



ANGEL NEWS

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
WWW.LOVEANANGEL.ORG



The Love an Angel Foundation (LAAF)

June 2016

Volume V, Issue II

A Word from our President, Matthew Weber

Congratulations N.E. Ohio!!!

Our Cleveland Cavaliers took the pursuit of a championship to the next level and have shed a light of hope for all N.E. Ohio sports fans.....greatness is possible.

Just as the Cavaliers have Lebron, Kyrie and a strong supporting bench, your Love an Angel Foundation has Patti, Susie and Board members that will be meeting over the next few months to finalize our game plan to take the "Gathering Place" to the next level and bring home a winner for the Angels and our supporters.

As I am sure many of you did for the Cav's, we ask that you pray that the Love an Angel Foundation is provided with some "Guided Shots", "Fast Breaks" and a handful of "Slam Dunks" as we move forward.

Thank you all.....God Bless.

Matthew



Business update:

Your LAAF staff and a few Board members have been attending lectures on grant writing. The lectures have proven to be both informative and beneficial in our grant writing program. We have been researching and writing grants for operating, maintenance and capital funds needed for the growth of LAAF. We have submitted seven grants and are researching others for which we may qualify.

If any of you, our supporters/sponsors, know of grantors that we could contact on behalf of our Angels, please call or email the office with any information.

In order for our fundraising profits to continue being applied to Gathering Place/Halo Farm Complex, we need additional funding sources to cover our operating expenses.

Currently we have all but depleted our operating expense funds.

Since the beginning of the year we have received \$1,000 grant from the Lloyd L. and Louise K. Smith Foundation \$1,000 grant from the Verna K. McKibben Memorial Foundation, and \$500 from the Greek Orthodox Church Philoptochos Society, Melissa to be used toward our 2016 operating expenses.

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Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, Fri 10 - 4

Tue, Thurs, Sat & Sun
by appointment only

We do close for
Holidays & Vacations,
so please call first
234-678-7466

Dates to Keep in mind:

- Biking for Angels
Date To Be Determined
- Acme Community Cash Back—
August 11, 2016
- Reverse Raffle
Saturday, February 11, 2017

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Angel Corner: Angel Champions

The Cavaliers became champions by excelling over all other teams and winning first place. Our Angels **are** champions as they focus on daily improvements and strive to find out just how great they can be.



Take a look at that face—one would think he took first place!

Gary Thompson took 2nd Place in the 20 meter assisted run (with adaptive PE teacher Alana) at the Special Olympics sponsored by Wadsworth High School.



3108 Vanderhoof Road
New Franklin, OH 44216
234-678-7466

Check out our website:

www.loveanAngel.org

Volunteer Opportunities are available. Please call our office at 234-678-7466 if you would like to discuss how you can become more involved.

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

Mom shared that Gary tried shot put, but drilled the ball into the ground at about 18" in front of him...still learning "when" to let go. He also ran a relay; however, he crossed all lanes & stopped in front of the cheering crowd to smile, laugh & jump up and down...totally forgetting about the race!



School ended with Nayla and her family celebrating her graduation from 5th grade and elementary school.



Nayla Cantwell represented Copley-Fairlawn at the same Special Olympics by running in a relay, in an individual run and throwing in the long distance throw (modified).

Mom states it was such a wonderful and emotional day to be able to celebrate Nayla's abilities :)

Caleb Ferguson has always loved baseball! He has grown up watching his big brother, Aaron, play travel and High School baseball. He loves going to professional baseball games. Caleb has been known to gently move people out of his way that stand between him and the game.

Continued



Angel Corner: Angel Champions continued



Caleb Ferguson, with the recent move to Michigan, is able to PLAY baseball for the first time through the Miracle League of Michigan.

Mom states that the Miracle League of Michigan is amazing! They have removed all barriers through a

custom designed field made of synthetic turf accommodating wheelchairs, walkers and other assistive devices. Each week, the non-competitive league has volunteers from the community come and support/assist players as their buddies.

The buddies help the player bat, run, field the ball or whatever accommodations are needed to allow ALL players to succeed.

Caleb was so excited to hear his name announced over the loud speaker when he was up to bat, announcing his second single of the day and when he crossed home plate. What a great way to support and include these special players in the community and allow them to enjoy America's favorite past time first-hand. Caleb can hardly wait for his next game!



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



Ayleah Keen started her spring activities suited up and ready to play on "A's" Challengers Baseball Team for her 4th year.



Ayleah loves the independence she has with swimming!



Her horseback riding continues, her muscle control has improved, and she now rides with a saddle.

Ayleah and mom travelled to Key West FL, where she donned a pretty dress, put aside her walker, and with the bride's parents walked down the aisle to serve as flower girl. **Continued**



Angel Corner: Angel Champions continued



As the school year came to an end, Isabella celebrated her 6th birthday, May 17th.

Isabella showing off her summer haircut!



Isabella (Bella) Mancuso like most Angels, truly loves and enjoys the water. Her summer days are spent swimming every day.

Typical Isabella active and on the run!

Her mother shared that she will start a summer school “type” program on July 7th where she will be able to continue her therapies.



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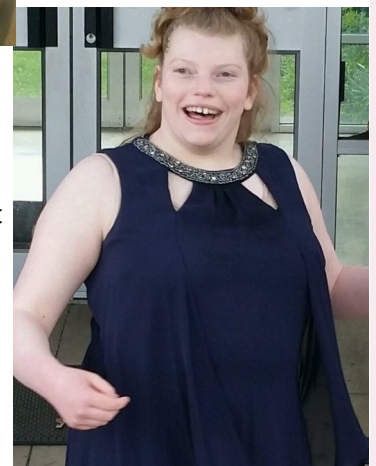
Maddie Weber has always loved to throw and catch a ball. Any time one visits, you might find her doing just that. Starting July 5th, Maddie will be using these skills as she participates once again in a special summer softball league.

One of Maddie’s favorite free time activities is working on her hand-eye coordination by putting together puzzles.



April 22nd Madeline celebrated her 19th birthday. She enjoyed several days of celebration with family and friends at her facility.

Maddie was very excited to dress up and attend her prom at the end of her school year in a pretty navy blue dress.



Continued

Angel Corner: Angel Champions continued



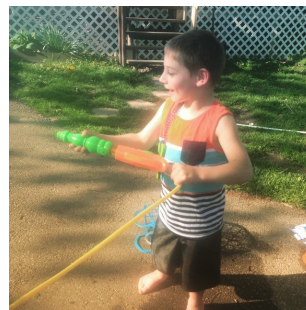
RJ Hissner, though he was not interested in wearing his cap and gown, he enjoyed his graduation from preschool and made daddy & mommy so proud upon receiving his certificate.

During RJ's preschool year, he had several firsts:

- He rode on the bus in his harness
- He answered the phone and handed it to mom
- He communicated several times with his talker (comm device)



This boy loves his tools and water too!

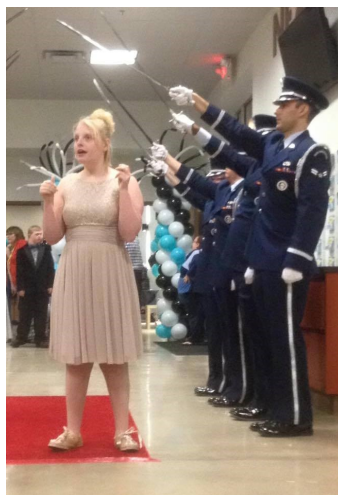


To Provide Comfort, Assistance, Relief, and Encouragement to those touched by Angelman Syndrome.



Jordan Cromly enjoys working in the kitchen at her school as she and her classmates learn to make cookies. They make a variety of baked goods to sell to the community each week.

Jordan attended the "Night to Shine" prom for people with special needs sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation.



Jordan and her mom Janet had their "Art of an Angel" artwork featured on this year's National ASF Walk bag. Everyone who participated in the Walk received a bag. What a champion Jordan & her mom have been for Angel awareness!

Jordan, 17-year old individual with Angelman syndrome, sits for long periods "coloring."

Her mother, Janet, turns them into Art of an Angel.

This piece represents the love of our angels and that they have wings to fly and achieve great things!

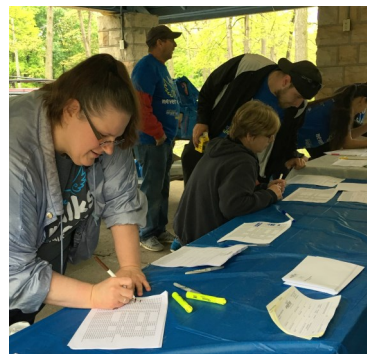
LAAF Walks for ASF Clinics



May 21st, under the threat of rain, many Angels along with their families and friends participated in the National Angelman Syndrome Foundation Walk to raise funds for research clinics. This event, offered annually in numerous cities across the country, proves to be a rewarding opportunity for Angel families as they share in, not only the walk, but good conversation and discussions concerning their Angels and their challenges and accomplishments.

"Love an Angel Team" started our journey to Pittsburgh PA, the closest Walk location, with two of our Angel families, their friends, Patti and Susie.

About a half hour into their drive, our Angel, Nayla and her family got a flat tire and were unable to continue the trip. We were all sad, not only because they would not be walking with us BUT they had planned a special day for Nayla and her siblings since their dad had taken a vacation day to participate.



Upon our arrival, Susie offered her help at the registration table to assist the Pittsburgh chairperson who found herself short a few volunteers.



Soon our Angel, Ayleah arrived with her family and we began putting on our rain gear in preparation for our walk... ready to have fun walking in the rain. It was so exciting to see, as

everyone began to line up for the walk, the rain stopped. Almost everyone finished just before another downpour. Once under the shelter, much laughter and visiting took place as we enjoyed a catered lunch. A local band donated their time and played a few sets for added entertainment.

As the event came to an end, even though we had to run to our cars between rain drops —everyone was happy to have been a part of the 2016 National Angelman Syndrome Foundation Walk and raise money for ASF research clinics.

Thank you to those that contributed funds for our Love an Angel Team...we were able to contribute over \$200.

LAAF Volunteer



Payton Gehring from Dublin, OH worked at LAAF headquarters to earn hours toward her volunteer requirements for school.

We welcome any students needing volunteer service hours. Please contact the office at 234-678-7466.

Her main task involved a new fundraiser that will be featured in our next newsletter!

