

J. D. McCarty Center

for children with developmental disabilities



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News Release

Date: Tuesday, March 14, 2006
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McCarty Center Day Camp Looking for Volunteers

Wanted: Summer day camp volunteers 16 years of age and older. Free lunch. Free fun.

Kari Dahlke, a certified occupational therapy assistant, is the summer day camp volunteer coordinator for the J. D. McCarty Center. She is looking for volunteers who are interested in working with children with developmental disabilities this summer. "I need about 12 energetic, enthusiastic volunteers per camp session," said Dahlke.

Volunteers will help set up for camp each day, assist the campers with their activities, help the camp counselors organize the activities of the day and clean up after each activity and at the end of the day. Volunteers will work from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday. A free lunch will be provided to volunteers.

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"This should be a wonderful volunteer experience for anyone interested in working with special needs kids," said Dahlke, "particularly volunteers who are interested in healthcare or special education careers."

Anyone interested in volunteering or needing more information about volunteering should contact Kari Dahlke at 405.307.2859 or at kdahlke@jdmc.org.

There will be five-day camps scheduled for this summer. Volunteers will be needed for the first three-day camps. The camp sessions will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the McCarty Center. The camps are open to children entering the second grade through 8th grade. Lunch and snacks will be provided. The cost for the one-week day camp is \$100 per camper. Availability is limited to 24 campers per camp session. Computer camp is limited to 10 campers.

"The day camps will be themed based on the particular needs of the kids," said Vicki Kuestersteffen, director of rehab services at the McCarty Center. "The camp directors will be our therapy department heads."

The first day camp session will be the Movin' & Groovin' Camp. It is scheduled for Monday through Friday, June 5 through June 9. The camp director will be Sue O'Hare, director of physical therapy. "This camp session is designed for kids who are able to participate actively in games and sports, with adaptation when necessary," explained O'Hare. Campers of varying ability levels will participate in a full range of indoor and outdoor activities designed to improve their fitness level, muscle strength and coordination. "The overall goal is to enable kids to enjoy gross motor fun," concluded O'Hare. For more information or camp registration contact Sue O'Hare at 405.307.2848.

Maria Greenfield, director of occupational therapy, will be the camp director for the second day camp session, the Sensory Integration Camp. This session is scheduled Monday through Friday, June 19 through June 23. "This camp session is designed for kids with a developmental age of five to 11 years old who are ambulatory, active and able to learn coping strategies for daily life," said Greenfield. This camp will focus on sensory integration. The campers will have the opportunity to experience a wide variety of sensory fun, including stimulation of vision, smell, sound, taste, movement and body awareness. For more information or camp registration contact Maria Greenfield at 405.307.2867.

The Social Skills Camp is scheduled for Monday through Friday, July 10 through July 14. Reni Hanley, director of speech-language pathology at the McCarty Center, will direct this camp. "This day camp is designed for kids who can communicate using speech or an augmentative and alternative communications device, with a developmental age of six to 12 years old, who is able to assist in developing a social story and do role playing," explained Hanley. Focusing on social skills, campers during this session will get the chance to learn and practice successful social interactions with peers in small and large groups. These activities will include initiating conversation, taking turns, social boundaries and courtesy. For more information or camp registration contact Reni Hanley at 405.307.2870.

There are two Computer Camp sessions scheduled under the direction of the McCarty Center's information technology administrator, Joel Mann. These sessions are July 24 through July 27 and July 31 through August 3. These four -day camps are Monday through Thursday. "The computer camp is designed for middle school kids with a developmental age of eight to 14 years old," said Mann. "This four day camp will focus on basic computer skills. Campers will learn word processing basics, how to use e-mail and the basics of website development," he added.

The McCarty Center will maintain each camper's website and e-mail address for one year so they can reach out to friends and family using computer technology. Computers will be provided by the McCarty Center for use during the camp. For more information or camp registration contact Joel Mann at 405.307.2829.

The J. D. McCarty Center is Oklahoma's center of excellence in the care and treatment of children with developmental disabilities. Established by the 40 et 8 of Oklahoma, an honor society of the American Legion, in 1946, the McCarty Center treated only one thing...cerebral palsy. Today, the McCarty Center has treated more than 70 different diagnoses in the developmental category. The McCarty Center treats children from birth to 21, and is the only hospital of its kind in the state.