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January/February 2011
News

ITSJC WISH LIST

Do you have unused gift cards just laying around the house?

Have you had every intention of using them, but just never got around to it! If so, we can use them! We are looking for gift cards to area businesses and restaurants to include in our silent auction for our biggest fundraiser- Stepping Stones Gala on April 30th!

It's really easy to donate!

All you have to do is either email us at fits@itsjc.org or call at 913-432-2900 ext 124 and we will come and pick up those unused gift cards from you! OR, please mail them to us at:
Infant Toddler Services
Gift Card Collection
6400 Glenwood, Ste 205
Overland Park, KS 66202.

ITS BITS

Infant Toddler Services of Johnson County Newsletter

From The Director's Chair...

I have the privilege of working with an incredible group of women. Every week I sit in team meetings and hear our therapists and teachers brainstorm how to help the families we serve. They definitely have our families' best interest at heart.



It is time to talk to our legislators about Infant Toddler Services. There are many new representatives in Topeka who probably do not know much about us. I have had the opportunity to meet with several legislators in the last month. I asked them the best way to educate other legislators about Infant Toddler Services. They said to have families tell their story. Can you help us out with that? Send them an email, include pictures if you feel comfortable and let them know how you and your child have benefited from our services. Make sure to include your address in the email. You can find your representative and senator at www.kslegislature.org. I will be going to Topeka on March 8th for Infant Toddler Day. If anyone is interested in joining me, please email me at amy.owens@itsjc.org and I will let you know the agenda.

We accomplished some pretty amazing things in 2010. We served over 1300 children in our program. We started doing community based developmental screening at area child care facilities. Friends of Infant Toddler Services started the Special Assistance Fund to assist families with the cost of equipment. Community based playgroups were also started this year. We have added a social worker to our staff. We anticipate 2011 to be another impressive year.

Make sure you include your name, address, phone number and/or email address so that we can make sure to get you a tax receipt for your generous contribution!

We could always use your help in planning our fundraisers for the year. This year we have our Gala on April 30th, the Hospital Hill Run on June 4th and our Second Annual Golf tournament on October 7th. If you have interest in sponsoring any of these events or would like to participate in them, please contact Katie Maupin at fits@itsjc.org.

We thank you for your continued support of Infant Toddler Services of Johnson County.

Sincerely,
Amy Owens
Executive Director

Yummy Treats!

Enjoy this recipe from ITSJC Dietitian, Chrissy Stewart, MS RD LD CNSD!

Breakfast Pizzas!

Ingredients:

- 2 cups shredded potatoes or ready-to-use frozen hash brown potatoes, thawed
- ½ cup onions, finely chopped
- ¼ cup pizza sauce
- ½ cup egg substitute or 2 eggs, beaten
- ½ cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Instructions:

- 1) Mix together potatoes and onions in small bowl
- 2) Spray non-stick cooking spray onto 10-inch skillet and add potato mixture. Flatten mixture with spatula. Cook 7-9 minutes or until lightly brown on bottom. Turn and cook on the other side.
- 3) Spread pizza sauce evenly over potatoes.
- 4) Pour eggs or egg substitute over mixture; cover and cook 4 minutes
- 5) Sprinkle with mozzarella cheese; cover and cook 1 minute.
- 6) Remove from heat. Cut pizza into 4 wedges and enjoy!

Makes 2 servings

Every Step You Take - Lends A Helping Hand!

We are looking for runners or walkers to participate in the 38th Annual Hospital Hill Walk/Run on Saturday, June 4th!



Friends of ITS is a Charity Partner with the Hospital Hill Run! This means that we can recruit participants to run or walk on our behalf or on the behalf of a child that we serve or have served! All you have to do is simply email us at fits@itsjc.org or call us at 913-432-2900 ext 124 and let us know that you want to run/walk for the children of ITSJC and we will get you set up! Signing up as an ITSJC Charity Partner means you receive a discounted rate for registration. You can choose to participate in the 5k, 10k or 1/2 Marathon!

We are asking each participant to please raise a minimum of \$250 each! That's only 10 donations of \$25! We will make sure you have all the tools you need in order to raise \$\$...including your very own webpage that you can email and post to Facebook! We'll make it easy so all you have to worry about is conquering "The Hill!"



**Friends of Infant
Toddler Services of
Johnson County
(FITS)**

**A word from Hillary
Guentner, President
of FITS Board of
Directors...**

Friends of Infant Toddler Services is excited to announce another new program- Adapted Aquatics! In this parent-tot program, both the parent and the child engage in water activities and play with a different focus each session. Sessions are for 6 weeks and are being held at The Jewish Community Center indoor pool. We started our first session in January and the children are loving being able to splish and splash around with their mom and dads!

We are also very excited to host our 9th Annual Stepping Stones Gala on Saturday, April 30, 2011! We hope to see you there! Check out the article below to find out all about this special evening!

Stay safe and warm!

Friends of Infant Toddler Services is funded solely on

On Thursday, March 3rd, we will have a fun get-together JUST for our runners and walkers at Fox & Hound off 103rd & Metcalf Ave. Make sure to mark your calendars and Save the Date! Garry Gribbles (himself!) and Coach Eladio Valdez from Runners Edge will come and give a short presentation on shoes, clothing, accessories and training tips specific to helping you conquer The Hill! Door prizes will be giving out compliments from Garry Gribbles Running Sports and other area restaurants. It is one gathering you won't want to miss!

Questions, contact Katie at 913-432-2900 ext 124.



Our Featured Kiddo - Ethan!
Written by proud mom, Jamie

Two years after our first son, Luke, was born we welcomed a new addition to our family! Our Ethan was born weighing only 5 lbs 2 oz. He was a little guy, but awake and alert. We were so happy to introduce Luke to his new little brother!

The day after Ethan was born, he failed his initial hearing test at the hospital. The staff didn't seem to be too concerned and retested him the next day. After failing it a 2nd and 3rd time, we were referred to Children's Mercy. After visiting Children's Mercy, doing lots of self tests at home and after a long 2 month wait, we were referred to another audiologist.

The first visit at this audiologist was a day I will never forget. I held my 6 month old little boy and was told he did indeed have mild to moderate hearing loss and needed hearing aids. We quickly got him the hearing aids he needed for both ears and later that spring got tubes put in his ears.

Along with the hearing loss, Ethan had major motor delays. He did not meet any of his developmental milestones during the first 2 years of his life. At one, he could barely sit, was not feeding himself, could barely eat baby food and had very little fine motor skills. When Ethan was 14 months old, he had an MRI to see if there might be any other reasons for his delays. The MRI results showed calcifications in the brain. The possible list of reasons for this was not pleasant. We had to wait for 9 days for test results to come back which would determine whether or not he had a terminal illness

private donations and fundraising events. The need far exceeds the means. Donate today and help us continue these important programs and services.

Visit our website to make your tax-deductible contribution:

www.itsjc.org

FRIENDS OF INFANT TODDLER SERVICES COMMUNITY BASED PLAYGROUPS...



Join us for our
Community Based
Playgroups!

Mark your calendars
and come and play with
us!

Thursday, 2/17
My Gym
3-4

Sunday, 2/27
Debbie Howard's Gym
2:30-3:30

Playgroups are free for
children currently receiving
services and their siblings!

*Thanks to all of the families
who have participated! It
has been lots of fun just
playing around!*

***The 2011 playgroups are
funded through a grant***

or CMV, which is a common-runny nose cold that I caught the last 3 weeks I was pregnant with Ethan. The results came back and crazy as it was, we were thrilled to find it was CMV! Those were the worst days of my life, wondering if I was going to sit back and watch my child pass away slowly. Now, I am thankful that I am able to use this experience as a way to see how lucky we really are.

When Ethan was 6 months old, he began receiving early intervention services through Infant Toddler Services of Johnson County. Our team of therapists really cared about Ethan and our family. With lots of therapy and prayer, Ethan began to make strides. He was able to feed himself, crawl, sit up and even took his first steps right before turning 2!

It was around the age of 2, that Ethan's hearing began to change. Over the next 6 months his hearing progressed to profound in the left and severe in the right. By January 2010, he qualified for a Cochlear Implant in his right ear. After lots of research, we made the decision to have Ethan receive this implant and on March 9, 2010, he was able to "hear" using this new tool!

Our ITSJC speech therapist and deaf educator helped us to learn the value of teaching our son to sign. We were able to teach Ethan not only the signs for over 150 words but it has also lead him to learn to say each word. His older brother knows over 200 different signs. The signing allowed us to continue to teach Ethan while his hearing progressed. We were able to communicate with him and give him new knowledge while keeping his past skills. We saw an increase in his verbal communication that came from his desire to communicate after learning to sign.

Infant Toddler Services of Johnson County not only provided therapy for my son, but a place to ask questions and get informatoin about things our family was facing. When we were in need of hearing aids, our therapist helped us receive enough donations from area compaines to pay for the expensive hearing aids in full. That was a huge relief and a financial burden that we didn't have to face. When we needed to research Cochlear Implants, they gave us information and a sound board to discuss what our options were. When we went through scary times, they were scared. When we went through happy times, they were happy.

When Ethan's 3rd birthday came, it was bitter sweet. I was so excited Ethan was 3 and doing so well! We were sad to see our time with ITSJC was over, but grateful that we had received all of the wonderful support that we had been given. It is still such a sweet sight to see Ethan run at our favorite places, something we were not sure he would ever do. The sound of "mommy" ringing through the house will never get old. We are so lucky to have the therapists we had from ITSJC and look forward to seeing Ethan grow. Luke and Ethan are the brothers that we always wished they could be! Thanks ITSJC!

**Goodsearch- Help Us Raise Money
Just By Searching The Internet!**



What if Infant Toddler Services of Johnson County earned a donation every time you searched the

*provided by CVS Caremark.
Thank you CVS for your
support and generosity!*

AROUND TOWN!

February 12th
9:00-3:00

Free Open House at
My Gym

This is the perfect time to come and find out what My Gym is all about!

Bring your family, friends & neighbors to participate in games, songs, gymnastics, puppet shows, sports and fun for all ages!

Theatre of the Imagination is running a special offer just for Infant Toddler Services of Johnson County. Mention that you got this email and get 25% off any program. That includes Spring Break, Summer Camps, Birthday Parties and more.

For more information call 816-561-2787. Note, they do not have online registration, cause they like to talk to you!

Check out their flyer about the Movie Acting Parties [here!](#) For more information about their Spring Break and Summer Camps, click [here!](#)

A Snowy Tip!

Too cold to go outside? Bring the snow inside!

Why not fill up a small tupperware bin with snow and bring it inside for your children to play in! Put their gloves on and bring out some pots, measuring cups, sand shovels, spoons,

Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is also an online shopping mall which donates up to 30 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting our cause. And if you download the GoodSearch - Infant Toddler Services of Johnson County toolbar, our cause will earn money every time you shop and search online - even if you forget to go to GoodShop or GoodSearch first!

Simply add the Infant Toddler Services of Johnson County toolbar by going to:

<http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/infant-toddler-services-of-johnson-county-itsjc>

If we all work together, think of the possibilities!



Dust off those clubs, start practicing your swing and mark your calendars!

Save The Date

Friends of Infant Toddler Services
~2nd Annual Helping Toddlers Make The Turn~
Golf Tournament

Friday, October 7th

Afternoon Shotgun Start
Lunch, Dinner, On-Course Beverages, Awards
Reception, Prizes, Raffle, Silent Auction

Creekmoor Golf Course

or whatever your heart desires and let your children "cook" up a storm with the snow! They will have fun being creative all while staying warm!



Make sure you join our group on Facebook!

Simply log into your Facebook account, search for "Friends of Infant Toddler Services of Johnson County" and click "Like."

We will be sending out lots of tips, tidbits, news and helpful information that you won't want to miss!

Thanks for joining us on Facebook and make sure to spread the word about our organization to your friends and family!

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

We hope you join us for a day in the sun and help benefit some very special children and their families! Last year's golf tournament was a huge success! We had a FULL tournament and anticipate this year to sell out as well! If you want to reserve a team, please email fits@itsjc.org for more information.

Letters from our families....



Hi! My name is Ashtin Miller and I am 3 1/2 years old. I started receiving services from Infant Toddler (ITSJC) when I was 2 weeks old because I was born with an extra chromosome (Down syndrome). I worked really hard with occupational, physical, speech and cognitive therapy. I am very smart as I can sign over 75 words, follow directions, make decisions, eat with a fork and spoon, drink from an open cup and work the DVD player to watch my movies. My friends (therapists) came over to play with me weekly and taught me how to go up and down stairs, stand, and match objects. I graduated from the program and started pre-school when I turned three. My recent accomplishments includes running and saying "mama." My mom and dad really want me to be potty trained but I prefer to just flush and sing the potty song :) Thanks ITSJC for giving me the extra help I needed. Your friend, Ashtin

Calling All Families....

*Spring Toward Success
9th Annual Stepping Stones Gala
Saturday, April 30, 2011*

Registration is Open!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

The Board members of Friends of Infant Toddler Services are getting so excited for our annual live and silent auction, Stepping Stones Gala! All proceeds will benefit new and extended services for the children of ITSJC! All of our "extra" programs are funded through Friends of Infant Toddler Services, such as Adapted Aquatics, Community Based Playgroups, Special Assistance Fund, Playful Potentials, Funeral Assistance Fund and more!

Our theme this year is "Spring Toward Success" and after all this snowy winter weather, we can't wait for April to celebrate with some spring decor and cheer! We have lots of wonderful items already secured, but are in need of more! Please help us by donating any item (such as a themed basket, gift card to a restaurant, any services such as photography sessions, facials, personal training, etc!) Any donation, no matter how small, helps increase our fundraising efforts so we can keep funding these amazing programs and create more programs! We are always on the look-out for new programs that we can provide to our families...if you have an idea or a need that we can help meet, please shoot us an email or call! We are always open to any and all suggestions....that is why we are here, to better serve the children and families of ITSJC!

Check out how you can be part of our biggest fundraiser of the year!

SPONSORSHIPS-

We are currently looking for families, grandparents, parents, companies, corporations, businesses, etc to help sponsor the 2011 Stepping Stones Gala! Many area businesses and corporations underwrite not-for-profit events. If you think your company might have an interest in helping to support the gala, please let us know! Also, don't forget that many corporations have a matching gift program where they will match a personal contribution from an employee. There are many different sponsorship levels ranging from \$500-

\$10,000! Check out the benefits of becoming a Stepping Stones Gala Sponsor [here](#).

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS-

Register today to attend the gala! Purchase individual tickets or gather 10 family members or friends and split the Friends & Family Sponsorship Table! Individual Tickets are \$75 each. [Click here to purchase tickets.](#)

DONATE A BASKET-

Help us with our live and silent auction through a donation of a themed basket or item! Some of our wish list items include:

- Children-Themed Baskets (such as toys, books, games, etc)*
- Food and Dining Baskets (gift cards to restaurants, appetizer basket, Mexican Fiesta basket, etc)*
- Sports & Entertainment Baskets (Chiefs, Royals, KU, KSU, tailgating baskets, etc)*

For more info, check us out on the web at www.itsjc.org or calling 913-432-2900 ext 124 / email fits@itsjc.org

See you on Saturday, April 30th!

[Forward email](#)



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Infant Toddler Services of Johnson County | 6400 Glenwood | Suite 205 | Overland Park | KS | 66202