



**ANGEL NEWS**  
 A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER  
 WWW.LOVEANANGELFOUNDATION.ORG



The Love an Angel Foundation (LAAF)    December 2013    Volume II, Issue IV

It is hard to believe that we are into the Holiday Season that brings 2013 to an end and leads us into the year 2014. We are especially grateful for this past year and all the old and new friends that have shared in our mission. We are thrilled with the money raised through the 2013 “For the Love of an Angel” Dinner, Reverse Raffle & Silent Auction, the “Not Your Everyday Garage Sale” Garage Sales, and the “Biking for Angels” Spin-a-thon. While these events increased the Foundation’s revenues, more importantly they allowed our supporters a choice as to how they could best participate.

Thank you to our old & new friends, and we wish you and yours a

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# Merry Christmas

and

# Happy New Year

Your LAAF Board of Directors & Staff

**Matt, Michelle, Patti, Donna, Burt, Jan, Jamie, Ray  
 & Susie**

## SAVE THE DATE

**“For the Love of an Angel” Dinner, Reverse Raffle, & Silent Auction**



**Saturday, February 8, 2014**  
**6:30 PM**

Invitations to arrive in early January. Come celebrate with us.  
Tables of 8 and 10 available.

To Provide Comfort, Assistance, Relief, and Encouragement to those touched by Angelman Syndrome.

### Updates and Reminders

- \* **Save your Acme Receipts!** Remember to mail them in and if necessary bring the last few the night of the Reverse Raffle & Silent Auction.
- \* **“Biking for Angels” Spin-a-thon** raised over \$7,000 dollars through registrations, donations, & the raffle. **We had 48 bikers, 21 new this year!**
- \* A special thank you to **Michelle Riley** of **All About You** Signature Landscaping Design Inc., who designed, donated and coordinated the landscaping at our office. We also thank **Dayton Nurseries, JRS Landscape of Norton, and Mulch Makers of Norton** for their donations and its completion before Thanksgiving.
- \* **Welty Family Foundation** awarded a \$1,000 Grant allowing us to hire a part-time Growth Administrator. We are pleased to announce that our former intern & volunteer Susie Bischoff has filled this position.

## Angel Corner



**Drew** is our sweet little Angel that gives big hugs and smiles to everyone he meets. Drew has Angelman Syndrome (AS) and was diagnosed around two years of age. His type is called uniparental disomy (UPD) which means he inherited two copies of chromosome 15 from his Dad and none from his Mom. The maternal copy has some important proteins and instructions that his brain is missing. Only about 3-4% of the AS population is born with UPD. He just turned eight in October and is in second grade. He is in a multi-handicap room with eight students and has been making some great strides this year. He joins his typical peers for music and gym and sees them on the playground. This interaction with his typical peers is invaluable and we hope to see more as he gets older. Drew was asked on his first playdate ever from a typical boy in second grade that he sees at music every week. Needless to say we were overjoyed and we have gotten the boys together

twice this year. His buddy is a great kid and does not see Drew's disability or his inability to speak as any big deal!

Drew has been busy this fall outside of school with private occupational, physical and speech therapies at the Cleveland Clinic. He also does therapeutic horseback riding once a week with his friend Eli. He really enjoys this and his instructor says he is really improving and knows how to control his horse to start and stop, sit backwards on the saddle and now he does not need someone on the side to help him balance. He also just started music therapy at the Music Settlement in Cleveland and gets to pound on the drums and some other neat instruments. They work on following directions and a schedule, numbers, letters, counting beats and overall attention span. In January he will be starting adapted skiing for the third year in a row at Brandywine with a wonderful organization called 3 Trackers. They have great volunteers that ski alongside him with various creative equipment to give Drew a

thrill going down the hill. Drew also attended his first respite night out at a local church all by himself. It was a Friday night with lots of activities, movies, pizza and his buddy Eli was there to keep him company. He had a bit of separation anxiety but overall it went well and we will be doing another one in January. We continually work on his socialization skills as these will become very important to him as he gets older.

Besides that Drew loves to hang out with his younger brother Peter and loves to watch his hockey games. He also adores his dog Sookie and they trade sloppy kisses frequently. We are all looking forward to a relaxing holiday season and a happy New Year.



**To Provide Comfort, Assistance, Relief, and Encouragement to those touched by Angelman Syndrome.**