

My Possibilities

2010 - Annual Donation Campaign

As My Possibilities kicks off our second Annual Donation Campaign, we would like to **thank you** for your generous support during 2009. My Possibilities is the only full day, full year program for adults with developmental disabilities in Collin County, for North Texas. Our community came together to raise over \$74,000 toward the 2009 \$100,000 campaign. Even in this challenging economic environment, your contributions show your commitment to improve the quality of life for these great adults.



The end of 2009 brings pride in the **accomplishments** My Possibilities has had this year. Here are just a few:

- Enrollment in the program has increased to over 60 HIPsters (Hugely Important People), averaging 31 HIPsters per day.
- The program has 4 full time instructors. These are the *only* paid employees.
- The program has established 5 key subject areas that enhance self-sufficiency: Independent Living Skills, Socialization, Pre-Vocational Training, Health and Wellness, and Leadership.
- Collaboration with businesses in North Texas, help the instructors provide great learning opportunities. Partners include Crull Fitness, Aqua-Fit, Cottonwood Estates, Citizens Development Center, Calloways, Young Men's Service League, University of Texas at Dallas, University of North Texas, and University of Dallas.
- The financial statements were independently produced for 2008. They show \$.93 of every dollar spent goes directly to the program. Only \$.07 per dollar goes to fundraising and administration costs. This is a testament to our wonderful volunteers who keep our overhead costs low.
- We held several signature fundraisers throughout the year: Family Bowling, 1st Annual Golf Tournament, South Africa Food and Wine Extravaganza, and 3rd Annual Tennis Tournament.
- Founders Pamela Ferrell and Charmaine Solomon traveled to Austin during the 2009 Texas legislative session to share the mission of My Possibilities and the need for increased funding for adults with disabilities.
- A highlight of the year was a donation by Dr Pepper Snapple Group of a 15 passenger bus to My Possibilities. The bus transports HIPsters to educational and social events throughout the community.



Larry Young, CEO of DPSG presenting the bus to My Possibilities on August 14, 2009.

Our HIPsters become more self sufficient every day. Here are stories from some of their parents.



Jordan's Mother - "My main concern about Jordan was to have him keep growing and meet his full potential. My Possibilities has been a wonderful addition to his development. It's giving him a chance to grow socially. Jordan has a busy life with his job, attending My Possibilities and other activities. I attended the early community meetings. There was never a question that I was going to enroll Jordan. I knew the Founders. Their values are like my values. I see the program getting better and better and I always give it my full support. Jordan's independence and sociability have just blossomed."

Kristin's Mother - "We are from Temple, Texas. It's a small community. Kristin attended a workshop. She's always been a people person. We were looking for something more for Kristin and heard about My Possibilities. We visited when the floors were bare. That's when we decided to bring Kristin here. And we have not been disappointed. Kristin wakes up every morning and looks forward to attending. She was lonely and has made some wonderful friends at My Possibilities."





Valentin's Parents – “Valentin has attended My Possibilities for the last two summers. As parents we were very concerned what he would do after high school graduation. My Possibilities is the basis for his future, to help him prepare for a full time job. Valentin's improvement in socialization is amazing. He was born in Mexico. In Mexico, we struggled all time to find integrated education in the regular school system. Two years ago we heard about My Possibilities and I signed up before it opened. I think about all the students at his high school and I wonder where they are? Because Valentin is speech-impaired, we have to interpret a lot. We know he wants to be here because he smiles at the end of the day. He manages to talk a little more when he comes here.”

Courtney's Parents – Courtney graduated from high school in 2001. Her goal was to live with friends. We tried group homes and workshops, but found nothing in the Metroplex that would enable her to continue to develop and be independent. We found a home in Abilene. She was there for six years, but now she is at home. We found out about My Possibilities through a volunteer project our church was participating in. She has been attending since April, 2009. She loves going. She is fine tuning areas she needed growth in, especially in the area of social development. They are given many types of social situations where they have an opportunity to learn. Her learning has been re-established with reading and math opportunities. Her vocabulary has improved. We are amazed at the quality of the staff that works with the HIPsters. They have such a heart for working with them! Their goal as well as ours is to make Courtney a self-functioning adult. Courtney comes home so happy and her first question is “When do I get to go back to work?”



Evan's Parents – “We have been very thrilled with the progress that Evan has made being at My Possibilities. It can be summed up by seeing his joy when he wants to go to My Possibilities. He doesn't want to go home! You can't buy that. These young adults need a place where their days are filled with purpose, challenge and fun. The right choice for our family is for us, his parents, to continue working. So My Possibilities has fulfilled all of our needs. Evan started at My Possibilities at Spring Break, 2009 and then attended for the summer. We thought that was a great way to learn about the program and whether or not it was a good fit for our family. During our first interview the team talked about what Evan could *do*. Evan is non-verbal, and things have not been quiet lately. Evan is communicating more with us because of the expectation that is at My Possibilities. He is expected to be responsible and a good friend. His independence has grown dramatically, because he has role models around him.”



My Possibilities operates with the generosity of the community and with your continued support, we are able develop program curriculum, cover operating costs, and make our program affordable for many families in our community. During 2010 the mission to help these capable adults will continue to bring us all together. Our **plans** for 2010 include:

- Increasing enrollment, staffing and business partners
- Expanding our Board of Directors
- Continue to share the vision of My Possibilities with elected officials locally and at state level
- Fundraising, grant development, and long term saving plan
- Growing our volunteer network

As we look forward to 2010, **we are asking you for an individual or a corporate donation.** Your donation becomes part of a general fund that ensures My Possibilities provides a program to increase self-sufficiency of adults with developmental disabilities, right here in our community. During 2010, \$400 is the average projected cost per month of our program for each HIPster, *above the fee the family pays*. Together we can give adults with developmental disabilities in North Texas possibilities for a productive, respectful future, and create more stories of increased self-sufficiency. Please help us reach our goal for this 2010 campaign of \$100,000.

With sincere thanks for your continued support, and best wishes to you and your family for a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.

Robin LeoGrande, Chairman, Finance Committee, My Possibilities

P.S. If your company has a donation matching program, please include a form in your envelope. To donate using PayPal go to http://www.mypossibilities.org/on-line_donation. Thank you! More information about My Possibilities can be found at www.mypossibilities.org

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