

Keeping in Touch

A quarterly newsletter for those who share our interest

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A Letter from the GEM Family

Dear Stakeholders, Parents, Medical Service Providers, and Community Partners:

It is exciting to bring you the news of the GEM Children's Foundation in our first issue of the quarterly newsletter, ***Keeping in Touch!*** With this newsletter we hope to keep you informed on the activities of the GEM Children's Foundation and the activities in our community supporting children with special needs and their families. In the newsletter we will feature Foundation sponsored projects, community education opportunities, spotlights on community, and other information that fosters communication among community members.



Dr. George E. Miller

Before we go much further I want to personally tell you about our journey to the GEM Children's Foundation. My father, Dr. George E. Miller (GEM) was a pediatrician in Salem for 30 years. In the 80's he was the Medical Director at Fairview Training Center. In the 90's he joined Dr. James Lace and Dr. Mike Gilbert at Childhood Health Associates of Salem and in 2004 he became the Medical Director at Salem Hospital. Throughout his career he was an advocate for children with special needs and during his time at the Salem Hospital he focused on patient care.

After his stemcell transplant in 2006, when he knew he could only work part-time, he planned to spend time helping manage the care for children with special needs. Unfortunately, his untimely death prevented this endeavor. Dr. Lace approached my mother, Susan, with the idea of the GEM Center. From this idea has grown the GEM Children's Foundation and the continued vision of a GEM Children's Neurodevelopmental Center.

In January of 2009 I was asked to form an organization incorporating Dr. Lace's idea and input gathered from two community meetings. I am honored to fill the position of Interim Executive Director. The first steps were to incorporate the organization and obtain non-profit status. After several informal meetings with medical providers and community members, we decided on the name **GEM Children's Foundation.**

My father's beliefs in quality patient care, family support, education, and perseverance have been our guiding principals. He continues to be the inspiration for this venture philanthropic effort to invest in helping children with special needs and to support their families.

With the generous support of people like you, we will be able to help many of these children and families not only to meet essential daily needs, but to work toward a brighter future.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Ellen Miller
Interim Executive Director



Dr. Kenneth Carlson and Ellen Miller meet with Community Members

GEM CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

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ellen@gemchildren.com

We will soon be on the Web!

www.gemchildren.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James Lace, MD

Susan Miller

Suzanne Dinsmore, MD

Barbara Halsey

Kenneth Carlson, MD

Mickey Pardew, PhD.

Interested in Getting Involved?

- Would you like to serve on an advisory committee?
- Do you have a suggestion for a collaborative project?
- Do you have a recommended lecture topic?

If so, contact Ellen at
ellen@gemchildren.com

We are in Business!

The GEM Children's Foundation was set up as a non-profit public charity. The mission of the Foundation is to increase access to healthcare systems in place and encourage better care coordination for children with special needs. **We will support community organizations serving children with special needs through grants and collaborative efforts.**

Our plan is to add additional Board Members, hire a full-time Executive Director and an additional part time employee to assist with Foundation projects and financials in 2010. In addition, we will create an Advisory Committee composed of community partners, parents, educators and medical providers. We also hope to occupy an interim space that could hold the Foundation offices and flexible spaces for multi-use.

About Sanford Health

Located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Sanford Health is an integrated network of over 330 physicians and more than 150 healthcare facilities. Each is dedicated to providing the highest quality of care, safety and convenience for patients, the communities and the region. Sanford's MISSION is to be dedicated to the Work of Healing. Their Vision is to be one of the best integrated health systems in the United States.

More on the Sanford Health Initiatives can be found here: <http://www.sanfordhealth.org/Newsroom/SanfordInitiatives/>

"From CHAOS comes a GEM."

-Michael Saba,
Sanford Health



Linda Craven, Judy Cleave, Elisabeth Underwood, and Jo Ristow are a few of the representatives of the Great Beginnings Consortium the Sanford Health Luncheon provided by the GEM Children's Foundation.

Sanford Health Visits Salem

On April 8th, 2009 Sanford Health visited Salem.



Sanford Health was recently given the largest philanthropic gift to a hospital or health system in our nation's history, 400 million dollars. A portion of this gift has been allocated to the initiative, An Investment in Children, which involves establishing five outpatient pediatric clinics strategically located around the United States.

Through the recommendation of Dr. David Willis at the Northwest Early Childhood Institute in Portland, Salem was selected for a visit by Dr. Michael Saba to evaluate our underserved population and existing pediatric services.

A Special Thanks

We feel that the Sanford visit was a success due to the involvement of the following Community Partners:

Dr. Kenneth Carlson - CHAOS
Dr. Jim Lace - CHAOS
Dr. Suzanne Dinsmore - CHAOS
Elizabeth Peasley - CHAOS
Tami Goettsch - Marion County Family and Children's Commission
Meredith Russell - LCSW
Dina Triest - Salem Health

The GEM Children's Foundation along with community partners, Childhood Health Associates of Salem (CHAOS), Salem Health, Willamette Family Medical Clinic and The Great Beginnings Consortium welcomed Dr. Saba. We shared with him our existing facilities and pediatric services while we introduced him to the mission and visions of the GEM Children's Foundation.

Our goal was to demonstrate the needs in our community and the support systems currently in place. We also wanted to present our idea of the GEM Developmental Center and propose that Sanford Health play a role.

Overall Dr. Saba was impressed with services for children in Marion County. Most specifically, he was impressed by the communication among the service providers.



Dr. Saba enjoys hearing about the successes of the Great Beginnings Consortium. He also heard the needs of the community for better pediatric care coordination.

Dr. Saba began the day at CHAOS where he felt the positive energy of children and their care givers. The day ended with a luncheon with the Great Beginnings Consortium where he felt the energy of collaboration and the support of the GEM Developmental Center. In closing he remarked "From CHAOS comes a GEM".

Sanford is not committed to a specific timeline for selecting the next pediatric clinic location. The Foundation will continue pursuing Sanford involvement in Salem by maintaining contact with Dr. Saba.

Jim Bloodworth - Salem Health
Joanna Ristow - Willamette Family Medical Center
Dr. Robert Steele - Willamette Family Medical Center
Mittie Hinz - Salem Health
Dr. Howard Cohen - Salem Health
Martin Morris - Salem Health
Cynthia Crosby - Salem Health
Debbie Goodwin - Salem Health

Bradley Raum - Salem Health
Linda Craven - Chemeketa
Lona O'Dell - Easter Seals
Luz Rivera - Juntos Podemos
Dr. David Balmer - MVIPA
Veronica Sheffield - MVIPA
Elisabeth Underwood - Catholic Services
Judy Cleave - Marion County Health Department

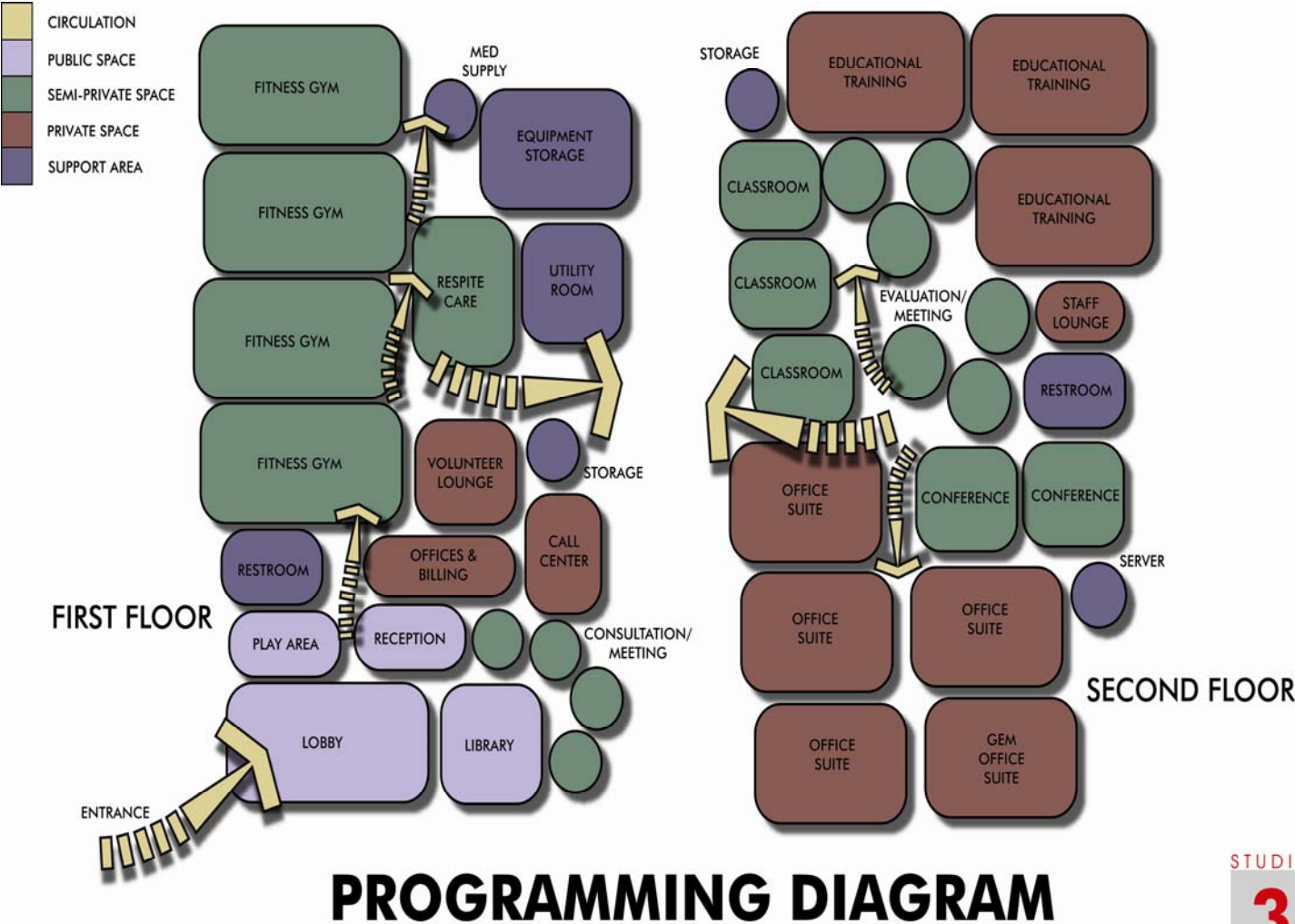
The GEM Center will be a welcoming place for families with children with special needs to find high quality healthcare assistance, education and support in connecting to all the appropriate resources available in our community.

GEM Center

Preliminary Ideas on Paper

Based on meetings with community members, input from the medical community and architectural programming standards we have a conceptual Programming Diagram for the GEM Developmental Center.

A special THANK YOU to Gene Bolante and Kristi Neznanski at Studio 3 Architects for donating their time. Studio 3 provided the diagram under a tight schedule of one week in order for the Foundation to present this idea to Sanford Health.



Lecture for Parents May 7th, 2009

Unmasking ADHD: Cutting Edge Knowledge for Families in Everyday Terms

Presented by Aaron Tabacco, RN, BSN, Faculty & Family Nurse Case Manager, OHSU. Aaron provides in-home care coordination services to families with children with ADHD as part of an NIH-funded research study at OSHU.

His specialties include how Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) affects child development and behavior, basic approaches to ADHD treatments including working with medical providers and schools, and parent support and education for managing the symptoms of ADHD.

This lecture is the first of many collaborative projects in which the Foundation will participate. It is a part of a

series presented by Oregon Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs (OCCYSHN) Community Connections Network (CCN), Salem Hospital Regional Rehabilitation Center and the GEM Children's Foundation.

The lecture is open to the public and free of charge.

NEXT ISSUE

- Learn about the *Help Me Grow Model* for a Call Center
- See our Final LOGO
- Hear about our next Project
- Spotlight on a Board Member



Oregon Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs (OCCYSHN)

Community Connections Network:
linking health, education and community services through a network of community-based teams

A Lecture for Parents

Unmasking ADHD:

Cutting Edge Knowledge for Families in Everyday Terms

Aaron Tabacco, RN, BSN
Faculty & Family Nurse Case Manager, OHSU

Date: May 7, 2009

Time: 6:30- 8:00 PM

**Location: Salem Hospital Regional Rehabilitation Center
2561 Center Street NE
Salem, Oregon**

Spanish language interpreter will be provided

PRESENTED BY:

**Salem CCN in collaboration with
Salem Hospital Regional Rehabilitation Center &**

The GEM Children's Foundation
A Legacy of Dr. George E. Miller

Questions

Contact Dina Triest, LCSW, Salem Hospital Regional Rehabilitation Center 503-561-5960

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