

# The Building BLOCK



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## E-Newsletter

Camp Officially Named in Honor of Sammy Jack Claphan

## Summer Day Camp Program Opens for Year Three

The J. D. McCarty Center launched its third year of summer day camps for children in grades 2 thru 6 beginning Monday, June 4.

This year the camp opened under the name of Camp ClapHans. The camp was named in honor of Sammy Jack Claphan a native of Stilwell, Oklahoma.

At six-foot-six and 285, Sammy Jack was a mountain of a man from the Ozark Mountain plateau region of northeastern Oklahoma. On the football field he was a tough, fiercely competitive player. He played high school football in Stilwell where he was recruited to play offensive tackle for the University of Oklahoma (1974-1978) and later with the Cleveland Browns and San Diego Chargers.

After professional football, Sammy Jack returned to Oklahoma where he became a special education teacher and dedicated his life to working with children with developmental disabilities. Sammy Jack died suddenly, at the age of 45, in November 2001.

In addition to the camp, an activities building will also be named in his honor. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2008.



*Sammy Jack Claphan, 1956 - 2001*



***Camp ClapHans Swimming Hole.** Summer day camper Abby Root (left) relaxes in the warm, soothing waters of the therapy pool at the J. D. McCarty Center in Norman where Camp Claphans summer day camp kicked off it's first session of the summer. Swimming with Root is camp volunteer Holly Thomas.*

Camp ClapHans offered five, one-week sessions from June 4 thru July 27. The camp sessions focused on different areas of development for the campers.

### **Movin' & Grovin' Session**

This camp session, conducted by the physical therapy department and volunteers, was all about teamwork and cooperation within the sphere of friendly competition.

The campers participated in a wide variety of indoor and outdoor activities designed to improve their fitness level, muscle strength and coordination while assisting and encouraging other campers to do the same.

Camp activities for this session included: mini golf, archery, balloon batminton, swimming, horseback riding, potato sack races, kickball, clothespin tag, stick horse races, sidewalk art, making homemade icecream and the making of puppets and rehearsing for an end of camp puppet show for the camper's families.

# Camp ClapHans Continued

## Sensory Exploration Session

According to Maria Greenfield, director of occupational therapy at the McCarty Center and camp director for this session, we all have sensory issues.

"The difference is in how we cope and respond to sensory stimulus", Greenfield explained. "Kids with severe sensory issues lack the coping skills to respond to the stimulus. For example, a person might be sensitive to bright light. If your coping system is developed you would simply turn the light off or pull down the window shades to reduce the brightness. If your coping skills are not developed you'll have a fight or flight response to the stimulus that makes you uncomfortable or possibly feel out of control," Greenfield said.

The purpose of this camp session was to expose kids to a variety of sensory experiences in a safe and controlled environment to teach them acceptable ways to cope and respond. "The kids have to experience it in order to learn from it," concluded Greenfield.

Activities aimed at stimulating the camper's senses included: planting flowers, making paper-mache coconuts, finger painting, building sand castles, flying kites, playing with play-doh, taste testing various kinds of food, playing with water and water balloons, treasure hunting, playing in a pool of pasta, shaving cream fights and sponge races.



*Alicia Oldham, occupational therapy doctoral student from Creighton University helps camper Radek Dvorack make a kite that he later flew as a part of the sensory exploration session of Camp ClapHans. Watching is camp volunteer Makinsey Couch.*



Singing karaoke was one activity used to build confidence and self-esteem among campers who attended the friendship session of Camp ClapHans summer day camp at the J. D. McCarty Center. Singing a duet is (left) Chrissy Hancock, McCarty Center speech-language pathologist and friendship camp session director, and camper Ginney Webb of Lexington. Listening in the background is camper Chase Hoover from Midwest City

## Friendship Session

Thirty campers focused on social interaction between individuals and groups of people during the third and fourth sessions of Camp ClapHans at the McCarty Center.

"To have productive and satisfying relationships, we all need to use appropriate social skills," said Chrissy Hancock, McCarty Center speech-language pathologist and friendship session director. "This week we worked on making friends, using good manners, teamwork, self-esteem and emotion."

Many of the children attending the friendship session of Camp ClapHans have Aspergers Syndrome, which is a form of autism. This syndrome manifests itself in social behavior that ranges from very shy to talkative, but socially inappropriate. Other children attending this session were those whose parents felt that they could use some social coaching.

Children often have difficulties learning the subtle rules that govern our interpersonal communication and relationships. Some children learn these social skills easily while others, for whatever reason, need to be taught.

Topics covered in this session of Camp ClapHans included: greeting others, making new friends, initiating and maintaining conversation, taking turns, maintaining appropriate personal space, learning how to give compliments, learning how to interrupt appropriately, learning how to complain appropriately, accepting and giving gifts, manners and how to win or lose graciously.

"For children to master these skills, explained Hancock, "they must be given specific instruction and repeated practice. This is accomplished through demonstration of the skill, role-play, use of interactive games, art and music activities, as well as drama. Each camper finds a way to participate at his or her comfort level."

## Bits & Bytes Session

The fifth and final session of Camp ClapHans for 2007 was the computer session directed by the McCarty Center's IT administrator, Joel Mann, and his staff.

The campers in this session focused on basic computer skills and became acquainted with word processing, e-mail, website development, computer gaming and internet safety.

Julie Bays, Oklahoma assistant attorney general for consumer protection, delivered an interactive computer animated presentation on internet safety for children during the first day of camp.

At the beginning of camp, the campers were given an e-mail address that they will be able to use for one year so they can reach out to friends and family using their newly developed computer skills.

Bits & Bytes was available to children with and without developmental disabilities.



*Computer campers work on their projects during Bits & Bytes at Camp ClapHans.*



# SITEL Employees Raise Money for Camp ClapHans Scholarship Fund

Helen Hubble, human resources manager for SITEL, presented a check on behalf of the SITEL employees to Uwe von Schamann, director of development for the McCarty Center, in the amount of \$700.

The money will go into the McCarty Center's Camp ClapHans summer day camp scholarship fund.

Each year the 400 Norman employees of SITEL, formerly known as ClientLogic, select a non-profit organization to support each quarter of the year. The McCarty Center was their second quarter project.

The SITEL employees formed six teams of approximately 15 members each and conducted fundraising activities throughout the quarter. The fundraising activities included selling lunches, ice cream floats and conducting raffles.

SITEL is a call center that handles inbound calls for a credit card company. They have been in Norman for seven years.



*Helen Hubble, human resources manager for SITEL, (right) presents a check for \$700 to Uwe von Schamann, director of development for the J. D. McCarty Center, on behalf of the 400 SITEL employees in Norman.*

# McCarty Center Therapist Published in Pediatric Physical Therapy

McCarty Center physical therapist Lucy Naugle-Scales, PT,MS,PCS, along with two others co-authored a research report that was published in the fall issue of Pediatric Physical Therapy.

The study was completed in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Naugle-Scales' master of science degree in rehabilitation sciences from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

A summary of the work is as follows:

## Purpose

This study compared parents' perceptions of benefits of a therapist's direct intervention with the intervention designed to teach parents to promote their children's motor development.

## Results

Overall, participants rated the parent instruction approach as more stressful, but more beneficial, than direct intervention.

## Conclusion

These results were inconsistent with previous reports that parents believed direct intervention was more beneficial than other approaches. The parents' belief that direct intervention could be less stressful is consistent with previous studies. More research is needed to identify the most effective model that parents prefer to promote children's motor development. A single most effective

service delivery model probably does not exist.



*Lucy Naugle-Scales  
McCarty Center  
Physical Therapist*

## The Building BLOCK

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# Creighton University Doctoral Students Seek Pediatric Training at the McCarty Center

The J. D. McCarty Center is Oklahoma's center of excellence in the care and treatment of children with developmental disabilities from birth to age 21. For more than 60-years, the McCarty Center has been building and refining its expertise with these children. Founded in 1946, the McCarty Center treated only one diagnosis...cerebral palsy. Today, the hospital has treated more than 70 different diagnoses in the developmental disability category.

It is this unique experience in the field that has been one of the main attractions to this pediatric rehab hospital for more than 20-years for therapy students seeking a pediatric rotation. Students like Alicia Oldham and Whitney Grigsby, occupational therapy (OT) doctoral students from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

Oldham and Grigsby have known each other since high school at Westside in Omaha. "We have randomly crossed paths all our lives," said Oldham. "Not knowing each others plans, we both ended up at Creighton, we both ended up in OT school and we both got the same rotation to the McCarty Center," added Oldham.



Creighton University occupational therapy students Alicia Oldham (left) and Whitney Grigsby have just completed a 12-week pediatric clinical rotation at the McCarty Center.

Another factor in selecting the McCarty Center for their rotation was that it was hard to find a pediatric rotation in the Omaha area or in Nebraska. The past rotation reviews written by previous Creighton students who came to the McCarty Center were positive. "Former Creighton students raved about their rotation experience here at the McCarty Center," said Grigsby. "The staff here has been very welcoming of students," added Oldham. "They readily share and teach what they know and were willing to let us learn hands-on."

When asked what was the most interesting thing they discovered during their rotation at the hospital Grigsby replied, "I see people here everyday that love their job and the kids. The therapists go beyond 8 to 4 in caring for the kids. As a student, it's great to see that. I didn't see that as much in other rotations. The therapists here are really passionate about what they do."

Creighton University was one of the first OT schools in the country to offer a doctoral level program. There are only a handful of these programs at this time. Oldham and Grigsby will graduate in December 2007. Most of this final year will be spent doing three clinical rotations. The McCarty Center rotation is the second of three for these young women. The first two rotations are 12-weeks each. The third is a professional rotation selected by the student based on their particular interest. The third rotation is 16-weeks.



Alicia Oldham is working with McCarty Center patient Julio Regalado, Jr. on switch activation to learn cause and affect awareness. From this training Regalado will eventually learn to turn on and off things like television, radio or augmentative communications devices.

Oldham's next rotation will be with Stones Worth Stepping, a pediatric outpatient clinic in Omaha.

Grigsby's next rotation will be in Quito, Ecuador, South America with the For His Children Orphanage and the Hermano Miquel Foundation, a specialty rehab center that specializes in stroke victims, traumatic brain injury patients and amputees. "I'm interested in the international practice of occupational therapy," said Grigsby. "We have so much to offer because of the education and resources in America that other countries don't have." Grigsby leaves for Ecuador a week after her rotation at the McCarty Center is completed.

Traveling long distances for clinical rotations is not unusual. Besides Creighton University, the McCarty Center hosts therapy students from programs at the University of Tennessee at Memphis, Des Moines University in Des Moines, Iowa, and Misericordia College in Dallas, Pennsylvania.

For Grigsby coming to Oklahoma for a clinical rotation was almost like coming home. Her parents are from Oklahoma and she has grandparents, aunts and uncles in Lawton.

For Oldham it was a bit more challenging. She was born and raised in Nebraska and has never lived anywhere else. She wanted to explore someplace new, but the bigger challenge was being away from her husband. The Oldhams are newlyweds.

"The married students in the program have talked about it," said Oldham, "and we all agree that it's tough being away from our spouses and family, but it's a short term sacrifice to get the kind of experience we need to develop professionally."

The clinical rotation at the McCarty Center has solidified these budding therapist's interest in pediatric occupational therapy. Oldham, who has always wanted to work with kids, said that her experience in this rotation has just reconfirmed her choice is the right one for her. As for Grigsby, she said prior to this rotation she had no experience with pediatrics and didn't realize how rewarding it could be. Now she's hooked.



Whitney Grigsby is working with McCarty Center patient Dalton Blevens. Grigsby is helping Blevens work on his fine motor and visual skills as well as his bilateral coordination while creating spin paint artwork.

## Uwe's Corner



with  
**Uwe von Schamann**  
Director of Development

This has been a very busy quarter for me. I have been traveling around the state speaking to a variety of civic clubs. Even though the J. D. McCarty Center has been in Norman for over 61 years, creating awareness is still very important to us. If you have a group that is looking for a program speaker, please contact me at 405.307.2804 or [uschamann@jdmc.org](mailto:uschamann@jdmc.org). I would love to visit your community and speak to your group.

I want to thank three very special and very different organizations that are champions for our hospital. Using the sport of golf, these three groups support us in a very big way each year.

The first group is the Oklahoma Municipal Contractor's Association. They hosted their 22nd annual golf tournament at the Twin Hills Country Club in Oklahoma City in early September. According to OMCA board members, this year's event was another huge success. Early revenue estimates indicate that the tournament will net about \$40,000. I also want to thank OMCA for the annual Christmas party they give for the kids at the McCarty Center. During this party, Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus and many of the OMCA members dressed as elves deliver presents to our inpatients. Thank you OMCA.

The next group I want to thank is the Coves Men's and Ladies' Golf Associations. In August they hosted their 2nd annual tournament for the McCarty Center at the Coves Country Club in Afton. I appreciate all their hard work in putting on a great tournament. The feedback from all the players, including all the celebrities, has been excellent. The year this group raised about \$18,000. Thank you to the members of the Coves.

Our third group is also very special. The ladies of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority at the University of Oklahoma have hosted a golf tournament benefiting the McCarty Center for the last nine years. This event has great participation, in fact, there are so many teams that they've had to go to a morning and afternoon round. Last year's event netted \$15,000. This year's tournament will be held at the end of September at Norman's Westwood golf course.

I also want to thank the ladies for coming to the hospital during the year to volunteer for different projects. Thank you Kappa House.

We feel very fortunate to have these very special groups involved with the McCarty Center. We look forward to their continued involvement for many more years to come.



Chris Seat with gh2 Gralla Architects smashes his tee shot down the fairway.

## Tax Deductible Donations

We are a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit hospital. Donation checks may be made out to the J. D. McCarty Center or the J. D. McCarty Center Foundation. The IRS has designated these donations tax deductible.

For questions about supporting the McCarty Center, contact Uwe von Schamann, director of development, at 405.307.2804 or [uschamann@jdmc.org](mailto:uschamann@jdmc.org).

## Donation Card

Thank you for your support of the programs, services and capital building needs of the J. D. McCarty Center. Please fill out this card, cut it out and mail it along with your check to Uwe von Schamann, Director of Development, J. D. McCarty Center, P. O. Box 490, Norman, Oklahoma 73070.

**Make your check payable to: J. D. McCarty Center Foundation**

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