

Center for New Beginnings

Spotlight on a Child: Brittany Reddick

Brittany was born on December 1, 1998. She weighed 7lb & 7 oz, 21 in. long. I saw her briefly before she was taken to the NICU. We were not given much hope; the Dr. said she would not live 48 hours. If she did, she would not have any quality of life.

He said she would be deaf, blind, never walk or talk, never be able to eat on her own. She had to have a tracheotomy at 7 days. After 3 days, she was introduced to a bottle. We did not know if she could suck, breathe, and swallow, but she latched on like a pro. This was a huge milestone for us, after all we had been told. She continued to improve and on December 20, 1998, we brought our baby girl home. It was the best Christmas gift EVER!



We then found a wonderful pediatrician, Dr. Reginald Pilcher. He was a blessing from God. Our first visit, he looked at her and said we are going to start over, she's going to do all kinds of things. And she has!!

At 3 months old she had the trach removed. At 4, she sat up by herself. She never crawled, but she did walk at 18 months. She also started saying words before she was 1, and was potty trained by 2 ½ years old. There have been down times and roadblocks, but there have been many more blessings.

She is now 14 years old, in 7th grade. She walks, talks, runs, dances, and laughs, just like any other child would do. She has a learning disability, but she deals with it well.

She receives therapy and enjoys it. She is planning to get her learners license when she turns 15. She has a golf cart that she loves to drive! I have watched my miracle baby bloom into a beautiful blessing with every second of her life.

I am sure there will be more trials as she gets older, but I know the Lord has watched over her from day one and will continue. Brittany has always been somewhat of a loner. She loves people, but she enjoys her time by herself. She is a happy young lady. She struggles with education but loves school. It takes her a while, but she gets it.

As a baby, we could not get therapy or assistance for Brittany. I felt like I was at a dead end. Then she started school. I am not even sure how, but Sarah Ashe was placed in our path. I found a

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Center Staff and Volunteers:

- ◆ Director/Behavior Specialist: Sarah Ashe
- ◆ Lead Instructor: Janice Dyson
- ◆ Instructor/Bookkeeper: Sheila Keller
- ◆ Counselors: Faith Edmondson, Tonya Brown (Intern)
- ◆ Instructors: Christy Word, Heather Crockett, Jan Blackburn, Venette Cobb
- ◆ Tutors: Sandy McFeat, Mary Jane Mathews, Diane Byne, Carol Clark, Felicia Chandler, Beth Jenkins, Abbie Bryan
- ◆ Parent Support—Tracey Ouzts (Volunteer)
- ◆ Volunteers: Maryann Yoder, Marian Kearson, Roseann Fiest, Linda Ellison, Wendy Kitchens



Wonderful Winter Conferences

Recently several of our staff and parents attended conferences focusing on the population of special needs children that we serve at the Center. This was possible through a Planter's EMC grant and monies received from Walk for Autism. Two of those who attended share their experience of hope and encouragement received from the conferences.

Across the Spectrum: Georgia Autism Conference *I have a 6-year-old grandson who has Asperger's. I would watch him sleep each night and pray for the Lord to give me one hour in his head so I could hear, see and feel what he feels. Well, the Lord answered my prayers. I was blessed to be able to go to the Autism Conference in Atlanta. On the second day the speaker was an adult with Asperger's. She explained what it was like to*

have Asperger's, what you hear, see and feel. I was so blessed by this. At the conference I learned so many amazing things, and I have been able to use those things with my grandson. Thank you so much for this opportunity; it was so amazing.
~ Rosie Salter

Empowered to Connect Conference 2013

Mrs. Faith and I were privileged to attend an "Empowered

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Director's Letter

I am sitting here this morning bundled up waiting for the Spring weather to come and hoping for a few words of encouragement to share with all of you who follow the works going on here at CFNB! Springtime gets me thinking about new life, flowers, sunshine and the coming of Summer Break :).

What perfect timing the Lord had, when He planned the resurrection of His son Jesus. There are no accidents in His plans, the promises of new birth and growth of Springtime pale in comparison to the new life and growth found in a renewed life resting in Him who came and died to lead us to a personal relationship with our Father in heaven. My prayer this morning

is that all may accept that truth today and seek to grow in the knowledge that His presence and love is not just for the afterlife but for the here and now. Commit today in the newness of Spring to take the time to seek Him with all your heart, mind and spirit. In my quiet times I have been parked in 1st & 2nd Corinthians for a while, I encourage all of you to read these amazing books (and many more!). Lots of things happening here as you can see in this news-

"I came that they may have life and have it



letter, soon we may have to go to more pages to cover more of the amazing happenings here. All of our programs serve a variety of purposes and each important in their own way, but recently we have seen a renewed surge of families with children in the Autism Spectrum seeking us out. I am sure you have seen the numbers have increased again in occurrence of this in children with reports of anywhere from 1:88 to 1:50! April is Autism Awareness month, please keep these families in your prayers as they seek out direction in how best to meet their

child's and their family's needs. As always I thank all who support us in our endeavors to help these families by the giving of your time, financial support, and prayers. I encourage all who want to know more about the programs at the Center to come by and visit. I guarantee you will be amazed and blessed, as I am every day, to be a part of this wonderful ministry to His children! Our hope is to be [\(Matthew 5:14-16\)](#) "A city set on a hill...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Conferences :cont pg 1

to Connect" conference this winter in Orlando. Dr. Karyn Purvis from Texas Christian University was the featured speaker, but we also heard from several adoptive parents. I listened not only to the fascinating, extensive research these dedicated scientists have done, but also to the heart-rending stories of families who paved the way in real life for deeper understanding of our precious "children from hard

places." These children may include not only those who have been fostered or adopted, but also children from a stressful prenatal history, difficult birth, or any other traumatic early-life experience which can negatively affect the development of the

It will take everything I have, but with God's help there are amazing possibilities for my child and yours!

brain and how it functions. It was even more amazing to hear the ways TCU has learned to reshape these young brains and gently but dramatically alter the course of their future lives. What a blessing to experience the genuine hope being offered and compassionately explained to powerfully impact our children's' lives. It will take everything I have,

but with God's help there are amazing possibilities for my child and yours!
~Sheila Keller

We encourage parents and caregivers to join us as we attend these conferences in the future. Also, ask about our excellent video and book resources purchased from these events for check-out through the Center!

Parent Support Group Update

Tuesday, April 30th at 6:30 will be our next Parent Support Meeting. The topic is Autism as we celebrate April as **Autism Awareness Month.** There will also be a drawing for an "Autism Bear" from Build-a-Bear workshop in Augusta. Childcare is available, let us know by Apr. 25 so that we can

have the staff available. Thanks to Tracey Ouzts for coordinating the meetings, speakers, and snacks, allowing parents to enjoy this time of support and encouragement to be better equipped in the journey of raising their child. Special thank you to Heloise

and Justin Salter for speaking at our last meeting. They inspired parents of children with physical disabilities to pursue all options and never stop believing the possibilities. Because of their success with augmentative communication devices, CSRA

Therapy connected two families with a DynaVox representative to evaluate their communication needs. She has agreed to meet with other families in our area here at the Center who may benefit from their programs! Call us for more information.

In the news:



Plugged In

Girls—Big thanks goes out to the middle and high school girls who spent a Saturday volunteering to make the Center clean and beautiful as part local churches girls weekend retreat. They



helped clean toys and rooms, planted flowers outside, and painted our bathrooms.



4-H club — Members of the local 4-H club came in March to work on painted bird

houses with one of our social groups. The children involved had a wonderful time. Thank you for your investment into the lives of the Center kids.

Rotary Club — In February, Mrs. Faith had the opportunity to speak at the monthly meeting of the Waynesboro Rotary Club about the activities of the Center. We would be glad to speak to other civic groups, organizations, or churches about our programs or trainings.

CSRA Transition Resource Fair — Ever won-

der what is out there for your child as he or she grows up. *Saturday April 20 Evans High School is hosting a Transition Fair from 9am -noon.* It is never too early to talk about transition resources.

Summer Program— Summer is fast approaching. If you are interested in your child attending our programs over Summer break, let us know. We will be putting together the schedule soon. Our program will begin the first week of June and continue through the end of July.

Incoming/Outgoing Board

Members— We would like to introduce our new board members Brent Cribb-Headmaster at Edmund Burke Academy, Tracey Ouzts-Head of Parent Support Group, Merla Jones - Vice Principal at Waynesboro Primary School ; Teresa McClellan-Client Management Systems. Thank you to our outgoing board member Mark Flowers for your service to the Center.

New Addition —Mrs. Faith and her family will be welcoming their newest addition in April. It's a boy! Caderyn Daniel Edmondson.

Upcoming Events

Autism Bracelets

April is Autism Awareness Month: Beautiful bracelets made by Gray Kicklighter to support greater awareness of Autism are available, some with solid colored enameled pieces as well. They are on sale for \$15 or \$20 donation. Come by the Center to pick yours up today.



Big Green Egg Raffle

Our annual Big Green Egg Grill Raffle is coming soon!! Tickets are \$10 for two chances to win. They are available at the Center and from various members around the community. The winner will be announced at the 8th Annual Boss Hog Cook-off May 11. You do not have to be present to win. If you are interested in helping to sell tickets contact CFNB!



Yard Sale

CFNB will be participating in the Sherman's Trail Yard Sale on Saturday, May 4th. Come check out the variety of items to show your support for the Center. We would love to see you there. If you have items you would like to donate, please bring them by that week. You can talk to a staff member about ways to volunteer in sorting, pricing, selling and setup/clean up.



"Gotcha Covered" Fundraiser

Quality microfiber linens with the feel of 1500 thread count sheet set which includes fitted and flat sheets and two pillow cases. **\$35.00 per set** All sizes and multiple colors are available. Contact the Center 706-437-0505 or : Pip Williams 706-466-0594 We have order forms available if you would like to pass this along to friends. Check out the brochure at the Center

Order by April 26



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new kind of hope. She worked with Brittany and helped me find resources, therapy, and gave me the support I had been praying for. She worked with Brittany in so many ways. I could just see a change taking place in her. Brittany has been tutoring at the center. She receives her therapy at the center,

which is such a blessing since we live in Girard, so it is already a little drive but not what it would be if we had to go to Augusta. She is in group and enjoys it so much. She loves her friends in the group and when she is with these girls, she feels equal and does not



stress over not being like the other girls at school. She has become much more confident and mature since she has been attending the center. The center has been an educational place for her, not just with her schooling but with everyday life. There are so many amazing things that take place that I

never dreamed would happen. I pick her up, and she starts chatting about what they have done and what they are going to do. Everyone is like family at the center. I could not have picked a better place for my child to learn and grow than the Center for New Beginnings. It has given us a new beginning; that is for sure.

~Kim Reddick

Center for New Beginnings

A place of healing and hope

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Find us on the web:
www.nbeginnings.org

CFNB is a Christian non-profit center serving children and adolescents with special needs (behavioral, educational, emotional, intellectual, physical), as well as their families and caregivers in the rural counties south of Augusta. It is our mission to offer healing and hope to families in need through the provision of resources, services, and support to meet the challenges they are facing.

Available Services:

Community Services:

- Trainings, Consultative, and Shadowing for community programs

Children Services:

- In-home and Center-based Individualized Programs
- Academic Tutoring
- Special Needs Playgroup
- Social Skills Groups
- Individual & Family Counseling
- Speech, Occupational & Physical Therapy available through private providers

Family Services:

- Lending Library & Resource Center
- Parent Support Group

Thank You

~ To our monthly donors who keep us going with their faithful support and donations.

~ To Planter's EMC for the grant that helped to cover the staff cost of attending the wonderful conferences this year. It truly is a blessing to go and grow in knowledge!

~ To Walk for Autism provided funds for parents to attend the conferences along with us this year.

~ To Chris & Elisabeth Collins for choosing the Center for New Beginnings as the non-profit recipient of the Monsanto Award from American Farmers Grow America Association this year.

~ To the Shaw Group Women In Nuclear Power who donated \$2700 from their fall golf tournament.

Prayer and Praise

~ We are in need of a handy man to do various odd jobs around the facilities such as replacing fluorescent lights, checking/cleaning air filters, maintaining heating and cooling systems, and other "fix it" jobs. If you or someone you know is interested, please call us.

~ Thank you to our volunteer staff who help us in so many ways with the day to day operations of the Center.

~ We are in need of a good set of office phones to use throughout the building.



Thank you for
helping us grow!!

Marriage Retreat for Families with Autism

Myles-A-Part Foundation hosts a Married Couples' Retreat Friday, June 21 - Sunday, June 23. Held at the WinShape Retreat Center on the campus of Berry College. This FREE RETREAT for couples raising children on the Autism spectrum, is a time to reconnect with one another and make connections with others on this difficult, but rewarding, journey.

Applications should be mailed to PO Box 1345, Roswell, GA 30077.

Deadline for Applications:
Friday, April 26.

Couples may apply at:
<http://mylesapart.org/winshape13.html>