

October 24, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

I first visited the Conductive Learning Center in September of 2002. I remember driving home, talking to my sister about what I had seen. I was so excited about CJ being able to attend and all the incredible things these kids could do. Just think--therapy without boundaries!

Instead of picturing CJ in a wheelchair, I regained hope of a better life for him. Here, he could accomplish things that the doctors said were impossible. Andrea told me that CJ might very well walk with his body brace and maybe with a smaller leg brace. And, that he could be taught a different way to be potty trained. I was filled with hope again.

Next, we talked about how I could pay his tuition at the CLC. We decided, then and there, that CJ was going, whatever it took. So we started. I wrote letters (with help from my sister, Stelle) asking for donations from different organizations. I ran pop can drives throughout my neighborhood (now neighbors place bags of cans in front of my garage). The Kentwood Jaycees did a 50-50 raffle for CJ at their annual dinner. A friend, who owns a local bar, allows me to do 50-50 raffles there every few months. I have made jars to place in local businesses for donations. I also had a fundraiser at Fazoli's Restaurant last June and they have invited us to do this again some time.

My church, Wyoming Park United Methodist, raises money for CJ through special love offerings. I'll never forget him walking up the entire aisle, stopping to say "Hi" and smile at the people in the pews.

I'm working on more ideas--a car wash, bowl-a-thon, and donut sales. To me, CJ attending CLC is not an option. He will attend--whatever it takes!

Sincerely,

Sandra Blackwell