



The Belle Center

A nonprofit serving children with disabilities
and their families



eNews: June 2008

Hi Belle Supporter,

At The Belle Center, we're always inspired by the children we serve. But in this eNews, we want to tell you about the "Mother Teresa of Afghanistan" who recently visited our preschool program. Read how Parween Azimi—an educator and disabilities-rights pioneer—is determined to bring Belle's model of inclusive education to her country.

In addition to Parween's inspiring story, read about Belle's record-setting golf fundraiser, and check out our new Web site. Also, remember to reserve your table for our Trivia Night & Silent Auction on June 28!

Regards,
Belle Center Staff



1. "Mother Teresa of Afghanistan" visits preschool program



Parween Azimi, an adviser to Afghanistan's ministry of education (*center in photo*), recently toured our Center-Based Preschool Program. Referred to as "The Mother Teresa of Afghanistan" on National Public Radio (NPR), Parween has devoted her entire life to championing the rights of Afghan children with disabilities.

Parween is unstoppable. Nothing deters her from teaching school—not even the lack of water and electricity. She teaches wherever she can, including under trees and inside tents. Thanks to her efforts, 250 children with hearing impairments—girls and boys—are now attending school.

Parween is very impressed with Belle's preschool program. We are emailing each other as she brings the philosophy of full inclusion to Afghanistan. This will allow children with disabilities to attend school alongside their typical peers.

Belle thanks our former board member, Linda Baker, for bringing Parween to our preschool program. We are grateful to have met such an amazing person!

2. Support our kids by attending our Trivia Night & Silent Auction

Our Trivia Night & Silent Auction is filled with friends, fun and cool silent auction items. Don't miss out!

Saturday, June 28, 2008

Kirkwood Community Center
111 South Geyer Rd.
Doors open at 6:15....Questions begin at 7 pm

- \$20 per person or \$150 per table (up to 10 people).
- Partial groups will be teamed together.
- Soda and light snack will be provided.
- You can bring alcohol, but please avoid bringing glass bottles.

Reserve your table now! Contact Angie Wuelling, Development Director, at angie@bellecenter.com, or at 314.821.5230.



3. Golf raises over \$112,000!

On May 12, our golf tournament raised over \$112,000 to support kids with disabilities! We thank the Schenk family and our golf committee, as well as the staff and volunteers who participated in this record-setting event.

Belle is very grateful for our corporate sponsors:

- Marketing Plus
- Centene
- Almonds Restaurant
- LuLu Belle's
- St. Louis Staffing
- HealthLink



We also thank the dozens of hole sponsors who supported our fundraiser. Visit our [Web site](#) to see tournament photos, and to see a complete list of sponsors.

4. Check out our new Web site

It's colorful, it's fun—and we're excited for you to check it out! Stay tuned for further improvements, which will hopefully include online event registration. A big THANK YOU goes out to B.J. Schone, who has redesigned the site in his spare time. Visit our [Web site](#) today!

About The Belle Center

The Belle Center is a nonprofit organization that provides early intervention services for children with disabilities and their families. Founded in 1984, Belle's preschool program is the Midwest's first full inclusion preschool where children with and without disabilities learn and play together. Our mission is to ensure that all children with disabilities are fully included in school and community life. Belle's three programs annually serve more than 300 children with disabilities and their families. We also support an additional 150 families through advocacy services and referrals.

Administrative Office

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