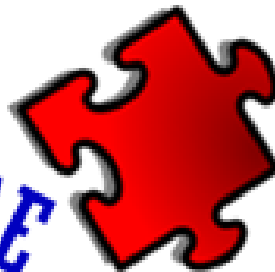


# PATHS TO INDEPENDENCE



## NEWSLETTER

### Merry Christmas from PTI

I can't believe the end of December is already here! I guess the old saying, "Time flies when you're

having fun" is true. I can't believe just about a year ago, Jean and I come up with this crazy idea to start a program that would provide services for children and families affected by autism. PTI has been a blessing to me in so many ways. The students are a daily source of fun, and I couldn't ask for better students or more supportive families. It is a gift for me to have the opportunity to be a part of an organization

that is making a difference for so many.—Clair



*Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.*

*-Confucius*

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#### Upcoming Events

- PTI Holiday closings: December 24, 25, 31, January 1
- High school /Adult fun nights— December 20, 27, January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
- January Parent support group meeting— January 22 @ 6:30 p.m.

#### Inside this issue:

PTI Gives Back	1
PTI receives designation as nonprofit	2
Fun Nights for High School and Adult Students	2
Music with Ms. Rhonda	2
Rethink Autism	3
January Parent Support Group Meeting	3
All About... Katelyn Abrams	3

### Kieffer and Eric Experience Giving

Recently, students at PTI were given an opportunity to play Santa. Donna Thompson, co-owner of Swan Lake Children's Center, has a Christmas tradition of buying gifts with her mother for two ladies at a local nursing home. Because of the loss of her mother this summer, Donna wanted to include others in her tradition. After getting a list from the nursing home of needed items, Donna gave us money so Eric and Kieffer could go and purchase gifts at Wal-Mart. The boys made ornaments for the bags and signed Christmas cards for each of the ladies. They were then able to deliver the bags to the nursing home. It was a wonderful way to start the Christmas season. Thanks for including us Donna!





## PTI granted nonprofit status from the IRS

The IRS has at last designated PTI as a nonprofit school. We have our official 501(c)3 letter in hand! PTI can now directly accept donations without going through the Bartlesville Community Foundation. This allows us to keep 100% of all donations to benefit the students at PTI. Having a nonprofit designation will allow us to make purchases federal tax-free. It will also allow us to apply for many more grants and matching funds. Donations help PTI provide salaries for staff, activities for the students, and scholarships for tuition. Please consider donating to PTI. Contact Clair Bartley at 918-914-9920 or Jean Jensen at 918-914-3125 for further information about giving.



## PTI Fun Nights for High School and Adult Students

PTI has had a blast with our high school and adult students on Thursday nights. On December 6th, we went to Clair Bartley's house to make snacks and watch a movie. We learned to make cheese dip, a chocolate cake, and a simple snack mix. Then, we all sat down to enjoy "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation." On December 13th, the group went to Jean Jensen's house to make an easy dinner and Christmas crafts. Jaqueeta Bartley taught everyone how to make a supper of chicken noodle soup and grilled cheese sandwiches. Next week, we are planning a big trip to Tulsa to eat at Joe Momma's Pizza and go to Tulsa's Winterfest. Fun night will start on the 20th at 6:00 and end at 9:30.

**A single rose can be my garden... a single friend, my world.**

**-Leo Buscaglia**

Fun nights will continue on Thursday nights as long as there is interest. Meet at PTI at 6:30 and we'll return by 8:30. Cost is \$30 per person, all activities included. RSVP to Clair Bartley 918-914-9920.

## Music with Ms. Rhonda

Rhonda Cerveny has livened up our Monday afternoons by bringing music into our lives. Rhonda teaches every Monday afternoon from 3:15-3:45. PTI's students have enjoyed Rhonda's enthusiastic style as she works with everyone on singing, rhythm, movement, body awareness, active listening, and self-expression. We use sticks and shakers to produce rhythms and to participate in musical activities. Each child, as well as the classroom, received their own CD's with

songs from class. Students love to listen to the songs over and over again between Ms. Rhonda's visits. Incorporating music into our school program will benefit our students' language development, cognitive growth, emotional growth, social growth, and physical development. We look forward to Ms. Rhonda's classes each week.





## Rethink Autism

Rethink Autism is a comprehensive curriculum and training program based on the principles of applied behavior analysis. Each student at PTI has an individual account with individualized curriculum. Curriculum is based on the results of a simple online assessment completed by a teacher or parent. Skills addressed include pre-academic, academic, social/emotional, expressive language, receptive language, play/leisure, and daily living. Each parent receives a login so they can access their child's progress.. In addition, Rethink Autism has a strong training component that is beneficial to both staff and parents. PTI uses Rethink Autism as one component of a comprehensive school program.



## January Parent Support Group Meeting

PTI hosts a monthly support group for parents of children with autism spectrum disorders. At the January 22nd meeting, parents of high school and adult students with ASD will talk about seeking guardianship, financial planning, adult programs, job seeking, and other adult issues. This meeting will be perfect for parents of younger or older children who are beginning to think about the future. Please bring your questions and join the Kemps, the Fords, and the Messerlis for a very important meeting. Parent support group meetings are held at Paths to Independence, 4041 Sheridan Road in Bartlesville, at 6:30 p.m.

**Let our advance worrying become advance thinking and planning.**

**-Winston Churchill**



## All About. . . Katelyn Abrams

Katelyn Abrams joined the PTI staff in August of 2012. She has been an energetic, positive part of the staff ever since. Katelyn is a junior at Roger's State University in Bartlesville. She is majoring in Social Work. Katelyn recently accepted a job with Washington County Department of Human Services as a Social Work Aide. She is extremely excited to have the opportunity to work at a job in her chosen field. Unfortunately for PTI, that means Katelyn will only be available to work for us on Wednesdays.

Katelyn loves playing softball and enjoys participating in a summer league. Katelyn has been a blessing to PTI because she works hard and can keep up with the fastest of students. She is an enthusiastic game-player and a creative obstacle-course designer. We wish Katelyn the best in her life's endeavors.





## Paths to Independence

4041 Sheridan Road  
Bartlesville, OK 74006

Phone: 918-914-9920  
Fax: 918-333-4533  
E-mail: [paths@newsguy.com](mailto:paths@newsguy.com)



Like us on  
**Facebook**

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.

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](http://www.pathstoIndependence.org)



Merry Christmas from  
PTI

