



## Spotlight on a Child C.J. Fawley

I would like to take this opportunity to thank every one who has and continues to support the Center for New Beginnings. My name is Alexandria Fawley, and our story started on February 6, 2002 when our son, Charles, Jr. was born. We call him CJ, and he is our second son. His older brother was five when CJ was born, and he adored his little brother from the moment he came into the world. CJ certainly had his own personality and let it become well know to all of us.

CJ grew and developed normally for the first two and a half years. We didn't notice anything with CJ that we hadn't seen with his older brother, Richard, except that CJ was very resistant to potty training. Soon after, we had our third son, Brandon, and CJ became even more withdrawn.

I talked about this with the doctor who seemed to think it was just a reaction to the new baby and would soon get better as he warmed up to the situation, so I quit worrying for a while. However, he soon began to quit talking as much. He had very little to say and he became our little lost boy. Lost in a world we didn't understand and had never dealt with in our family. He grew to love and protect his little brother, but at the same time we had to get

his "Gammie" to sit with him any time we went to a school function for Richard. He would panic being around a group of people. He started having very severe tantrums and refused to talk when he wanted anything. He would only point and yell or get it for himself. At first we felt like he was wanting to be like his big brother and wanted some independence, but was unsure of how to communicate that to us.

One morning, about a year ago, my mom told me about a program she had seen on T.V. with a story about a family with an autistic child. She thought some of the things that child did were like things CJ was doing. So, I made an appointment with the doctor. The doctor was unable to make a diagnosis, but referred me to another doctor who could. I had to make the appointment ten months out, and then two months before our appointment, the doctor cancelled our appointment because she was too busy.

Because he wasn't potty trained by age four, he couldn't start school this year. We were able to get him into speech and occupational therapy through CSRA Therapy. One of his therapist there told me that she believed that CJ is on the high functioning end of the



autism spectrum, and suggested that I get him involved in the special needs playgroup at the Center.

I cannot tell you how the Center for New Beginnings has lived up to its name. It has really been a new beginning for CJ and the rest of our family. His communication has improved greatly thanks to the speech therapy and the hard work given by the Center. He's been sharing and speaking in sentences for the first time. He is actually taking time to concentrate on new things he's been taught.

When he started, he could count to 100, he knew his ABCs and colors, but struggled to communicate his needs or frustrations. He never cared to trace a line, and we still have those days, but now we are able to understand what he needs and can help him to help himself learn even more everyday. He is even eating food that he would never touch before and shares his beloved computer time with his brothers.

The Center has given CJ a ray of sunshine and that light is glowing bright for CJ. Thank you again to everyone for the support you give this nonprofit organization.

*The Fawley Family*

Spring  
2008  
Newsletter

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Be on the lookout for  
our Spring  
Fundraiser—in May!

## From the Director

Quarterly Newsletter time! What a great way for us to let others know a little about the wonderful things happening here at the Center. When thinking about what to write in this edition, Hebrews 11 popped in my head, so I looked it up. My study Bible version started out with a question and an answer, "What is faith? Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation." (11:1, 2). Hebrews chapter 11 is often called the "Hall of Fame of Faith". In this chapter examples of great, faithful men and women of the Bible are highlighted for living out their faith despite what others thought possible. Yet, interestingly enough, most of these faithful did not see the fruit of their faithfulness in their lifetime. Despite this lack of seeing the mighty things God did as a result of their steadfast perseverance they left this earth with an "assurance about things" unseen. I'd like to think we do a lot of things around here based on this faith, and are a part of good fruit that is both seen and yet to be seen. So in this letter I am going to try and list some of the good fruit we have been able to see in the work being done here:

- In Dec. a family took a leap of faith to send their child to what would seem a financially impossible training in New York with an internationally known professional in autism. This training potentially will not only enhance this child's life, but all those who we work with here in a similar situation, as two staff members will also attend. We have watched doors open, funding come and new hope blossom from this single act of faith to go ahead with this commitment. New York here we come!
- A student who has struggled for years with how to talk to peers

without being rejected or made fun of, came to our counselor and stated he wanted to figure out why people reacted to him like they do and **what he could do** to change that. They are now writing a book of social situations, coming up with the why and the how-to's that the rest of take for granted. I feel a best seller coming!

- We have a new child who comes 45 miles one-way, each week for social group. This child's teachers recently asked what had made the big change they'd seen in her because she is now speaking in longer sentences and has begun interacting with other children. Mom said what's going on here is all that's new. Praise God!
- A dad who is dealing beautifully with the recent "official word" that his son has autism, came in the other morning and told me how people keep telling them the change they have seen since their child has started coming to our morning play group. By the way he LOVES to give hugs now!
- The same very, very cold morning it blessed my heart to see a dad, mom and two siblings, who despite the cold, walked all the way to Center to bring their son to the play group. Showing me how important this service is to them.
- Two days a week a group of mom's bless us with their laughter, and sharing of some "what has worked for them" as they sit together to wait for their kids.
- Our after school tutor kids come in week after week, day after day for 1, 2 or more(!) hours of work after a full day at school. Daily I am witness to laughing, silliness

and stories of successes as they muck through work that while it might come a little easier to some "ain't" stopping them!

- Our counselor brought a child, who is home schooled because of extreme fear of leaving the house, to eat lunch with me at the Middle School. He was able to do this because his new friends here have made him interested in maybe giving this a try. In fact after we ate he went and sat with one of his friends after eating with me. Their families are planning to have more get-togethers!

There's much more I could share and I'm sure after this goes to press I'll think why didn't I tell them about this... I hope no one minds me using their story here, my purpose is to remark on God's faithfulness in doing amazing things that none of us could do on our own! It's also to let our families and kids know what a blessing they are to US! Often people may think "what a blessing the Center" might be, but I dare to say there is no one here that has not been blessed in big ways by what's happening here. So my final thoughts today are to encourage you to walk in the faith of what may be unseen to many, and daily enjoy the blessings of what we are able to see as the fruit of His faithfulness.

~ Sarah ~



Deonte' & Leigh working hard during Occupation Therapy!

## Parents' Corner:



**Are you busy?** If I had to guess, I would say you chuckled and thought, "You have no idea!" Do you sometimes feel like you do nothing but run here, run there, back here, then over there? WHY? Why are we so busy? I want to challenge you this month to slow down. When is the last time that you prayed over your schedule? I would encourage you to think about Isaiah 55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts and your ways are not My ways. As the heavens

are higher than the earth so My ways are higher than your ways."

Cindy Wood, author of the *Frazzled Female* says, "If you're anxious, pressured, or depleted by the demands placed on your life right now, God has something better in mind for you. Too little time is not the problem. The core of the problem may be having too much to do! And through accepting the invitation of the Lord to come to Him, He will give you His thoughts about the scheduling of your time."

Think back to the account of the woman at the well (John 4). The account begins by saying that Jesus was so tired that He sat down. Jesus sat down! He rested. Why then do we think that we can't

also rest? You know, the Lord isn't really impressed with how much we do, only that we are seeking His will and doing what HE asks us to.

I know you have many demands on your life: therapies, doctor appointments, homework, spouses, church duties, etc., but I want to encourage you to pray over everything you are doing now. Ask God to show you what is not His will. Pray before adding anything else to your schedule. Make family time and downtime as important as everything else on your list. Make it a point to sit down to dinner as a family as often as possible. Pray together, give praise to God for what He is doing in your lives daily, and take time to enjoy all the blessings God has given you!

## Faith's Corner—What is Autism?

Many have heard the term autism. But what is it really? Autism Spectrum Disorders covers (classic) Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, Rhett's Syndrome, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder-NOS. The cause is unknown, but it does affect 1 in 150, with 3 out of 4 being male. It can appear very different from one to another due to a wide range of characteristics.

### 3 Main Affected Areas of Development:

#### **Communication**

Impaired ability to begin or keep a conversation

Expressive - From being totally non-verbal (no speech) to odd use of words/tone of voice or speech patterns

Receptive - Lacks understanding non-verbal social cues (ex. Facial expressions), meaning of abstract words and common social "slang" (ex. sarcasms, "old sayings")

#### **Impaired social interaction**

Lack of or limited imagination & social play skills

Difficulties in making friends

#### **Severely limited interest and/or repetitive behaviors**

Repetitive or unusual language

Limited areas of interest that are extreme in focus of attention with certain objects or subjects

Extreme difficulty handling changes in routines or stuck in rituals/habits

Also may have a sensitivity in one or more of their senses (sound, sight, touch, smell, movement or taste), which can cause "melt-downs" (tantrums) or withdrawal.

Autism is truly a spectrum with many different "faces". Kids do not simply grow out of autism and parents do not cause it! Early diagnosis and intensive intervention is important to reach long-term goals towards independence and positive social relationships. While autism does not have a cure, there are programs to help. Many of these are provided at the Center and we continue to work towards being better equipped to meet the needs of these precious children and their families.

In our Lending Library we have more information about autism and recommend the website of [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org) for even more resources. Any form of childhood illness or delay affects not just the child but the whole family. Encouragement and prayer are vital for these families.

~ Faith ~



**Shane, Big Faith & Little Faith after Social Group**

**Did you know that helping the Center is as easy as using your computer?**

**Log onto [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com), & enter Center for New Beginnings as your charity. They give us a penny every time you do a search. Pennies add up! Also shop the website & a percentage of your purchase goes to us!**

**Please check it out today!**

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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:

- Training, consultative & shadowing for community programs

### Children Services:

- In-home & center-based autism programs
- Academic tutoring
- Special Needs Playgroup
- Social Skill Groups
- Individual & family counseling
- Speech, occupational & physical therapy
- Piano

### Family Services:

- Lending Library & Resource Center
- Parent Support Group

## Special Thanks!

### Grantors:

**Innovative Worthy Projects—**  
(July 2007 to March 2008)  
monies to purchase computers, copy machine, resource and educational materials

**CSRA Community Foundation**  
(December 2007)  
monies to help pay counselor and tutor salaries who provide direct service to children

**Business/Organizations:**  
(general operation assistance)

**Georgia Power**  
**First Baptist Church & Sunday School Classes**  
**Roelco (Rowell Electric)**  
**Wal-Mart**

**~ AND our ever faithful individual monthly contributors!**

## What's happening:

- Our local Parent Support Group 2nd Tuesday monthly—First Baptist Waynesboro
- **LOOKING** for volunteers for summer programs. Planning now for art, music, drama, dance, cooking, craft ideas or just helping hands to work in our expanded play and social groups. Please call if you are interested.
- MCG has a new Special Needs Support Group at Warren Baptist (2nd Thursday monthly)
- Judevine Autism Training March 24-28, Augusta 706-790-2103
- Local Special Olympics - Jefferson County High School March 21st
- Area Olympics Fort Gordon March 26th—Come support our local athletes!