

## Maya Rose Olynyk, 2 1/2 years old, has learned to sit independently

Thank you for designating all or a portion of your 2004 United Way donation to the **Conductive Learning Center**. Please start talking now to the appropriate persons at your place of business to begin preparations for this fall's campaign. Any United Way office in the United States will send your designation to the Conductive Learning Center.★

**We are now receiving 2004 Summer Camp applications.** The application, along with fees, guidelines and timeline, are on our web site ([www.aquinas.edu/clc](http://www.aquinas.edu/clc)). We did end up with a waiting list last summer in some groups, so you may want to send in your application ASAP. Based on eligibility and acceptance, we operate on a first-come, first served basis.★

**If you haven't done so, please take time to visit our web site.** We are very proud of the appearance, content and utility of the web site. You may want to read the five "success stories" written by parents who have children in our program. We will also notify everyone of the impending date of the 60 Minutes II story featuring the International Peto Institute and conductive education in America.★

[www.aquinas.edu/clc](http://www.aquinas.edu/clc)

For program information, please contact:  
David C. Dvorak, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
(616)632-2429  
Fax: 616-732-4465  
E-mail: [dvoradav@aquinas.edu](mailto:dvoradav@aquinas.edu)

#### To schedule a visit, please contact:

Andrea Benyovszky  
Program Director  
(616)575-0575  
Fax: 616-285-1935  
E-mail: [abenyovszky@aol.com](mailto:abenyovszky@aol.com)

Conductive Learning Center  
2428 Burton S.E.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

#### For comments, questions, or suggestions concerning the newsletter please contact:

David Dvorak, Editor

Newsletter designed by  
Anne E. Smith

The Conductive Learning Center is a Michigan Not-For-Profit Corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Conductive Learning Center admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

# Celebrating Achievements

2428 BURTON, S.E. < GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49546 < PHONE 616-632-2429 < FAX 616-732-4465 < WINTER, 2004

## Notes From The Directors

By Andrea Benyovszky & David Dvorak

The 2003 fall semester continued to be a high activity, growth time. The Open House on October 28 was very successful. Many familiar faces stopped by again, in spite of the horrendous rainstorm that night. Over 100 persons attended, including many first timers. The support and interest we felt from the parents, board members, educators, medical personnel, legislators, and community members were heartfelt.

In November the entire staff of the Center for Independence Through Conductive Education visited the program. Both CLC directors have previously visited Executive Director Patti Herbst's program in a suburb of Chicago. We were pleased to have these reciprocal visits as more and more conductive education programs in the United State and Canada cooperate in some manner. Through these cooperative efforts, we can support and maintain high program standards of quality. We have begun the planning for Peto Institute-led continuing education sessions for North American conductors and are in the exploratory stages for another national conductive education conference.

Our center-wide closing activity for the 2003 semester was the annual Christmas play. This year's party theme was "A Wish to be a Christmas Tree". A jam-packed room of parents, siblings, relatives, board members and friends thoroughly enjoyed the production and were thrilled when Santa Claus made a special appearance in anticipation of his Christmas trip around the world.

The 2004 winter-spring semester promises to be busier than ever as we begin to push our current building capacity. Children are enrolled in four age groupings: Parent & Child, Early Childhood, Lower Primary and Adolescent. To address the increasing enrollment, we have added another conductor from the Peto Institute, so that we now have three conductors in addition to Program Director Andrea.

Conductor Gyorgyi Megtert has returned for the seventh time during this semester. Agnes Kamenyiczki was here in the 1999 and 2000 summer camps and has now returned for the winter intensive sessions. Vera Juhasz arrived for the very first time in the United States. Anna Klein returned for the third time as she replaced Gyorgyi in February.

Highlights for the rest of the spring sessions include:

★Professor Eva Szabo Feketene from the Peto Institute will arrive the first week of March to teach courses to the Aquinas POHI students and consult with us at the CLC.

★The CLC is very pleased to have the seven Aquinas College students completing their required lab experiences. They are working hard as they learn the practice of conductive education.

★We are again planning to have three Peto conductors for the April and May sessions. This will allow the center to meet the continuing and growing interest in our program.

In addition to these activities, we continue to build relationships, write grants, participate in IEP meetings, appear on radio and TV programs, make presentations to local service organizations, etc. We can't think of another place we would rather be—fostering independence for children, who in many cases, expect none.★

## Meet Board Member Cathy Boyer

Cathy Boyer joined the Conductive Learning Center about two years ago. Her interest was great because her first and only grandchild, Alexandra, was born in November, 2000 in California with cerebral palsy (CP). She wanted to learn what was available in Grand Rapids to help children with CP and their families by becoming knowledgeable and active on their behalf.

Cathy worked for a year and half as a medical social worker in Lansing. Cathy and her husband Paul moved to Grand Rapids with their son Bradley in 1971. In 1974 they adopted a daughter, Kimberly, from Korea and their family became complete.

Cathy engaged in various volunteer activities and in 1985, she decided to start a business with her friend Janice Hoexum. *The Incredible Basket* was a fun business, making custom gourmet gift baskets for corporate and personal gifts. After 15 years they sold the business and in a very short time, Cathy found she liked retirement. "Retirement allowed me to do more community work and pursue activities I enjoyed," says Cathy. "I do enjoy playing bridge with my friends, doing yoga, playing golf and tennis, walking and reading." Cathy and her husband enjoy traveling to Chicago to visit their daughter Kim, who works at United Cerebral Palsy, and their son Brad, his wife Holly, and Alexandra in California.

Cathy has enjoyed her experience as a board member of the Conductive Learning Center (CLC). She finds the CLC to operate an amazing program, one which gives motor-challenged children the opportunity to maximize their potential. Her dream is to see the CLC expand to reach more children and to be able to assist those financially, who may not be otherwise able to attend.

Cathy said she is excited to see the collaboration efforts that are taking place between the medical and educational establishments in the Grand Rapids area. She believes that the more exposure the CLC has, the better, because so many people are not aware of the program yet. Her hopes are that the center will become a federally funded pilot program some day, so that the rest of the country can see and learn how conductive education helps motor-challenged children.

Cathy has been a very productive member of the fund development committee. Her tireless work ethic and passion for the program has brought many of her friends and acquaintances to visit and support the program. She has many refreshing ideas on trying new fund-raising activities and sets the pace for her colleagues in garnering local business and legislative support.

Cathy wishes everyone a "Successful 2004" and expresses her thanks for your support.

Thank you, Cathy, for being part of our team!★



Cathy Boyer & grand daughter  
Alexandra



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