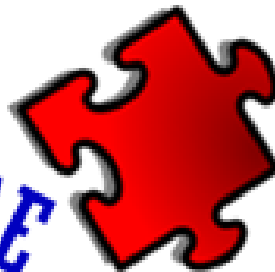


# PATHS TO INDEPENDENCE



## NEWSLETTER

### PTI Gives Thanks

Welcome to November- A time for giving thanks for the many blessings in our lives.

At PTI, we have many things for which to be thankful starting with our excellent staff. We have been introducing our staff members one by one in our "All About. . ." articles. They are each very much appreciated and valued for their work with our students. We could never achieve the successes we do without such a caring, dedicated staff.

I am also grateful to the

parents of our students. They are so willing to pitch in and make the school a success. In addition, the parents have been a wonderful support for each other as they raise children who have very unique needs.

Furthermore, I am thankful to the Bartlesville community. We have had excellent support from numerous individuals. Our recent fundraiser, Thanks4Giving raised over \$3,000. These



donations help PTI provide salaries for staff, activities for the students, and scholarships to help with tuition.

-Clair Bartley

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**November 15, 2012**

#### Upcoming Events

- PTI Fun Nights begin in December for high school and adult students.
- Art therapy and music classes begin in November
- PTI Holiday closings: November 22 & 23

#### Inside this issue:

Full Time Classes Begin	1
Fall Break Activities	2
Fun Nights for High School and Adult Students	2
Thanks4Giving Fun for All	2
Rethink Autism	3
November Parent Support Group Meeting	3
All About. . . Kim Breedlove	3

### Full Time Classes Begin

Paths to Independence has now started serving full-time students. Starting Monday, November 5th, PTI implemented a full-time private school program for students with autism spectrum disorders from preK to 12th grade. Students participate in a structured teaching program designed to meet their individual needs. We are using the ABA program, Rethink Autism, to track and document skill growth. In addition, students will be introduced to appropriate material for their grade level in a manner consistent with their individual learning needs. Our nonverbal students are being taught to communicate with the Picture Exchange Communication System. We are excited to already see excellent growth in communication skills using this system. PTI's school program follows the Bartlesville Public School calendar and is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition, we will continue to offer an after-school program from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and full day programming during most school breaks.





## Fall Break Activities

Fall Break was a busy time for PTI. We remained open on October 17th, 18th, and 19th while the public schools were closed. Students had fun swimming at the Owasso YMCA, walking and bike riding on the Pathfinder, and riding horseback with Bob. In addition, everyone stayed busy learning new games, playing on the playground, and reading. PTI was also open on October 26th, while elementary children were out for conferences. We were fortunate that the Fairfield Inn let us use their pool to swim that day. Thank you to Fairfield's manager, Cindy Robinson, for allowing us that privilege. In order to meet DHS licensing guidelines, we have hired a lifeguard to supervise our swimming fun. Welcome Josh Weatherly, who gave up three days to take the lifeguard training for us at the YMCA.



## PTI Fun Nights for High School and Adult Students

In October and November, PTI joined with Tri County Tech to provide a cooking class for high school students and adults with autism. In December, we will be offering a time for high school students and adults to hang out and enjoy social activities together. We will meet at Paths to Independence, 4041 Sheridan Road, and then travel together to our destination. For our first meeting on December 6th, we will travel to Clair Bartley's house to make some of our favorite snacks and watch a movie. Each week, we will plan the next week together, so everyone will have a voice in what we do. One of our cooking students, Kevin, has already asked about seeing a plane. We have an inside resource on that request, so expect a plane visit sometime in December or January. Don't miss the fun!



**Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend.**

Albert Camus

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.

## Thanks4Giving Fun for All!

On Saturday, November 3, friends and supporters of PTI gathered for a Thanks4Giving progressive dinner. Participants met at the home of Danny and Emily Hood where they were treated to hors d'oeuvres and wonderful music from a string ensemble. An additional and unexpected treat was climbing the stairs to view the fall foliage from their observatory. Then, as the sky darkened and temperatures cooled, it was on to John



and Kim Thompson's home to enjoy two delicious hot soups and a variety of salads. The next stop was Dr. Pat Tinker's home where everyone was treated to a choice of two entrees and vegetables. Finally, the evening wrapped up at the home of Dr. Steve and Carmen Casner with desserts and hot drinks. Everyone attending left the fund raiser having learned a little more about the mission of PTI in this community. And it was unanimously agreed that we are looking forward to making this an annual event!



## Rethink Autism

Thanks to a generous donation from Carmen and Steve Casner, all full and part-time PTI students are enrolled in Rethink Autism's ABA program. This program allows us to do a quick skills assessment and then track progress for each child individually. In addition, this program offers excellent training opportunities for the staff and for parents. All parents will receive a log-in and password so they can monitor their child's progress from home, participate in the same training as the staff, and access other helpful resources. Look for more information in next month's newsletter.



## November Parent Support Group Meeting

PTI hosts a monthly support group for parents of children with autism spectrum disorders. November's meeting will be November 27th at 6:30 p.m. It will feature a member of our local Green Country Pilot Cub talking about Project Lifesaver. Project Lifesaver International is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization that bridges the technological gap for "at risk" populations and public safety agencies. It provides police, fire/rescue and other first responders with a comprehensive program including equipment and training to quickly locate and rescue "at risk" individuals with cognitive disorders who are at constant risk to the life threatening behavior of wandering including those with Alzheimer's disease, Autism, and Down syndrome. If you are interested in learning more about Project Lifesaver, please join us at 6:30 on November 27th at Paths to Independence, 4041 Sheridan Road.

**"To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world." - Heather Cortez**



## All About. . . Kim Breedlove

Kim Breedlove moved to Bartlesville about a year ago when her husband, Dave, began working for Conoco Phillips. Kim loves working at PTI and especially enjoys making relationships with students. Her teenage son, Will, has volunteered some time at PTI. Her teenage daughter, Carter, recently attended the progressive dinner! We are pleased to have Kim working at PTI, and we are enjoying their family involvement!



## Paths to Independence

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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)



## Donations

Thank you to the following donors for November:

*Paul and Lynne Turcott  
Darrin and Teresa Messerli  
Steve and Janie Kirkpatrick  
Paul and Ivory Anderson  
Glen and Mary Elkan  
Mollie and John Bechtelheimer  
Ben and Jamie Wilsey  
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Dr. Pat Tinker  
Emily and Danny Hood  
Kim and John Thompson  
Clair and Jay Bartley  
Dr. Steve and Carmen Casner  
Dewey Pilot Club  
Mark and Debbie Haskell  
Cheryl Bridendolph*



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](http://bartlesvillefoundation.com) to donate through PayPal or to use a credit card.