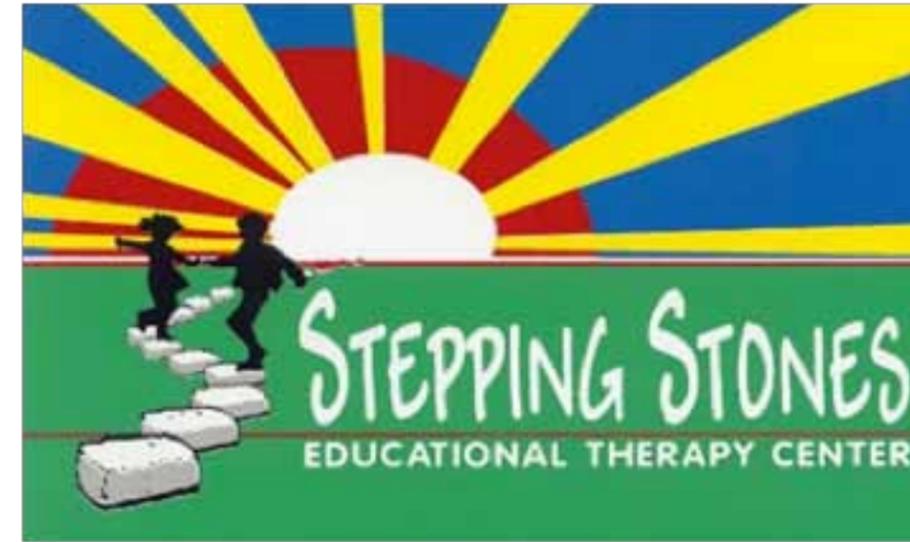


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We are committed to continue the vision of our founders some 30 years ago, "to educate children, challenging each child to reach his/her fullest potential academically, physically and emotionally". We invite you to visit Stepping Stones Educational Therapy Center, a place where miracles happen.

****IMPORTANT INFORMATION HAS BEEN UPDATED IN THIS BROCHURE.****



Dear Stepping Stones Supporters,

Dear Stepping Stones Supporters, If I could sum up 2020 in one word, "change" would probably be the word that I would choose. COVID-19 has certainly changed our lives. When our children left Stepping Stones on March 13, 2020, little did we know that we would not see them again until August 3, 2020. Our staff had worked hard to develop a spring schedule for the events that would take place between March and the last day of school in May. Little did we know that none of these events would take place.

I have always believed in the saying, "When there is a will, there is a way." The Staff of Stepping Stones believed this too. Teachers made videos and read books for our students to view on Facebook and made front yard visits to students. We had a virtual Pre-K graduation under the portico in front of our school. We were determined to follow the pandemic guideline but make the best of this unprecedented time for our staff and students.

Stepping Stones celebrated its thirtieth birthday during the Fall of 2020. Bonnie Brown and Saralyn Fountain's dream of creating a school "to educate children, challenging each child to reach his/her fullest potential academically, physically, and emotionally" has proudly served this mission and communities for thirty years. Today, Stepping Stones continues to offer the preschool model of inclusion, while also offering an Academy program serving special needs students from ages five to fourteen. The Academy at Stepping Stones continue to provide a nurturing environment that focuses on individual academic instruction and emotional/behavior intervention for students with special needs. Rainbow Rehab provides an in-house therapy program which includes

speech therapy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. The Academy at Stepping Stones continues to hold an accreditation from Advance Ed (Cognia) and Georgia Accrediting Commission. Our preschool holds a 2-star rating from Quality Rated, the sanctioning body for preschools in Georgia.

Because of your support and generosity, which makes a difference in the lives of the children at Stepping Stones, we have been able to continue to carry on the mission of Stepping Stones. Student scholarships have enabled special needs students to attend the Academy. If it were not for faithful supporters like you, many of our Academy students would not be able to attend our school. Donations continue to cover the cost of on-going needed improvements for our building, replacing four additional individual HVAC systems in several classrooms this year, purchasing classroom supplies for teachers, adding curriculum for the students in the Academy, improving the technology connectivity in our building and making improvements on the playgrounds.

Today, we ask you to join in the efforts to help Stepping Stones Educational Therapy Center continue to be a school where miracles happen in the lives of our children by supporting our 2020-2021 Annual Fund. A few special friends of Stepping Stones have presents a challenge to donors, offering to match any gift up to \$1,000. By taking this challenge, you can help Stepping Stones Educational Therapy Center meet its \$100,000 goal. We depend on your generosity and moral support to assist in accomplishing our mission. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Donna Parks
Executive Director



There needs to be more emphasis on what a child can do instead of what he or she cannot do.
- Dr. Temple Grandin

Stepping Stones Educational Therapy Center
141 Futral Road
Griffin, GA 30224
770-229-5511
770-233-0995 (fax)
www.steppingstoneschool.org

Dear Friends of Stepping Stones Educational Therapy Center,

As we are coming into the season of Fall of this most unusual school year, I want you to be aware of our excitement and our concerns for our students and staff.

I am looking forward to an exciting year of social, emotional, and academic growth for our students. I also look forward to working with our faculty, staff, parents, and community members.

This is my 41st year in education and I am glad to be able to continue to share my positive school experiences with all of you. One of my many goals is to help provide the highest quality of education possible in a safe and supportive learning environment. My philosophy includes the belief that every child can learn!

Our entire staff has been working hard to maintain our creativity and our measures of safety for our students. Teachers and staff members continue to work diligently in their classrooms. This year, as always, we will be utilizing instructional practices which will include the use of technology, planned lessons to match students' modes of learning, exciting reading instruction as well as interesting Math challenges for those who are ready for them. Our students will enjoy lessons about their world and what is happening around them. We will meet our students where they are and "Oh the Places They Will Go!"

Data about our students is derived from sources which include classroom assessments and teacher recommendations. These will be utilized to determine student needs. Attendance in class helps students become successful. We encourage our parents to be sure to observe our attendance policy. This encourages success in our program.

In the past, Stepping Stones has hosted a number of programs and events throughout the year. These activities were to enhance the students' educational experience and help those involved to stay aware of what is going on in the school. Unfortunately, this school year, we have had to limit the number of people entering our building. These wonderful programs and fund raisers are sorely missed by parents, stake holders and staff. Please know that as soon as it is safe, we will start to invite those interested back to visit!

Stepping Stones encourages parent-teacher meetings, but we have to depend on letters, e-mails, and sometimes Facebook to allow everyone to see what we are doing. Parent, stake holder, and community involvement comes in my forms. I am in hopes that everyone will become an active participant in the interest and concerns for necessary funds to run this one-of-a-kind school. We are so proud to have a school that welcomes with open arms those who have special needs to learn alongside our typical students. This definitely leads to a well-rounded learning group and a knowledgeable community.

Stepping Stones Educational Therapy Center staff and I look forward to an exciting year filled with learning, laughter and love for your children.

Sincerely,
Ken Bozeman



Rainbow Rehab, LLC is the exclusive therapy provider to Stepping Stones students. We provide comprehensive services which include Occupational, Physical, and Speech Therapy. All therapy is provided on a 1-1 basis in our state of the art clinic space. We contract with multiple equipment vendors and coordinate our services with the teaching staff to promote optimal carry-over of therapy programs. Enrolled students are always given priority scheduling and therapy is provided year-round including school breaks and summer vacation. We consider it a privilege to have provided our expert services to Stepping Stones for over thirteen years and look forward to continuing our professional relationship at this wonderful school.

Stepping Stones Educational Therapy Center is grateful for your generous donations. Thank you to those who have given thus far. Below is a list of donors whose annual gifts of \$100 or more have been received between November 1, 2019 and October 31, 2020.

Financial Donations of \$100 - \$499

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 James and Susan Thornhill



LONDYN EDWARDS

By Abbey Edwards

My name is Abbey, and my beautiful daughter is Londyn Violette Edwards. Stepping Stones has been a huge part of our lives since she started in the baby class 4 years ago. She has gone on to attend each year and is now in the lottery funded pre-k class. I have been so impressed with the teachers and staff who are such a pleasure to see every day. I also know that they love my little girl, take the best care of her, and really strive to help her grow. Londyn has truly blossomed into such a bright and sweet child who LOVES school, learning, her teachers and seeing all her friends that she has grown so close with over these years. She is the most gentle, funny, inquisitive, caring, and thoughtful little girl - I know that Stepping Stones has had a huge part in that. I remember volunteering at Stepping Stones when I was in girl scouts back in my youth. It's such a diverse environment and a great place to teach your child to understand that although children may have differences, they are all special and should be treated with the same respect and kindness as everyone else. Londyn teaches me so much about life and love each day and she is the most precious part of everything I do. I am so grateful for Stepping Stones and all they have done for us over the years.



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- Donna Parks, Executive Director



JONATHAN PEREZ

By Veronica and Juan Perez

Jonathan is the youngest of our four children. One would think that after already having three children having one more would not really present any situations, challenges or surprises we hadn't already faced with his older siblings. Thinking back on that now only reminds me of a simpler time but I could not imagine our life without Jon and the journey he has led us all on. Jonathan was diagnosed with Down syndrome shortly after he was born. We had a normal pregnancy, so the diagnosis of Trisomy 21 completely caught us off guard. Jonathan spent the majority of his first year of life in the hospital due to medical complications. He was born with atrioventricular septal defect and would require several surgeries to correct it. He went into heart failure days after birth. He has had a total of twelve surgeries with three of them being major surgeries. Everything has been a battle for so long that being able to slow down and take a breath is so appreciated and refreshing for Jon, his siblings, and us as his parents. We struggled to find an environment where he felt he could flourish. We wanted to watch him grow. We wanted for him to understand he is loved and safe which was difficult because his communication with us had been so limited prior to his attendance at Stepping Stones. Jonathan has been a student at Stepping Stones since August of 2019 and he has grown in leaps and bounds since then. His confidence has grown, and he has even become more independent. He makes eye contact with us and chats away to any friendly ear that welcomes conversation. It is still difficult to understand some of the things he says but the fact that he is trying I believe is due to the encouragement, support and education he is receiving at Stepping Stones. Jonathan is all smiles from the moment he wakes because he knows he is going to school to see his friends and meet with his teachers. He is greeted every morning by the Dean, Mr. Bozeman, and several members of the staff. Everyone knows his name. His teacher once told me he is seen as the little brother of the school since he not only wants to be but seems to be everyone's friend. Finally, a place where our son is seen, heard, encouraged, and considered. I can say in all honesty that every single child that crosses the threshold of Stepping Stones is treated with respect, dignity and love. Everyone is there to help our children; they love what they do. Our only regret is that it took us so long to find Stepping Stones. Jonathan would have been so much further along in his development had he been met with the opportunity to attend such a magnificent school at an earlier age.



KAMRYN WILLS

By Danielle Coussons

Our daughter Kamryn is eight years old with down syndrome. She is very fun, energetic and loves her family, playing with her babies and cheerleading. She is very kind and outgoing with lots of love to spread. She has always enjoyed school and LOVES Stepping Stones. We have seen a huge improvement in her speech as well as her motor skills in these few short months that she has been attending Stepping Stones. We are so grateful that she is able to go to this awesome school! Stepping Stones and ALL the staff have been an answer to prayer!



AL BARLOW

By Laura and Michael Barlow



Al was born in October 2016, our first child. Even from birth he has always been an inquisitive, alert, and social child. In the hospital, when he was an infant, all of the nurses remarked on what an alert little baby he was. He has tons of energy and seeks interaction with others constantly. We kept him at home for his first 1.5 years before we realized that he needed something more to stimulate his mind and development. This is when we became involved with Stepping Stones. Being anxious first-time parents we were exceedingly cautious when choosing a school. We were looking for a place where our child would feel at home, feel loved and included, and his teachers would become part of our family. This is exactly what we found when we chose Stepping Stones. Al has been loved and cared for from his first day in the infant class with Ms.



Connie. He has grown socially and emotionally during his two years in Ms. Savannah's class, and now he is growing academically in leaps and bounds with Ms. Lesia. We love Al's teachers like our own family. A monetary value cannot be placed on the impact they have had on helping Al to develop into a confident little boy who enjoys engaging with others, cares for his friends, knows all types of dinosaurs, is learning to write his name, and never meets a stranger. We are so thankful for everything he has gained from Stepping Stones.



JORDAN JONES

By Candice and Dontae Jones



Jordan is an 11-year-old girl born on July 30, 2009 in Griffin, Ga. She is the only child of Dontae and Candice Jones. Upon arrival into this world, Jordan was born to be a fighter. She was born with a heart condition that required multiple surgeries and many obstacles to face. Jordan first came to Stepping Stones in 2014. She was a student in the very first inclusion Pre-K classroom that Stepping Stones offers. Once she graduated from Pre-K, she transitioned to the Spalding County public school systems. Even though Jordan and her teachers tried their best, it was evident that public school was not the place to best meet Jordan's needs.

After a few years, Jordan finally rejoined her Stepping Stones family in the academy. She is a very bright girl who loves to learn new things. Jordan loves doing homework and being challenged with spelling words each week. She enjoys playing with her friends and being a leader within her classroom. When she is at home, Jordan is responsible for taking care of her three pet parakeets. She enjoys playing "school" with all her baby dolls and pretending to be the teacher. She often says that she would love to be a teacher one day. Even though Jordan has faced some tough obstacles in her short little life, she always has the biggest smile on her face and radiates joy wherever she goes.

