

BREAKTHROUGH



improving the lives of adults with autism

FALL 2013

UPDATE

Shop at Kroger and help Breakthrough!

Breakthrough is now participating in Kroger's Community Rewards Program. As of September 1st, if you enroll your Kroger Plus Card in this program with Breakthrough as the benefiting agency, we can earn up to \$8,000 a quarter. There is no cost to you, no impact on your purchases, no personal information traded by Kroger. . . just a wonderful opportunity for Breakthrough to earn much needed funds while you purchase your groceries!!! Please go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com to enroll your Kroger Plus Card at Kroger's secure website (top right corner). All linked Kroger Plus Cards in the household will begin earning funds for Breakthrough. If you already have an account, just log in and choose Breakthrough as the non-profit of your choice. If you do not have an account, it will take you a few minutes to set one up. After doing so (by just inputting your name, address, rewards card number), you can then link your reward number to Breakthrough. Setting up an account also gives you the opportunity to attach online coupons automatically to your rewards number, schedule prescription refills and other user friendly Kroger activities IF you choose to do so. There is NO contact from Kroger once this information is submitted. It will take approximately 7-10 business days for the card to be activated. Please consider helping us earn funds when you shop. . . easy for you. . . so necessary for providing services to our clients!!! Thank you as always for your support!!!

Upcoming Breakthrough Events:

- **Golf Tournament:**
The Monday, September 23rd, 2013 event is full! Thanks for your support!
- **Bunco for Breakthrough:** mid January
- **Take Home the Cellar:** mid March
- **Run for Autism:** mid April

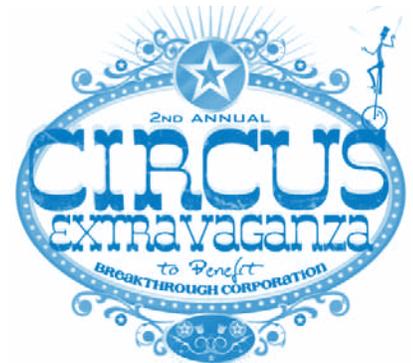


Spotlight on: Mary Johnson

Mary Johnson joined Breakthrough's board in 2011 after watching Breakthrough from "nearby" for many years. Mary and her husband Richard have an eighteen year old son with autism, Pace, and a very accomplished daughter Mary Margaret who is starting her second year of college. Mary's talents and accomplishments are almost too many to list. . . actress (yes, actress!), writer, speaker, advocate, fundraiser, board member, circus performer (see what I mean?) ..and is well known in the Knoxville community for her involvement in the many causes close to her heart. She recently submitted her resignation from the Breakthrough board, where she also served as the "secretary extraordinaire," due to some exciting life changes for her family based on her husband's recent work with Commissioner Henry in Nashville. We will miss her hard work and insight but know that we have not heard the last of her. Look out Nashville. . . here comes Mary!!!

The Circus Fundraiser

If you passed by 1805 Maryville Pike on April 25th or April 27th you may have wondered what all the cars were there for. Well, you missed it! The Circus was back at Breakthrough. The Dragonfly Aerial Arts Studio and the One World Circus performed for over 300 thrilled audience members. There were cyclists, Jugglers, Stilt Walkers, hoop twirlers and so much more! Popcorn, hot dogs, sodas, snacks and circus concession items were available to purchase. In addition, there was time to visit the Breakthrough HUD homes and learn more about what is happening at Breakthrough. Many thanks to the sponsors of the evening including Betsey Bush, The Clayton Family Foundation, Danielle and Robert Nutt, Margaret and Jim Samples, UPS Farragut, Ackermann Public Relations, Gina Tate and John Plummer, Janet Ellison, Laura Davis and Mary Johnson.



The Wish List

Breakthrough's Day, Supported Employment and Residential services are ALWAYS in need of items to assist with their programming. Do you have any of these items that you are not using or can you donate new ones?

- A SmartBoard
- All levels of books, with the exception of "board books"
- Craft supplies: markers, crayons, colored pencils, glue, construction paper, googly eyes, pom-poms, elastic for making bracelets, beads, etc....really any kind of craft supply is appreciated.
- Curtains
- Cookie sheets
- Towels
- Paper cutter
- Measuring cups
- Sharpie markers
- Ink Pens
- Desk chairs
- Household items, mostly small kitchen appliances.
- Game fly and/or Netflix memberships
- Community Sports Equipment
- Second generation or above iPads (approximately 15)
- Heavy duty dining room table and chairs (6)
- Scanner/Printer
- Laptop computer
- Restaurant Gift cards

We are so grateful for the support of our donors and friends who help us in so many ways. Please contact the office at 865-247-0065 or Beth Ritchie at 865-719-0534 or earitchie11@gmail.com if you can help. Thank you for your support!!



Clean up day at Breakthrough

On Tuesday, June 4th volunteers from Green Mountain Coffee Company were on Thurman Lane where our HUD homes are located for a "clean up day." We are very grateful for their assistance to help clear away leaves and debris, trim our shrubs, plant flowers, dig holes for later plantings and spread mulch. Thank you Green Mountain Coffee Company for helping to beautify our neighborhood! Funds from our Akima grant were used to purchase the flowers and mulch and, the papas grass which was later planted around the retention pond! Thank you Akima Club for your support!!

Breakthrough participates in the Walgreens REDI Program:

Breakthrough has completed participation in two rounds of Walgreens' national retail training initiative named REDI (Retail Employees with Disabilities Initiative). As a member of the Knoxville Area Employment Consortium (KAEC), Breakthrough, along with four other agencies, was one of the first to complete a six-week retail training program that Walgreens has developed on a national level. Walgreens was the first to revamp their distribution center to employ individuals with disabilities and their productivity soared. Their model has now been replicated by other distribution centers with similar success. This initiative was developed to expand the employment of individuals with disabilities in their retail stores. Each "extern" (individual with disability) completes a four-week training course under the direction of an agency job coach, who has completed a two-week training course, in the retail store. Five Walgreen stores in the Knoxville area participated, 18 of the initial 20 externs completed the training, and all five of Breakthrough's externs were successful!



Chairman's Corner

As I conclude my term as your chair, there is much to reflect on what has transpired over the last 18 months. Challenges and opportunities have been presented: some in the form of personnel changes. Search committees have been formed, comprised of current and former board members, professionals with Autism specialties and/or DIDD background as well as parents of service recipients, to conduct thorough and thoughtful placement of people in key positions. Last year, Rachael Story was hired as Day Services Director and Cynthia Buback was hired as Director of Supported Employment. We are now in the initial phase of recruiting a new Executive Director after the resignation of Tom Beeson, who has accepted a position at the University of Tennessee.



Tom was Executive Director of Breakthrough for the last seven years and started out as Breakthrough's only employee. Tom is credited with taking Breakthrough from a dream of a handful of parents with "aging" children living with **Autism**, to an accredited DIDD agency providing services to over 50 adults with autism, employing over 100 staff. The services Breakthrough delivers are thriving opportunities for our clients/loved ones which include day services, residential services, in home support, vocational training and Saturday's fun "R&R" (Recreation and Respite). Seven homes have been built and are in full use today located in our Thurman Lane neighborhood, with additional residential opportunities in the community. A third phase of HUD residences is slated to soon break ground in our neighborhood. Each is a remarkable accomplishment achieved in a short period of time. We thank Tom for his years of service and wish him well in his new endeavors.

Breakthrough **was** fortunate to have engaged the services of Anita Richmond as Interim Executive Director to oversee the continued delivery of excellent services to our clients. Anita has 37 years of experience working with DIDD agencies with increasing responsibilities over those years, including acting as Interim Executive Director at the Michael Dunn Center. We thank Anita for her services at this most pivotal time. Breakthrough is in good hands under her leadership. A top-notch search committee has been assembled and is conducting an exhaustive search to identify and hire the next Executive Director of Breakthrough who shares our vision and is prepared to lead us in achieving our mission.

The Board, and the very active committees, continue to work on those critical foundational matters established at our Board Strategic Planning retreat including: updating our vision and mission statements; refocusing/revamping the Development function; evaluating services offered to our clients; what and how those services are delivered, etc. We are assessing the systems and processes in areas such as administration, software systems, physical facilities, staffing, and what additional services we should offer our clients and how to deliver such. Surveys are being conducted with parents/conservators and staff, which will be used to evaluate and assess Breakthrough's current delivery level of care and services, and to solicit ideas and suggestions that will help elevate Breakthrough's programs.

Providing for our clients/our loved ones is the sole reason Breakthrough exists. It is our responsibility. . . our charge to build and provide a safe, sustaining and rewarding support network for our clients so that they can live long, healthy and enriched lives with purpose and meaning – well past their parents' lifetimes. Our belief is that Breakthrough should provide the support and environment in which our clients can enjoy independent lives and reach their potential. To that end, we move forward to adding to our neighborhood with Phase III; exploring job opportunities with the REDI project; preparing for the presentation to the Trinity Health Foundation to apply for a grant to implement "Project SEARCH" – a proven program to train individuals with disabilities for jobs in the community; revamping our development function to facilitate carrying out our mission; evaluating new services and opportunities. Each of these building blocks is positioning Breakthrough to step up to the next level.

Thanks to each of you for the opportunity to serve as Chair and for your continued support of the vision and mission of Breakthrough. I know you will join me in welcoming John Lawrence as the next Chair of Breakthrough. We have many exciting opportunities ahead.

Board of Directors:

Andrea White
Chairman

John Lawrence
Vice Chairman

Chris Hockman
Treasurer

Lynn Bolton

Nancy Carnes

Fred Coe

Kathie Dorran

Denny Dukes

Lance Fisher

Kathy Hart

Ron Koksall

Terry Ray

Lisa Ross

Carole Schenk

Breakthrough Staff:

Anita Richmond
Acting Executive Director

Jason Riddle
Residential Director

Rachel Storey
Day Services Director

Cynthia Buback
Director of Supported Employment

Angie Davidson
Director of Staff and Staff Development

Sandy Honeycutt
Quality Assurance Coordinator

Deana Rutherford
Director of Personal Assistance Services and R&R

Lisa Smith
Financial Supervisor

Melanie Cody
Office Manager

Ashley Day
Administrative Assistant

Beth Ritchie
Donor Relations/Fundraising



Breakthrough Receives the Trinity Grant!

Trinity Health Foundation of East Tennessee (Trinity) sought grant proposals in 5 areas based on The Trinity Health Initiatives for 2013. Formerly known as the Mercy Health Partners Foundation, Trinity Health Foundation of East Tennessee was established as an independent foundation with the sale of Mercy Health Partners in 2011. Trinity's predecessors were Mercy Health Partners Foundation and Baptist Health System of East Tennessee, two non-profit systems, whose foundations' philanthropic activities benefited East Tennessee for more than twenty-five years.

The topics for these initiatives were determined from a series of community forums, individual meetings with area leaders in government and "for benefit" organizations and discussions with the Trinity board. The grants were to be for innovative projects that encourage collaboration between multiple organizations to establish sustainable programs. Proposals for Phase I "Planning Grants" (up to 3 months and a maximum of \$15,000) were to be awarded to 15 organizations. Phase I awardees would then be eligible to submit proposals for Phase II "Implementation Grants" (up to one year and up to \$150,000) with 5 awards expected. The 2013 Trinity Health Initiatives were: Access to Preventive Care, Healthy Life Choices, Mental Health and Addiction Recovery, Family Strengthening, and Open Topic.

Breakthrough's bid for Project SEARCH

Breakthrough, in conjunction with Knoxville Area Employment Consortium (KAEC), submitted a grant proposal in the open category for Job Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities. Our grant proposed a hugely successful employer-driven model, Project SEARCH. Project SEARCH was developed at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center to train young adults with disabilities to meet a need for reliable employees in the hospital's emergency department. The program has achieved an 80% employment rate for its graduates and has been expanded to encompass an adult model.

The goal of this proposal is to begin the process of planning Project SEARCH sites at employers in the Knoxville area. These sites will create an on-going source of well paying jobs and make an impact on the traditional low employment rates of people with disabilities in this area. Of the 124 applicants for the 15 possible planning grants, Breakthrough was one of the successful applicants! Breakthrough, in conjunction with KAEC, has been busy all summer with presentations and meetings to develop agency, funder and employer contacts to establish the necessary groundwork for the Project Search sites in our area. We are proud to announce that Children's Hospital of East Tennessee and The University of Tennessee Medical Center have agreed be partner with us as our Project SEARCH sites. The implementation grant will be announced in October! Wish us luck!!!!



Thank you to our Donors!

We continue to be extremely grateful for the support of our loyal donors. Breakthrough has received donations from the following individuals/businesses since our last newsletter.

Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Arias
Mr. Gregory Baker
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Baker
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Brizzolara
Ms. Barbara Chandler
Ms. JoAnn Doty
Mr. John Downey
Ms. Melanie Drouhard
Ms. Susanne Dyhr
Mr. John Fairstein
Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Flynn
Mrs. Virginia Frye
Mr. Ken Haley

Mr. Herbert Gengler
Ms. Virginia Gorman
Guyton & Frere
Ms. Joan Hudson
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Lawlor
Ms. Mary Macko
Mr. David Martin
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Mays
Ms. Linda Meier
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Kent Mumpower
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Norris
Mr. Michael Parker

Pilot Flying J
Mr. and Mrs. John Quinn
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rawl
Mr. Jerry Richardson
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schenk
Smokies Game Dinner Group
Mr. and Mrs. John Sobieski
Ms. Jean Stanish
Ms. Karen Thompson
Mr. Jim Troy
Mrs. Diane Vierra
Mr. William Vines III

In-Kind donations:

Mrs. Sandi Downing

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Macko

Ms. Rhonda Shotts

Ms. Martha and Elizabeth Robbins
in memory of Emily Thomas Walker

Ms. Judi Brookshire
in memory of Mary Macko's mother

Ms. Elizabeth Ritchie
in memory of Mary Macko's mother

A Big Thank You to ALL of our golf tournament sponsors who will be highlighted in our next newsletter!