



# Belle Center of St. Louis

Spring  
2006

## Inclusion Impacts Everyone

### Mission:

The Belle Center promotes the rights and expectations of all children to be fully included in the community. The center provides a progressive, family-centered inclusive approach to education and community life that supports children with disabilities and their families.

### Board Members

Courtney Walter

President

Drew Schenk

Vice President

Ann Salamon

Secretary

Linda Baker

Timothy Brown

Donna Campbell

Ira DeWitt

Ann Ferguson

Keith Jacob

Christopher A. Wagner

Albert Ware

Craig M. Doane

Chief Executive Officer

Belle Center National

Tom Mehan

My Senior Project was at Belle Center. I worked with children three to five. The Belle Center is inclusive. Inclusive means that there are kids with disabilities in the classroom with normal kids. Usually there are only about four special needs children in each classroom. Every classroom has two teachers and a special education teacher. There is also often a speech therapist, a physical therapist or an occupational therapist in the room. They all work together to help all the kids. My job was to be the special education teacher's aid. I played with the children.

I learned many things about others over the three weeks. First I came to respect all the teachers who worked there. They loved what they did. They did not get paid enough for all the things they had to do. Yet, everyday they would come in and play with the kids. I saw in them endless energy and a childlike perspective. We could not go outside

because it was too cold so instead the teachers brought in music so the class could dance. Seeing a 6'2" woman dancing to "I like to eat apples and bananas" is something I will never forget. Another thing I learned from the teachers was how important just the tone of your voice is. Some teachers had a tone of voice that they only had to say one word and the children would listen. I tried to mimic the way they spoke and by the end of the project I was very aware of how I was speaking to others.

The kids taught me a lot. I saw happiness in them no matter if they had a Seizure Disorder or they were a normal five year old. They loved life and loved me just because I was there. I was amazed by their capacity to love. They would give me hugs everyday and they loved to be picked up or to sit on my lap. They were

happy learning new things. The world around them was a place to understand. They reawakened in me a desire to learn more about everything. I came to realize how important knowledge is because some people will never be able to know things that I know. My kids taught me how much fun it is to learn. Every day twenty different kids from different backgrounds would play together. I was amazed at their ability to completely ignore their differences. They knew that some kids were fragile and they were careful when they gave them hugs and shared their toys. They learned from each other. It made me realize that I treat people differently, depending on their outward appearances. I realized that including everyone makes everyone a better person. I have  
Cont. page 2

### Belle Center of St. Louis to begin Alumni Council

The Belle Center of St. Louis has started formulating plans to begin the Belle Alumni Council. This Council will support the work of the Belle Center by creating child and family support programs, establishing stronger advocacy initiatives and developing programs designed to raise awareness and visibility. If you are a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, brother or sister of a former Belle student and you would like to become a founding member of the Belle Alumni Council please call 314-821-5230 for more information.

### The Saigh Foundation Awards Grant

The Belle Center of St. Louis has received a grant of \$5000 from The Saigh Foundation of St. Louis, MO. This grant will be used to support Belle's Center-Based inclusive learning preschool program designed to support children with disabilities. Courtney Walter, President of Belle's board of directors said, "We are extremely please that The Saigh Foundation has again decided to support the work of the Belle Center of St. Louis. Their support will allow Belle to continue to provide therapy services within an inclusive environment to a group of children with disabilities who would otherwise not be able to receive this kind of support. We are very grateful to The Saigh Foundation's commitment to inclusive center-base education."

**A NOTE FROM THE CEO – Craig M. Doane**

There is no question that spring is a wonderful time of the year. After the hibernation of a long winter new life can be seen all around. It is truly amazing to me how beautiful and exciting the sites and sounds of regeneration are toward the prospects of a good future.

Such is the case at the Belle Center of St. Louis as we too are experiencing a renewal of energy and efforts to better serve children with disabilities and their families. The sites and sounds of new life are creating a positive stir and stronger focus in three strategic areas.

First, **Belle is improving efforts to remain connected.** There is no question we must do a better job of connecting with our families both past and present. Steps are in place to establish better lines of communication so that you will know what Belle is doing and how you can help. This newsletter will be published regularly four times a year, the Belle website is online and will become a first-line source of pertinent information and we will be starting focus groups to gather more specific information from Belle constituents on current trends and issues.

Second, **Belle remains focused toward its primary mission.** Since coming to Belle at the start of this calendar year the one thing I have been most impressed with is the true impact inclusive learning has on children with disabilities and their families. Inclusive learning does make a difference. As such, Belle is looking at ways to expand inclusive learning opportunities and partnerships so that more children with disabilities and their families can experience the positive impact of inclusive learning.

Third, **Belle remains committed toward supporting the entire disability community.** Belle must continue to be a strong advocate of children with disabilities realizing their full potential within their community. We plan to implement more initiatives that will foster greater awareness and a stronger voice for inclusive learning. For instance, you will see in this newsletter that Belle is starting an Alumni Council. Belle hopes this council will strengthen family support and awareness programs and encourage greater involvement by all groups and constituents Belle has and continues to serve.

The Belle Center of St. Louis is here to serve you. I welcome your comments and ideas on how we can become more effective and efficient in any of these areas. Please feel free to send me an email ([craig@bellecenter.com](mailto:craig@bellecenter.com)) or call me at 314-821-5230.

**Belle Announces Three New Board Members**

The Belle Center of St. Louis is pleased to announce the recent election of three new members to its board of directors, **Linda Baker, Keith Jacob** and **Christopher A. Wagner.** “I am delighted to welcome these outstanding individuals to Belle’s Board,” stated Belle CEO, Craig M. Doane “Their professional expertise,

as well as their commitment to the mission of Belle will greatly assist the organization as we continue to grow and respond to the needs of children with disabilities and their families.” Linda Baker is currently a Disability Program Specialist with the Missouri Governor’s Council on Disability. Linda also serves as vice chair of the St. Louis County

Commission for Disability and has published several articles on disability. Keith Jacob is President and CEO of St. Louis Staffing. Chris Wagner is a partner in the law firm Gabriel, McCartney & Wagner. He is a graduate of Boston College and Washington University School of Law.

**SLU Pg. 1 continued**

volunteered before in special education schools and I was amazed at the difference between the two environments. Our world for a long time has believed that the best place for those who are different is somewhere else. We have always segregated those who are different from us. At the special education school I did not see as much happiness, love or determination. At Belle, I saw the exact opposite. I realized that our world can be incredibly unfair. Why are some people born with disabilities and others are healthy? I do not think I can ever answer this but I learned the amazing ability for humans to overcome the obstacles they face. One little girl named Jenny has Down Syndrome. She was extremely bright and I could often see her get frustrated because she could not do the things as quickly as the other kids could. However, she would never give up and I was amazed by her determination. Jenny showed me how incredibly blessed I am. I have so many things that I take for granted. I need to follow Jenny’s example and live everyday as a gift. Ryan Kane  
SLU High School Graduate

## **Calendar of Events**

June	14 <sup>th</sup>	Special Needs Trust Seminar
July	15 <sup>th</sup>	Trivia Night & Silent Auction

For additional information about any of these events please contact the Belle Center at (314) 821-5230



Margot Cecilia Schenk  
March 10, 1995 – January 28, 2003

## **Register Now for Sib Shop**

Sib Shops provide the opportunity for brothers and sisters of children with special needs to obtain peer support and education within a recreational context.

- Games
- Crafts
- Discussion Groups & Activities
- Dinner
- Special Guests
- Fun For All Kids - Age 5-13

Sib Shops are facilitated by the therapy staff of the Belle Center.

## **SAMS CLUB Awards Grant**

On December 21<sup>st</sup> of 2005 **SAMS Club** of Des Peres, Missouri awarded the Belle Center a \$1,000 grant to support its community outreach efforts. The support from SAMS Club makes it possible for the Belle Center to continue valuable therapy supports to children with disabilities in community settings. The Belle Center thanks SAMS Club for its generosity in supporting our program.

### **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Margot Schenk Memorial Golf Classic**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT!**

### **Little Man Film to Run at Webster University Film Series**

*Little Man* is the story of how a micro-preemie brought a family to its knees. A panel discussion following the film will include Center Base Program Director Kate Hannon.

June 15 at 8:00 PM  
Moore Auditorium 470 E. Lockwood Ave.

## **5th Annual Trivia Night & Silent Auction**

July 15th, 2006

Kirkwood Community Center -- 111 South Geyer Road  
Doors open at 6:15 p.m. -- Questions begin at 7 p.m.  
\$20.00 per person or \$150.00 per table  
(partial groups will be teamed together)

Silent Auction throughout the evening.

If you have a prize or auction item you would like to donate to the Trivia Night, it would be much appreciated.

To donate an item or to register call the Belle Center Office at (314) 821-5230



2005 Belle Center Trivia Night & Silent Auction



**BELLE CENTER OF  
ST. LOUIS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICE:**

1082 Old Des Peres Rd.  
Des Peres, MO 63131

**PHONE:**

(314) 821-5230

**FAX:**

(314) 821-5309

**CENTER BASE  
PROGRAM:**

1265 Hanley Industrial Court  
St. Louis, MO 63144

**PHONE:**

(314) 962-1037

**FAX:**

(314) 962-6034

[www.bellecenter.com](http://www.bellecenter.com)

## NFL Alumni Association Contributes

Irv Goode of the **NFL Alumni Association** toured Belle Center's preschool program on November 9th 2005. The NFL Alumni Association presented Belle Center with a financial donation to support the children

and families who are enrolled in our preschool program. The Belle Center greatly appreciates the support from our community partners.



Irv Goode of the NFL Alumni Association tours Belle Center Base Program

---

**THANK YOU**  
St. Louis University High  
School Volunteers!  
Charles Gaia  
Stephen Kainz  
Christopher Schranck



1082 Old Des Peres Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63131

## In Memory of continued

Sandra Stuckmeyer  
Myron & Cynthia Stuerman  
D.W. & A.G. Taylor  
Stephen & Margaret Van Asdale

### Lindsay Hubbard

John & Joanne Appleby

### Matthew Guenther

Lauren Tucker & Steven Ehrlich

## In Honor Of

### Grace Mehan

Ellen Bobka  
Donald & Ann Boyce  
John & Shenee Boyle  
Chris & Carol Brescia  
Clayton & Ann Marie Brown  
William & Maureen Burnet  
Michael Burton  
Gerard & Suzanne Carmody  
Timothy & Abigail Cole  
Conner Family  
Kevin & Lisa Cushing  
Gene & Mary Ann D'Amico  
Gene & Gretchen Davis  
John & Claire DeVoto  
Megan Duison  
Ida Early  
Barbara & Christopher Eichner  
Thomas & Cynthia Fourné  
Tom & Mary Grassi  
Tom Hanlon  
Katherine Herman  
Daniel & Susan Holmes  
Nancy & Jeffrey Jensen  
Ruth Ann Karduck  
Luke & Kathryn Kissam  
Richard Lageson  
Gregory Lavigne  
Charles Lock  
John & Margaret Lord  
Mary & Timothy Lucchesi  
Arthur & Mary Ruprecht  
Allen & Susan Mathieu  
Mark & Mary Kathleen McCarthy  
McGraw Associates  
Richard & Nancy Mehan  
Richard & Audrey Mehan

John & Katie Mehan  
Alan & Rosemary Meyers  
Mark & Patricia Montavovani  
Sarah & Jeffrey Nepple  
Jean & Bill Quinlan  
Mike & Mary Reedy  
Michael & Karen Reilly  
Raymond & Bernice Rigney  
Kimberley & Robert Caldwell  
Patricia & Mark Sharp  
Angela White

### Lucy Salamon

Christopher & Kristine Blakely  
Jeanne Blakely  
Margaret Salamon

### Hope Margot Schenk

Scott & Stacie Franc

Belle Center of St. Louis has been accepted as a participant in the 2006 **Gateway Combined Federal Campaign.** If you participate in the Gateway Combined Federal Campaign please consider supporting the Belle Center of St. Louis as a part of your regular workplace giving designation.

We are deeply grateful to those who generously donate their time & talents to the Belle Center of St. Louis. Every effort has been made to ensure a full and accurate list of donors. If names have been omitted, we offer our sincerest apologies. Please contact us at 314-821-5230 to update our records.

## **Belle Center Hosts Estate Planning Seminar**

Planning for the Future of Your Child or Other Dependent With Special Needs

June 14<sup>th</sup> 2006

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
1265 Hanley Industrial Court

J. Todd Gentry  
MetDESK Specialist

## **Remembering Belle Center in Wills & Bequests**

By remembering the Belle Center in your will you can help meet current and future funding needs. Bequests, trusts, gifts of real estate, life insurance benefits or proceeds from the sale of stock go a long way towards continuing Belle's mission. When remembering Belle Center in your will consider two options;

- Designating a specific dollar amount to Belle
- Designating a specific percentage of the overall estate to Belle

For more information on how you assist the Belle Center with planned and estate gifts please call 314-821-5230.

## **Belle Center of St. Louis Launches Website**

[www.bellecenter.com](http://www.bellecenter.com)

## Friends of Belle Center St. Louis

The following Friends of Belle Center St. Louis recognizes donors who made a gift to the Belle Center of St. Louis between November 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 and April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

### General Donations

Linda Aboussie  
Neal & Pat Alster  
AXA Foundation  
James Baalman Jr.  
N.J. Baranosky  
H.W. & Anna Barbee  
Mary Kay & Michael Basler  
Donna Baudendistel  
David & Sally Berry  
Jeffrey & Yuditha Bienenfeld  
Marie & Fred Bongiorno  
Laura & Brad Bontty  
Richard & Sally Brockman  
Patricia & Timothy Brown  
Linda & Dan Bufkin  
Kim & Michael Butz  
Paul Caserta  
Kenneth Caserta  
Bernarrd Caeserta  
Dora & Arthur Caserta  
Gabrielle Cervellione  
James & Margaret Crowe  
David & Janyce Daniszewski  
Sheldon Davis  
Richard & Marilyn Davis  
Doris Deiner  
George & Mary Ann Diehr  
William Dudley  
Richard & Sandra Edwards  
Rosemary Erman  
Richard Fister  
Margaret Foley  
Brenda & Terrance Fyfe  
L. Benjamin & Heidi Geers  
Geraldine Giacomelli  
Good Earth Tools  
James Gruenwald  
Albert & Emma Jane Gruenwald  
Claire Halloran  
Timothy Hannon  
Amy & Jim Hubbard  
Pamela Lesser & Ralph Johnson  
Herman & Norma Kaller  
Eileen & Bob Kane  
William & Mary Jo Knutson  
Patrick & Lauri Koster

John & Lisa Liss  
John & Lohman  
Ben & Laura Lombardozzi  
Olga Lombardozzi  
Kenneth & Harriet Mahne  
Andrew & Brandie Martine  
May Department Stores Company  
Paul & Tracy Mellring  
John Howard Merle  
Timothy & Suzanne Miramonti  
Theresa & Timothy Morrison  
Freda Newport  
Stephen & Joann Noll  
Florence Posterli  
Judy & Edward Presberg  
John Purcell  
Eric & Brenda Reinsfelder  
Ed & Lois Relling  
Dennis & Mary Roach  
Carol Roedder  
Janelle & Brett Roethemeyer  
Norah Ryan  
Robert Salamon  
Richard Salamon  
Ann & Matthew Salamon  
John & Rose Saufnauer  
Shawn & Holly Staley  
Michael & Mary Stelzer  
Targeted Marketing Solutions  
Charles & Sherryl Triplett  
Phyllis Scalzitti  
Drew & Amy Schenk  
Michael & Karen Scheve  
Robert & Marie Shantz  
D.V. & K.S. Shyken  
Russell Simmonds  
Patricia Skinner  
Jeanette Ward  
Al & Jonelle Ware  
Carolyn & William Wefel  
Kathleen & Terry Weis  
Julie & Keith Williams  
Howard & Audine Wilson  
Barbara & William Ziegler

### In Memory of

Kay Krampfert  
Engine House 23  
James & Vicky Alberico  
James & Janet Barren  
Laverne Barren  
Timothy & Diane Barren  
William & Marlene Boje  
Maxine Borton  
Florine & Eldon Cox  
Edna Deardeuff  
Jane & Paul Fischer  
Frances & Kenneth Goebel  
David & Edith Grieshaber  
Clifford & Florence Haberl  
Eugene & Jacqueline Haberl  
R.W. & Ruthy Herbst  
Thomas & Bonnie Huie  
Michael & Leslee Jacobson  
Clemens & Frances Jacques  
Ann Kiesewetter  
Betty Kiesewetter  
Donald & Mary Kocher  
Gertrude Kreinheder  
Dolores & Joseph Lamping  
Jean Layton  
Gil & Paulina Maliwat  
Jeanne & Roland Maliwat  
Patricia & William Marshall  
Victoria Moore  
Jean Murray  
Albert & sherry Ramstrom  
Laverne Schlinkmann

### **MATCHING GIFTS**

When making a donation to Belle Center of St. Louis, please check with your employer to see if they have a matching gift program. Some employers will match up to 100% of your donation to a non-profit. We will be happy to complete the necessary paperwork required for the matching gift. Questions, please call  
314-821-5230