



*A Place of  
Healing and Hope*

# Center for New Beginnings

Spring 2012

## Spotlight on a Child: Ashton

Ashton is one of the hallmark Center kids who started when the Center opened. Ashton was diagnosed with Autism as a young child, and his mom has worked tirelessly to meet the challenges his diagnosis represents. He was diagnosed at age 3 and was nonverbal at the time.

Ashton has received a variety of services from the Center, first in the Intensive Training program as a young child and then on to involvement in speech, OT, social group and tutoring. His mom states that he has made some

kind of progress in every area. His major gains came in speech, sensory issues, self-help skills, and academics. He progressed from non-verbal to conversational, although he still has delays. With sensory issues, he can now tolerate being under water, hearing loud sounds, and touch many textures without melt downs. This in turn has made a huge impact on his self-help skills of dressing, grooming, cooking, and attempting new challenges. He is now involved in our home school support with a trained tutor and



Ashton in the kitchen

has made great gains academically by doing hands on activities, short frequent

breaks, and meeting him at his level. His mom states that she is not sure where he would be if not for the Center and all that it has offered over the years.

The following was written by Ashton about his recent experiences. *"I am 12 years old, and I am currently homeschooling with Mary Jane*

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### Center Staff and Volunteers:

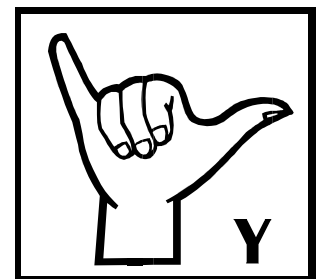
- ◆ Director: Sarah Ashe
- ◆ Instructor/Office Manager: Sheila Keller
- ◆ Lead Instructor: Janice Dyson
- ◆ Counselors: Celeste Vernon, Faith Edmondson
- ◆ Instructors: Christy Word, Kayla Smith, Heather Crockett
- ◆ Tutors: Sandy McFeat, Mary Jane Mathews, Beth Mathews, Carol Clark
- ◆ Secretaries: Maryann Yoder, Cathy Wooley

## Sign Language Classes at the Center

Many of our parents and friends of the Center have expressed interest in learning sign language. Sign Language is a great way to communicate with young children even before they can

talk, those with communication problems such as autism, down syndrome or cerebral palsy, and those who are deaf or hard of hearing. Beginning the second Thursday in April (12th) we will be hosting a

beginners sign language class at 6pm. The class will be taught by Dr. Tew. Childcare is available upon request at the Center. Classes will run for 6-8 weeks. The class is open to the community. Let us



know if you are interested so that we can have enough materials.

# Director's Letter

*Count it all joy, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness" (James 1:2)* It has always been my desire to be like George Mueller, a leader who established orphanages in the 1800's without ever expressing a financial need to anyone, but instead prayed and watched God bring the resources as needed. Because of that, and probably pride, asking for money is something I have tried to avoid, but in fact the Center is in serious financial need.

We have begun 2012 without receiving a substantial grant to help with salary cost, as we had in years past. I recognize how wonderful our community supporters are to us year after year. Far above any grants, our community supporters keep us going. I am also aware of the non-profits here in Waynesboro and beyond that are doing important work as well. Yet I am humbly asking each one of you to consider reaching out to help the Center. *First and foremost know what I greatly desire is your prayers. There is nothing*

*more important for any of us than earnest prayer. In addition if there is a church, business, or civic group that would be interested in finding out more about our work, please let me know. Finally, if you, a family member, or your business can help financially, know that each and every gift is appreciated.*

**You can help :**  
**Prayer**  
**Spread the word**  
**Give**

Whew, that's out of the way! Now for the good news and there is always so much of it! A big thank you to Border Bash, a CSRA organization that helps non-profits, Capital City Bank, and our year-end givers. You, along with our regular monthly givers, have sustained us the last three months. We have been blessed to see how and through whom God has provided for our needs. Just the other day, out of the blue, a small local church brought in a check for \$500. The same week Sam and Julie Story had their names drawn as winners of the Monsanto Fund and chose the Center to receive the reward of \$2500. I certainly do not mean to devalue the hard work we do in fundraising, but these "Mueller moments" do fan

my flame, and I am grateful for them.

For our programs, 2012 has already been awesome. Our collaboration with three local private schools, the public school, home-school families and First Baptist Bible Play School are going strong and blessing all involved. The morning preschool Play Group is busting the seams many days. It is precious to watch as they grow and develop.

One of our awesome tutors took a couple of homeschoolers on a field trip to the Fire Department. Our counselor is working with Blakeney Elementary to establish a much-needed weekly Girls Social Group. March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> the Center and CSRA Therapy are hosting two days of training on using iPad with children with special needs. Thanks to Planters EMC Operation Round-up, the Center has two iPads we use in our autism and academic tutoring programs. Planters also helped send 7 ladies, including 3 parents, to a 2-Day Autism Conference in Atlanta. Thanks to each and everyone of you for who you are to CFNB! Trusting Him today, tomorrow, and always ~ Sarah

Thanks to Planter's EMC for the grant for six staff to attend the GA Autism Conference in Atlanta. We gained insight and tools to better serve our children and made connections with other great resources in the state.

## Spotlight on a Child: cont.

*Mathews at the Center for New Beginnings. I love homeschooling. I am currently in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and visit the Center Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, while Mary Jane helps me with my work. I am not only at the Center, but also home school with my mom at home.*

*My favorite subject is Georgia History and P.E. My P.E. includes playing volleyball and visiting the recreational department. I have also learned how to cook at the Center and love doing it. My favorite part is eating the food once I am finished."*  
~ Ashton Kitchens

## In the News:

Thinking about spending some time in the great outdoors to enjoy the beauty of spring? Then check out the Free Lifetime Federal Park Pass for those with a documented disability. There is a \$10 processing fee, but the pass is good for a lifetime and covers anyone in the car.

<http://store.usgs.gov/pass/access.html> This great informa-



**Enjoy the beauty of nature with a free federal park pass.**

tion came from the blog Friendship Circle, which is centered on helping families and educators with special needs kids. There are several great articles that give practical advice on issues relating with special needs and new articles coming all the time. Check out the one on *26 Sensory Integration Tools for Meltdown Management*. Some of the suggestions for a sen-

sory toolkit to help prevent meltdowns include: sunglasses, chewy food, lip balm, squishy ball, different textured fabrics, hand lotion,

[blog.friendshipcircle.org](http://blog.friendshipcircle.org)

and sound proof headphones. Great ideas for helping kids when



meltdowns happen at home or out and about.

## Faith's Corner— Rising Above Ministries

Taking care of yourself can be one of the harder parts of raising a special needs child. But how do you fit it in between all the therapies, appointments, raising children, working and keeping a house livable? Rising Above Ministries based out of TN is working to meet the needs of families in this situation. This past summer I attended a "By The Brooke" retreat specially designed for moms of special needs kids. It was a weekend of

spa pampering, worship and encouragement from moms who "get it." This spring Rising Above is hosting a marriage retreat called "Two-Gether" that is designed to strengthen the marriages of those raising special needs kids. Other Mom retreats are coming up over the summer.



the art of marriage

More locally there are several

Art of Marriage Conferences by Family Life coming up in August. I am hosting one in May at Vineyard Community Church, but there are many others. You can find out more at [familylife.com/artofmarriage](http://familylife.com/artofmarriage)

Look for ways to take care of yourself and strengthen your marriage.

## Green Egg Raffle

With summer quickly approaching thoughts of picnics and cook-outs come to mind. We will be selling raffle tickets for a GREEN EGG smoker/grill. The cooker will be raffled off at the annual Boss Hog BBQ Cook-Off in May. You do not have to be present to

win. Tickets are to benefit the Center for New Beginnings' summer programs. If you would like to purchase tickets or help sell tickets, please call the Center at (706) 437- 0505 and request yours today!



# Center for New Beginnings

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*A Place of Healing and Hope*



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.

## What we do:

### Community Services:

- Trainings, consultative, & shadowing for community programs

### Children Services:

- In-home & center-based autism programs
- Academic tutoring
- Special Needs Playgroup
- Social Skills Groups
- Individual & family counseling

- Speech, occupational & physical therapy available through private practice

### Family Services:

- Lending Library & Resource Center
- Parent Support Group

## Special Thanks:

- Border Bash Grantors
- Planter's EMC—grant to attend GA autism conference this year!
- Capital City Bank Grant

- Story Family— Won the Monsanto American Farmers Association Drawing and nominated the Center to receive the cash award.
- Kathy Smith for your time serving as our volunteer secretary. You will be greatly missed.
- Tom and Cathy Wooley for volunteering. Now we have an IT guy :)