

New Director Elected to Nonprofit Board

Mike Lewis Brings Business Background to The Belle Center

October 22, 2009: ST. LOUIS: The Belle Center—a nonprofit organization that serves children with all types of special needs—recently elected Mike Lewis to its board. Lewis is the Partner-in-Charge of RubinBrown’s Manufacturing and Distribution Services Group and a Partner in the Assurance Services Group.

Jodi Woessner, The Belle Center’s Executive Director, says Lewis’ accounting and business background is a welcome addition to the board. “Mike brings great business sense and knowledge to The Belle Center,” says Woessner. “He is also very committed to ensuring that children with disabilities receive our life-changing services, even if their families cannot afford preschool tuition or therapies.”

Lewis graduated from Southeast Missouri State University with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. He possesses the Lean Manager Certification for Administrative & Service Professionals from The Ohio State University and is experienced in helping clients understand the impact of “Lean” practices on an organization’s financial reporting and assisting businesses implementing lean practices into their administrative processes. He also has experience in operational reviews, due diligence related to mergers and acquisitions, individual income tax planning, family business planning and strategic planning issues.

Lewis is a member of: the Missouri Society of Certified Public Accountants; the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; the National Alumni Committee of Southeast Missouri State University; and the Association for Corporate Growth. He serves as treasurer for the Institute of Management Consultants, St. Louis Chapter. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society named Lewis as a 2005 Corporate Achiever in the Gateway Area Chapter.

The Belle Center’s mission is to ensure that all children with disabilities—and their families—are fully included within their schools and communities. The nonprofit’s three programs—Center-Based Preschool Program, Outreach Therapy Program and Families as Partners Program—annually serve more than 300 children with disabilities in St. Louis City and County. Nearly 90 percent of the children served come from families who are uninsured, underinsured, underserved, and/or receive low reimbursement rates from government programs. This includes many middle-class families who struggle to afford preschool tuition and therapy services for children with disabilities.

Founded in 1984, The Belle Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides early intervention services for children with disabilities and their families. Belle was the first organization in the Midwest to provide a full inclusion preschool program where children with and without disabilities could learn and play together. The organization won two Stellar Agency Award from Variety the Children’s Charity of St. Louis in 2007 and 2008, and meets all 20 Standards of Charity Accountability through the Better Business Bureau (BBB). For more information, visit www.bellecenter.com.



Meets all 20 BBB
Charity Standards



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