. Boyer therapists will begin meeting with clients in the new space on January 3, 2011.

Boyer and our Board of Directors decided to open the satellite in response to studies we conducted showing a large number of underserved children living in south Seattle. Over the last five years, Boyer has conducted studies comparing the incidences of developmental delay in the community and the number of children receiving services, and determined as many as 50% of the eligible children in some areas in the south end of Seattle are not being referred to Boyer for services.

In response to this information, Boyer began increased outreach efforts in the communities in south Seattle. Those efforts paid off, bringing a 20% increase in the number of children served by the clinic annually in 2007 and 2008. In 2010, Boyer continued to set records for the number of children served and the number of therapy hours delivered. "We are near to the capacity we can serve at our Montlake site, so it makes sense to open a site that is closer to many whom we already serve



Seattle Children's PlayGarden and new location for Boyer Satellite facility

and who will need our services in the future," said Executive Director Michael Stewart.

The PlayGarden site improves accessibility for families living in the surrounding neighborhoods and provides a warm, park-like environment for Boyer clients to receive their therapy services. Boyer has rented 600 square feet from the PlayGarden and has access to the outside play areas, which have been designed specifically to accommodate children of all ages and abilities.

"It's an extremely family friendly environment and we're very happy to be able to bring

Boyer families there for services. We're grateful to PlayGarden Executive Director Liz Bullard and the PlayGarden Board of Directors for working with us to make this satellite possible," said Stewart.

Boyer will evaluate the new site's effectiveness based upon the usage made of the site by current and new families, the connections the location helps Boyer build with the surrounding community, and the impact seen on the rates of referrals for children in the south end.

For more information, contact Michael K. Stewart at mike.stewart@boyercc.org



Please Remember Boyer
in your charitable giving this year.

Donate online today at www.boyercc.org or send your gift to: 1850 Boyer Ave. E., Seattle, WA 98112

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Check with your human resources department to find out if your company might help you double your support for Boyer.

Contributions from July 1 – September 30, 2010

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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 for a Child's Future Today

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. 

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👏 We value all contributions and try very hard to list and spell all names correctly. If you find we made a mistake, we would appreciate it if you brought it to our attention. Thank you.

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United Way of King County

United Way of King County awards Boyer an Outstanding Employee Campaign Award

Boyer Children's Clinic staff have been recognized by United Way of King County for our outstanding participation in the 2009-2010 giving campaign. The award is given to companies who meet one or more criteria based on United Way's key campaign strategies of raising awareness, increasing participation and increasing the average gift given.

Why participate in United Way of King County's 2010-2011 campaign?

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, United Way of King County contributed 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. 🙌



Boyer Children's Clinic

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WE NEED YOUR HELP!

2010 has been a record year for Boyer Children's Clinic. This summer we set records in both the number of children served in one month and the number of therapy hours provided. The financial resources necessary to provide these vital services are scarcer than ever, given today's economic climate. **Your support at this time is critical to our success.** Your 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.



Thank You!