

milestones

enrich • empower • educate

summer 2011

tyler stipek

There was always something missing.

Marcia Stipek knew something wasn't right with her oldest son, Tyler.

"He had speech issues at 18 months old. He wasn't really speaking at all," said Marcia, mother of 4 children. "We were in a play group and he didn't socialize with the other children. He played, but it was more parallel playing."

Marcia and Bill Stipek, who were living in San Francisco at the time, began a very long and arduous quest to find out why Tyler did not progress as the other children did. Visually, he looked "normal." They visited a variety of doctors and specialists trying to find a diagnosis for Tyler. Marcia soon became Tyler's champion of support.

"The first doctor diagnosed him with Attention Deficit Disorder," said Marcia. "So I joined a support group for A.D.D. children. Tyler shows some of the A.D.D. symptoms but that diagnosis still did not fit all of Tyler's symptoms."



Tyler did not speak to other children or adults. He would try to speak to his parents but had a hard time communicating clearly. At the age of 7, Tyler began working with physical and speech therapists.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOUR CHILD?

There were days that Marcia would sit in her car and cry. Tyler was uncontrollable in stores. A stay-at-home mom, she had no choice but to take him with her. He would run through the aisles, scream and knock down displays.

"I didn't know why he was like that," said Marcia. She was always apologizing to other adults for Tyler's behavior. The adults in turn were not as nice. When Tyler would whine or scream, adults would tease him or offer unsolicited advice to Marcia on how to raise her son. She even videotaped a teacher humiliating Tyler in class.

Marcia finally lost her composure one day after an unsympathetic adult looked at Tyler and imitated his whining.

"How dare you make fun of my child," she said through gritted teeth. Marcia said adults could be crueler than children.

Doctors and psycho-therapists continued to label Tyler with a variety of diagnoses including A.D.D., mild seizure disorder and Tourettes; yet Marcia knew that the doctors were missing something.

Finally, when Tyler was 12 years old, a neurologist diagnosed him as having Asperger's. Asperger's syndrome is characterized by significant difficulties in social interaction, along with

continued on page 3

inside

Tyler Stipek p1
The Big Picture p2
Aquatic Center p4
Achievers p7

growing and achieving together

With a dedicated board guiding the agency, The Arc has worked with the community to help individuals with disabilities achieve their highest goals.

The board met with The Arc's program directors and management staff to draft a new strategic plan to continue the mission of enhancing the lives of people with I/DD.

The board elected its new slate of officers during the June board meeting. Leading the board is **Carlos Peña—President; Julie Hardaway—Vice President; Mark Garrett—Treasurer; Debbie Kennedy—Secretary.**

Board of Directors

Dwayne Ham, M.D.,-Past President
Kim E. Breaux
Bryan Chase
Margaret Costantino
Dr. Patricia Du Terroil
Peter F. Grojean
Adam Holzhauser
Katherine Joyce
Diana Liebmann
Lee Morris
Bill Ruhmann
Davis Sprinkle

We would like to thank our board for the time, effort and dedication they give to help us fulfill our mission.

the big picture



Steve Enders, President/CEO

The Arc's new pool at the Pam Stephens Center on Wurzbach Road opened in July and we're extremely excited about this new facility. With the long, hot San Antonio summer upon us, we want all individuals with a disability and their families to know about and use this new resource. Together with our partners from C.A.M.P., Down Syndrome Association, Eva's Heroes, Respite Care of San Antonio, and TEAMability, we expect this pool to get a lot of use. Thanks again to all of you who donated towards the \$325,000 cost of this important project.

Two other exciting new initiatives at The Arc are ongoing. First, a team of five educators from Northside ISD with lengthy experience interacting with special needs students is working with

The Arc staff to develop new activities for use in our adult day habilitation and child care rooms. In addition to creating these new activities, the team will be doing in-room training with our staff on implementation of these activities and behavior management practices. We have a great staff and with this additional training, we'll be even better. The NISD team worked with us during June and July.

Second, The Arc is collaborating with Christian Senior Services/Meals on Wheels and Project4Paws on a new community service program. Project4Paws, a non-profit community service established by local veterinarians is supplying bulk quantities of dog and cat food. Participants at The Arc will package and label the pet food in appropriate quantities so it can then be delivered to seniors who have pets, along with their usual meals from Meals on Wheels. This is a great example of collaboration which benefits all the parties involved and our community in general. We're proud to be a part of it.

**And there's lots more going on!
Thanks to all of you who support
The Arc. We will continue to look
for ways to meet the growing
needs of those we serve in S.A.**

-Steve Enders

tyler stipek *continued from page 1*

restricted and repetitive patterns of behavior and interests. It differs from other autism spectrum disorders by its relative preservation of linguistic and cognitive development.

Asperger's syndrome is named after the Austrian pediatrician Hans Asperger who, in 1944, studied and described children in his practice who lacked verbal communication skills, demonstrated limited empathy with their peers, and were physically clumsy.

A LIGHT BULB WENT OFF

"It's like a huge light bulb went off," said Marcia. "This syndrome described Tyler perfectly."

Tyler has always been creative. He made costumes out of duct tape. He orchestrated plays. He listened to Disney tapes over and over, memorizing the lines from the musicals. His favorite for a time was Louie from the Jungle Book. Then he became focused on Beetlejuice and repeated the famous line over and over. Perseverating is a common symptom in individuals with Asperger's. He still goes through life phases where he fixates on certain items or phrases for two years at a time.

"Now he is a neat-freak," laughs Marcia. "Things need to be organized in a particular way."

Throughout Tyler's school career, Marcia continued to work with school districts trying to get the educators to recognize his diagnosis and obtain modifications to his education so that he could continue to learn and grow as a person. She quickly realized that Tyler would not be able to handle a traditional curriculum and had him placed in a certification for high school completion track.

"I knew he needed to be on a track where he could be successful," said Marcia. The Stipeks moved to Texas when Tyler was a sophomore in high school. That is when Marcia found



The Arc of San Antonio. Tyler enrolled in the summer program and attended two days a week. As Tyler matured and grew, The Arc programs grew with him. Pam Stephens, Director of Outreach Services, connected with Tyler and his parents and started them looking ahead to post-graduation. With the help from Karen Pumphrey, lead Specialized Instruction teacher at Clark High School and The Arc programs, Marcia knew Tyler had the right combination of services and he began to blossom.

"The Arc made a great platform for Tyler. He was able to find out pieces of who he is," said Marcia.

Now at 28, Tyler is living on his own in a HUD funded apartment. The apartment building is a 16 unit building specifically designed for people with disabilities. He works part-time at USAA.

When he is not working he likes to be with his friends or in his apartment because it is quiet. Tyler has an aide who comes in to help him with cooking or other tasks. His neighbors watch out for him and make sure he is safe.

Talking to Tyler is easy. He says he likes his job and his new passion is computers.

"I obsess on my computers," said Tyler. "I like to organize my music and files."

Marcia and Bill point out to parents in similar situations to remember the big picture. They will grow and mature like all children do, just in their own way.

"Toddler's won't always run through the shoe store knocking down the stacks of boxes of shoes," laughs Bill. "Next time they'll meticulously count each and every box and the time after that they'll sort them by color and size."

"We as parents must advocate for our children and guide them to be the best they can be."

save the date

March 3, 2012: The Gala Twenty-Two

presenting the

Hartman Humanitarian Award

to

Harvey E. Najim

Chairman and CEO of Sirius Computers



the aquatic center

at the arc of san antonio



thank you to our pool sponsors

Mays Family Foundation

Birnam Oaks Foundation

Dela White Trust

The Gordon Hartman
Family Foundation

The Greehey Family Foundation

NuStar Energy Foundation

The Harvey E. Najim
Family Foundation

Jermaine Woodman Teague, M.D

Golf San Antonio

Eva Longoria Foundation

Elizabeth Minter Estate

The Arc of San Antonio opened its new Aquatic Center on July 12th with a big splash and ribbon cutting ceremony. Lowry Mays and his daughter, Kathy Mays-Johnson, joined Harvey Najim, Gordon Hartman, Dennis Noll, Mary Rose Brown and Jack Minter in cutting the ribbon and officially opening the pool.

This is San Antonio's first fully-accessible pool for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. This innovative pool features 4' depth, sloped beach entry, water railings, wheelchair access and is heated by solar panels. A collaborative effort of five non-profit partners (CAMP, Down Syndrome Assoc., Eva's Heroes, Respite Care of San Antonio, and TEAMability) helped in opening the pool.

Ann Marie Morrow, pool coordinator, is working on city permits to allow The Arc to have open swim hours. If you have a child or family member with an intellectual or developmental disability and would like information about open swim times, **email Ann Marie at amorrow@arc-sa.org or call (210) 490-4300 ext 104.**

my future is in your hands

The Arc of San Antonio along with many other health and human service agencies is anxiously awaiting the final budget allocations from the State of Texas.

According to the Austin American Statesman, the Health and Human Services budget will face a \$15 billion reduction with \$11.3 billion in reduced spending to be implemented in September 2011.

Agencies working with individuals with disabilities are expected to see a minimum of a 3% rate cut in September. The Arc of San Antonio provides direct care as well as case management and outreach services to individuals with disabilities.

Susan Henderson, Chief Financial Officer for The Arc of San Antonio, says that effective September 2011, the Alamo Local Authority reduced funding by 27%. State projected funding could top 10% or up to \$250,000 in revenue loss for The Arc.

Because of the dramatic cuts in funding, The Arc of San Antonio is looking to the community to help provide tuition assistance for children and adults participating in our day habilitation programs. The Life Enrichment programs provide critical day services to individuals with disabilities so that their family members can continue to work.

Steve Enders, President and CEO for The Arc of San Antonio, is adamant that programs at The Arc will not be cut and we will not turn away individuals who need our help due to lack of funding.

To donate to the tuition assistance fund, please fill out the enclosed envelope and mail back to The Arc of San Antonio.

ALAMO LOCAL
AUTHORITY
FUNDING

27%

STATE
PROJECTED
FUNDING

10%



Project 4 Paws

Project 4 Paws is a local non-profit agency that is partnering with The Arc of San Antonio and Meals on Wheels to provide dog and cat food to pets of home-bound seniors.

Over 2,000 pounds of dog and cat food have been delivered to The Arc of San Antonio where participants in our adult day habilitation program package and label the food. The food will then be delivered through the Meals on Wheels program throughout San Antonio.

Meals on Wheels provides hot meals to home-bound seniors. Many times, these individuals own pets and share their "human" food with them. This will allow pet owners to continue to care for their pets as well as themselves.



planning for the future

An educational series of workshops designed to help parents and caregivers of children/young adults with developmental disabilities prepare for the future. All presentations will be held at The Arc of San Antonio, Pam Stephens Center, 6530 Wurzbach, SATX 78240



AN INTRODUCTION TO TRANSITION: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Presented by Nancy Hunter, Private Consultant

An introduction to help families gain information about and understanding of the ARD process as it relates to transition planning and the components that are needed to help the child meet his or her post-secondary goals of employment, education and independent living.

When: Saturday • September 10th, 2011 • 9:00am – 11:00am

TRANSITION TO ADULT HEALTH CARE

Presented by Jeanine Pinner, Parent to Parent Coordinator

This presentation includes information and support to aid in a successful health care transition for young self-advocates: web-based resources/workbooks, public and private health insurance, health insurance risk pool, Texas insurance law, Medicaid Buy-In and more. Come prepared to begin working on your own health care transition plan for yourself or a loved one.

When: Saturday • October 1st 2011 • 9:00am – 11:00am

FUNDING PROGRAMS: WHAT AGENCIES PROVIDE SUPPORT?

A panel discussion/overview of local programs that provide funding. Representatives will be present from Social Security, DARS (Dept. of Assistive & Rehabilitative Services) and AACOG (Alamo Area Council of Governments).

When: Saturday • November 19th, 2011 • 9:00am – 11:00am

THE BASICS OF TEXAS MEDICAID WAIVER PROGRAMS

Representatives from the CLASS, MDCP and HCS Waiver Programs will present an overview of Medicaid Waiver programs – what they are and how they can help—followed by a question and answer session.

When: Saturday • January 14th, 2012 • 9:00am – 11:00am

GUARDIANSHIP AND SPECIAL NEEDS TRUSTS

Presented by Anna Torres, Attorney

Participants will learn about special needs trusts including how beneficiaries can maintain money or property and avoid losing access to essential long term benefits. Differences between guardianship and power of attorney will also be discussed.

When: Saturday • March 24th, 2012 • 9:00am – 11:00am

DAY TO DAY LIFE AFTER SCHOOL: AN OVERVIEW

Information will be available on a wide range of residential, day program and leisure options for individuals once they graduate or age out of the school system.

When: Saturday • April 14th, 2012 • 9:00am – 11:00am

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT HEATHER LONG AT (210) 490-4300 EXT. 113 OR HLONG@ARC-SA.ORG

* Childcare option: Respite Care of San Antonio offers Family Day Out at the PSC on Saturdays 9am-4pm. You MUST be registered with Respite Care to utilize this service. Contact Oralia Waldron at (210) 737-1212 ext. 15.

Outreach Events

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OR TO RSVP, PLEASE CONTACT PAMELA RESENDEZ AT 210.682.4200 OR PRESENDEZ@ARC-SA.ORG

**Fall Arts/Crafts Activity
September 27th
6:00pm – 7:30pm
13430 West Ave.**

**Halloween Dance
October 25th
6:30pm – 8:00pm
13430 West Ave.**

achievers banquet



The Achiever of the Year Awards Banquet is an annual event that honors individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities for their accomplishments. Achiever Awards are given to people who have reached a major goal such as getting a job in the community, learning a new task, or improving a basic skill.

The banquet will be held on **Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 6:00 pm** at **Morgan's Wonderland**. Gordon Hartman will be our master of ceremonies.

Tickets for the Achievers Banquet go on sale **September 2, 2011 and are \$10 each.**

Tickets must be purchased before the event and will not be sold at the door.

Seating is limited. Reservations will be made on a first come, first serve basis. For more information, contact Beth Green at bgreen@arc-sa.org (210) 490-4300 ext 127.

Billy Cade

Down Syndrome Association of San Antonio

Johnny Campos

CAMP

Latre Cockrum

Unicorn Centers, Inc

Taranka Darty

ShineOn

Heidi Dunn

R&K Specialized Homes

Johnny Herrera

Premieant, Inc.

Mary Ann Jackson

San Antonio State Supported Living Center

Charles Jurek

S.A.L.S.A. San Antonio League of Self Advocates

Kenneth Kinel

The Arc of San Antonio—West Avenue

Arturo Liendo

Kinetic Kids

Michelle Hutchins

Yes I Can, Inc.

Roberta Magee

Complete Life Care—Cade's Cove House

Sarah May

Brighton Center

Adrian Olveda

Educare

Joshua Rodriguez

TEAMability, Inc.

Robert Sanchez

The Arc of San Antonio
Pam Stephens Center

Hannah Sauerland

R&K Specialized Homes

Angela Smith

The Arc of San Antonio

J'Anthone Strahan

Eva's Heroes

Malakai Swain

The Arc of San Antonio—West Avenue

Tim Taggart

Special Olympics Texas—Area 20

Carl Tollett

Angel Care Center of San Antonio, Inc.

John Michael Torres

Mission Road Development Center

Kristen Turner

San Antonio State Supported Living Center

Ruth Washington

The Arc of San Antonio
Community Outreach

Aaron Williams

RMI

Honor Gifts

In honor of **Nathan Storhoff**

Merwood & Darlys Storhoff
Alamo Water Softeners
Bradley & Michelle Johnson
Marvin & Margaret Strickland
Wesley & Denise Bue
Susan Mendelowitz
Amy Pierro
Kenneth & Christine Reagan
Pam Stephens
Robert & Patricia Steven
Solveig Storhoff
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew McCune
Robert & Joan Gonzalez

In honor of **Richard Flint**

Mary Alfaro & Richard Peña
Mr. Garry Stillman

Memorial Gifts

In memory of **Kenna Greer**

Mr. & Mrs. John M. Vann, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Stephens

In memory of **Brian Lee Lawrence**

Col (Ret.) & Mrs. Michael C. Baker
Mr. Steven Krauskopf
Ms. Ellen Pfeiffer
Hunters Creek Neighborhood Association
Mr. & Mrs. Lee & Patricia Moore
Ms. Patricia Jordt
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Fischbach
Ms. Penny Preusser
Ankine Dadian & Taline Dadian Infante
Mr. & Mrs. Vic & Bettye Hauser
Ms. Rita Grosse
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Infield
Pam Stephens
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Tuttle
Mr. & Mrs. Roland Ternouth
Mrs. Inell Schooler
Col (Ret.) & Mrs. Brian Davis



The Arc
of San Antonio

Serving People With Developmental Disabilities

The Arc of San Antonio
13430 West Avenue
San Antonio, TX 78216

Non Profit Org.
US Postage

PAID
Permit No. 229
San Antonio, TX

The Arc of San Antonio
13430 West Avenue
San Antonio, TX 78216

P (210) 490-4300

F (210) 490-5196

arc-sa.org

Steve Enders

President/CEO

Susan Henderson

Vice President/CFO

Pam Stephens

Director of Community Outreach

Beth Green

Director of Development/Editor

The Arc of San Antonio is a 501 (C) (3) tax-exempt organization eligible to receive tax deductible contributions.

Milestones is a quarterly newsletter published by The Arc of San Antonio.

The Arc of San Antonio Needs Your Support

Each year, The Arc of San Antonio helps over 6,000 families in San Antonio with family members living with an intellectual and/or developmental disability (I/DD). From our day habilitation program for adults to after school care for school-age children to case management services, our comprehensive program is one of the largest in Texas.

You can support The Arc of San Antonio in many ways:

Cash Gifts: Support The Arc with cash, check or credit card. It is the quickest way to see immediate results of your donation at work.

Honorary & Memorial Gifts: A thoughtful and wonderful way to recognize a person's life and accomplishments. When you make an honorary or memorial gift to The Arc of San Antonio, we will notify the honoree or next of kin with a special note .

Planned Giving: Create a living legacy by including The Arc of San Antonio in your estate planning. You can do this several ways:

- Name The Arc of San Antonio as a beneficiary in your will
- Create a Trust to help fund programs at The Arc
- Create a dual-benefit gift such as a Charitable Remainder Trust. You receive fixed payments based on your age and desired interest of return. You also receive a charity tax-deduction. The Arc is the beneficiary of your trust principal.

Designate stocks, bonds, real estate or life insurance to The Arc of San Antonio.

To make a donation, please use the enclosed envelope and return to The Arc of San Antonio, Inc. For more information on how you can help The Arc of San Antonio, contact Beth Green Director of Development, (210) 490-4300 ext 127 or bgreen@arc-sa.org.