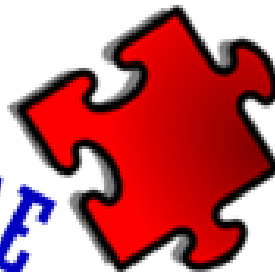


PATHS TO INDEPENDENCE



NEWSLETTER

PTI has a Busy October

Happy October! I'm enjoying all our fall leaf paintings, pumpkins, spiders, ghosts, and bats.

Our Thanks4Giving fundraiser on November 3 is fast approaching. It will be a fun time for everyone. The houses hosting our four courses are just beautiful. Seeing them is definitely worth the price of a ticket. In addition, you get to eat. What could be better than that?

Debbie Loafman and I had an interesting visit to Rose Rock Academy in Oklahoma City on October 5th. It reminded us how im-

portant it is to have community support for parents.

Jean and I visited Project Search, a job training program, at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City. It was so inspiring for us. I hope we can replicate something similar here in Bartlesville.

I am so excited that we are going to be able to add music and art to our curriculum. I've always thought



music was an excellent way to improve language skills in students with autism. I can't wait to see what both artists do with our students.

-Clair Bartley

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Upcoming Events

- Cooking Gluten and Casein free continues at TCTC on Thursday nights from 6:30-8:30. Enroll for one or more classes on the TCTC website.
- Art therapy and music classes begin in November
- Fall fundraiser to be held on November 3rd. Join us for a delicious progressive dinner. Tickets are \$75/person
- PTI Holiday closings: November 22 & 23

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Update on Thanks4Giving Progressive Dinner

Keep November 3 reserved on your calendars for our Thanks4giving Fundraiser! Be sure to invite all your friends and family as we join "4ces" to support PTI. This progressive dinner will be a delight! We already have 4 wonderful homes secured, and a delicious 4 course menu is being created to ensure you will want us to make this an annual event! Currently, we are planning to have appetizers at the home of Danny and Emily Hood and then travel to John and Kim Thompson's for our soup/salad. Subsequently, we will have our entree at Dr. Pat Tinker's home and finish with dessert at Dr. Steve and Carmen Casner's home. Each ticket is \$75 and all proceeds will go to our school!! Now that is "4 sure" a deal that cannot be beat.





Emily Gibson's Generous Gift

One of PTI's youngest volunteers is also one of its biggest donors. Emily Gibson, teenage daughter of Will and Jody Gibson, has volunteered at PTI since its inception. She is very committed to working with our students. Her interest in volunteering here was sparked by personal experience. Her brother Jordan has autism. Emily also worked at Kiddie Park all summer. She took 10% of her earnings and purchased a bike to give to the school. It is Emily's policy to tithe from her earnings to either her church or a charitable organization. This summer, we are grateful she chose to bless PTI with this bike!



Jazzercise– Fun for Everyone

Vanessa and Jenna have been leading us in weekly Jazzercise classes. Students work on movement, stretching, following directions, visual-motor skills, and body knowledge. We always start and end with a good stretching session and then move on to a “move and freeze” game. Vanessa and Jenna have added books to their routine so the kids have learned about the benefits of exercise and muscles. Each week, the boys have increased their participation and improved their fitness.



**Find fitness with fun dancing.
It is fun and makes you forget
about the dreaded exercise.**

-[Paula Abdul](#)

New Activity Additions - Art Therapy and Music Classes

Pam Rice, an art therapist from Tulsa, is going to start coming to PTI once a month to work with our students. Pam has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Tulsa. She is also a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Registered Art Therapist. Pam has experience working with children with autism in Tulsa. PTI is seeking a grant through the Oklahoma Arts Council to increase the amount of time we can have her work with our students.



Rhonda Cerveney, registered Music Together teacher, will start teaching a music class at PTI once a week in November. Rhonda has a Bachelor of Music degree in Commercial Vocal Performance and a MA in Music Education. Rhonda has taught for 16 years and is enthusiastic about teaching music. Music is an important part of language development, so we are thrilled to have Rhonda bring more music to PTI.



Visit to Rose Rock Academy

On October 5, Clair Bartley, PTI director, and Debbie Loafman, fellow board member and PTI's Speech Pathology Consultant, traveled to Oklahoma City to meet with Paul Boer, the administrator of Rose Rock Academy's school. This is a 51 bed in-patient treatment facility for students diagnosed with autism. Currently, there are 36 children being served at Rose Rock in four classrooms (two verbal and two non-verbal classes). Students are admitted here when they are unable to successfully attend public school. The average in-patient stay varies, but about 90 days was reported to be the average. The goal of treatment here is for a student to return home and reenroll in the public school setting.

Clair and Debbie toured the campus and saw the classrooms, cafeteria, a dormitory and the administrative offices. They were able to meet teachers as well as several of the campus administrators before they headed back up the turnpike to PTI.



Visit to Project Search

Clair Bartley and Jean Jensen visited Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City on October 9th to learn about Project Search. Project Search is a nine-month internship program for High School Seniors or Post-secondary young adults with disabilities. It is targeted for students whose goal is competitive employment. The program takes place in a host business site where students participate in three internships to explore a variety of career paths. The student s work with a team that includes their family, a special education teacher, and a Rehabilitation Services Administrator. The team's job is to support each student during their transition from school to work.. We are hoping to start a similar program in Bartlesville to help students with autism spectrum disorders make a successful transition to adulthood.

Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.

-Theodore Roosevelt



All About. . . Jessica Farris

Jessica is a student at Oklahoma Wesleyan University in Bartlesville majoring in Elementary Education. She plays third base for OKWU's softball team.

Patient and persistent, Jessica can handle even the most difficult situations with a smile on her face. Jessica is an asset to PTI because she is reliable and conscientious. Jessica knows how to make each child feel welcome.



**"A smile is the universal welcome."
-Max Eastman**

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Like us on
Facebook

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I . . . I took the
one less traveled by and that has made all the
difference. -Robert Frost

We're on the Web!

www.pathstoIndependence.org

Paths to Independence is a nonprofit agency dedicated to serving the needs of families affected by autism. PTI was started in November 2011 and opened its doors for the first time in June 2012 with an 8 week summer program. PTI currently offers a full day school program, a part-day school program, structured after school care, and adult classes. In addition, PTI serves as a meeting place for the Bartlesville's Autism Parent Support Group. For more information, contact Clair Bartley at 918-914-9920 or Jean Jensen at 918-914-3125.



WISH LIST

The following are items needed
by PTI:

- **Digital camera**
- **Bicycles for ages 8-14
with and without training
wheels**
- **Bicycle helmets**
- **Handi wipes**
- **Clorox wipes**



Donations

Thank you to the following donors
for October:

Emily Gibson

Conoco Phillips

Holly and Mark Kane

Donations help PTI provide salaries for staff, activities for the students, and scholarships. Please consider donating to PTI. At this time, donations will be accepted through the Bartlesville Community Foundation. Make checks payable to BCF-PTI or go to their website at bartlesvillefoundation.com to donate through PayPal or to use a credit card.