

My Possibilities

2008 - Having Possibilities Makes a Difference

2009 - Working Together for Greater Possibilities

Wow! What an amazing year!

On June 9, 2008 the North Texas community made history. With donated time, materials and money community businesses and citizens in this area opened the **first** full day, full year program for adults with developmental disabilities in the area. Thank you for being important part of establishing this program.

Launching My Possibilities was such a success; we're inviting you to help again.

Almost 30 adults with disabilities have enrolled in My Possibilities since it opened; some for our summer program. Many are enrolled full time. We have several adults who came to My Possibilities the day after they graduated from

High School. My Possibilities is their **college**. The program focuses on academic, social, pre-vocational and independent living skills, in a center that has spaces for each of these areas.

My Possibilities is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity. Our mission is to provide a center of continued learning and pre-vocational training that will increase independence, enhance quality of life and preserve the dignity of adults with special needs. We need your support by volunteering, contributing monetarily and spreading the message about our program. MP 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!



Here are the stories from some of our Hugely Important People (HIPsters).



Shara is 22 and recently completed high school. Shara's father had been looking for something in the community for Shara. Shara's father says, "Shara has Prader-Willi syndrome. It was difficult to find something that met her needs. It was thrilling to find My Possibilities close to where I live and work. Shara is excited about going to My Possibilities every day. She's made new friends and wants to see them every day. We are coordinating her time at My Possibilities with other services so she can find a job. My Possibilities is giving Shara a structure to learn time management and other skills she needs to be successful in the business world. The instructors who work at My Possibilities are fantastic." Shara says "I think its fun here and I think everyone with disabilities would like it."

Terrell, now 23, diagnosed with autism at age 3 cannot speak and minimally communicates with sign and body language. Although we know Terrell has an untapped special intelligence, his inability to interact with the world in cultural ways keeps us from understanding him well, and he is often judged unfairly; but, not at My Possibilities. The staff at My Possibilities has worked with his family to be able to retain his speech therapist and support network. In this next year, he will be able to have therapy within the center to teach him how to communicate using a letter board. Terrell literally pops up from bed every morning and eagerly gets ready to do his best. "At home we have seen improvements in his behavior, self control, interest in helping, belonging and learning. My Possibilities is key to Terrell's continuing education, social well-being, self-esteem and self-worth," say his parents.





Ryan is 22. He graduated from McKinney Senior High in June, 2008, 3 days before My Possibilities opened. Ryan was born with a neurological birth defect and medical predictions were dire. Today, Ryan has beaten all the odds. He functions on a 3rd to 6th grade level, depending on the subject and, he uses a Blackberry to communicate. Ryan started at My Possibilities in a wheel chair. Not anymore! He uses a walker to move around the center. He loves being with his friends and considers My Possibilities his work. Ryan, his parents and the Staff at My Possibilities are all working together to find ways to further increase his level of self-sufficiency. Ryan's mother states, "There is no program like this in our area which is surprising due to the great need. We are blessed to be involved in such a wonderful program".

Audrey is 21 years old. She will graduate from Allen High School in June. Audrey was born with a chromosome abnormality: Alpie Syndrome or 9P-. Her ninth chromosome is missing a piece. She attended My Possibilities last summer and really enjoyed it. She knew some of the HIPsters from previous years at camp, Special Olympics, and dances with Plano Parks and Recreation. There was no problem with transition, she loved the experience and is torn between My Possibilities and her senior year at high school, but knows she can return after graduation. She is happy knowing what she will be doing after high school. It is such a relief for mom that this program started. Senior year will be full of fun and great memories, rather than fear and uncertainty, for Audrey. Audrey has a bright future, and will continue her education with great friends and great staff at My Possibilities.



Every adult at My Possibilities has a story. What's common among all is the need for community support to be able to have a program of this quality in our neighborhood.



My Possibilities Facts

- Over 20,000 in North Texas have a diagnosed mental disability
- On average 30% of the total cost to attend My Possibilities is reimbursed by Medicaid
- This program relies on donations to keep fees affordable. For the months of June – September, 2008 My Possibilities required on average about \$8,000 per month in community donations and unrestricted grants to break even.

We are asking you for an individual or a corporate donation of \$200. Your gift is vital to help us give these adults a great place to continue learning and socialize and prepare for their futures. Just mail your check in the enclosed, reply envelope. Together we can give adults with disabilities in North Texas possibilities for a productive, respectful future. Please help us reach our goal for this campaign of \$100,000.

Why Now?

- If your check is dated and postmarked by December 31, you save on the income taxes you have to pay for 2008!
- You help My Possibilities get ready to provide a great service to our adults with disabilities in 2009!
- Your dollars go to work right here, in your community.

As 2008, draws to a close, thank you for helping our community see that having possibilities makes such a difference in the lives of adults with disabilities in Collin County. We invite you to continue to participate in the work ahead by providing your financial support; working together for greater possibilities in 2009. I think you will agree that there is a sense of energy and momentum that hasn't been felt before in this community.

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, My Possibilities

P.S. If your company has a donation matching program, please include a form in your envelope. Thank you! More information about My Possibilities can be found at www.mypossibilities.org