

SPRING 2017

capable

Able

A seasonal publication by
The Woodlands, celebrating
the marvelous abilities of
everyone we serve.

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ready



A Real Road to the *Future*.....



There is exciting news to report in this issue of **Able**... The Woodlands is preparing to break ground on a new road which will connect us to our future!

The organization's recent purchase of the 21.6-acre property adjacent to our campus was accomplished with our mission in mind... to enrich the lives of children and adults with disability and chronic illness.

The expansion will begin with the construction of a road and parking lot that will connect the present campus to the future development area. Through careful work and planning, The Woodlands has secured funding for the new road from the Gaming Economic Development Fund and the Department of Community and Economic Development Multimodal Transportation Fund.

The Woodlands is well known regionally for its current resources, which features activities for children and adults with disabilities including an adaptive par-three golf course, a Wellness and Fitness Center, a nature trail, an Activities Center, a zip-line, lodges for overnight camps, programs and retreats, an archery range, a sports court, music and computer rooms, and much more. Immediate plans for the new property include the reconstitution of a large pond for adapted fishing and boating, and the construction of an accessible nature trail.

Individuals who attend specialized programming come from local areas and some travel many miles to enjoy our unique resources and benefit from what we are most proud of...the guidance and companionship of our extraordinary staff.

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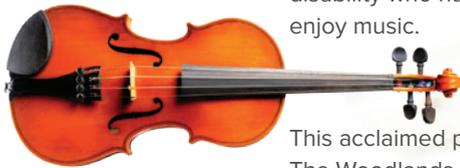
The Amazing Power of Music



Notes from the Heart includes two week-long summer camp programs (one for youth and teens and one for adults) and a year-round Music Ensemble curriculum with performances.

The program offers a wide variety of activities and instruction that range from music appreciation, theory, composition, singing, and instrument playing under the guidance of internationally and locally known musicians, artists, conductors and educators. The Notes from the Heart Program maintains a huge emphasis on having fun, along with providing a valuable social component for the participants.

*M*usic is an art form that binds us all together, and The Notes from the Heart Music Program is the perfect destination for individuals with disability who have an interest in or simply enjoy music.



This acclaimed program, a hallmark of The Woodlands, includes the instruction by renowned music professionals Dr. Andrew Clark, Director of Choral Activities and Senior Lecturer on Music at Harvard University; Edward Cumming, Director of Orchestral Activities and Associate Professor at The Hartt School; Lily Abreu, accomplished Carnegie Mellon University Voice Instructor, and Lucas Richman, Music Director and Conductor for the Bangor Symphony Orchestra.

The summer camps each culminate in an open-to-the-public, standing room only outdoor concert. These concerts are often described by attendees as being among the most beautiful and inspiring performances they have ever seen. Mark your calendar: the Adult performance will take place on Friday, July 7th at 7:00pm, and the Youth and Teen concert is scheduled for Friday, July 14th at 7:00pm.

Interested in becoming incredibly inspired?

Check out a brief but captivating video which captures the vision of internationally renowned instructors and the joy of accomplishment of the participants in The Woodlands Notes from the Heart Music Program, at www.mywoodlands.org. (Click on "Programs" and then choose "Notes from the Heart.")

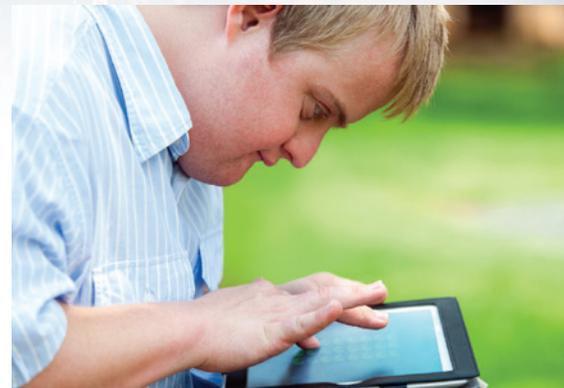


Navigating a **DIGITAL WORLD...**

AS society becomes more and more focused on digital communication, the need to stay connected increases for all of us. For people who have difficulty typing on a keyboard or those who learn or communicate in a different manner than what is mainstream, navigating apps and working from a computer can be a challenge. Fortunately, technology continues to develop in this area. Check out the following resources:

Avaz is an AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) app that uses symbols with voice tags to assist children who have complex communication needs. More than 15,000 easy to understand symbols and the ability to allow the user/caregiver to add custom symbols with voiceovers make Avaz a vast resource for children with Down Syndrome, Angelman Syndrome, Aspergers and other non-verbal conditions. Users communicate through touch, and hear word sounds with each selection. Avaz allows caregivers to track the user's success and lets the app level adapt and grow with the user. A free download for parents/caregivers is available to sample and determine a desired level subscription, which is monthly or yearly. Avaz "Communication Adventure" can be downloaded to an iPhone, Android, Windows and Mac computers and tablets. For more information, see www.avazapp.com.

Dragon Dictation, by Nuance, is a voice recognition app that allows the verbal user to use his or her phone or computer with speech. This resource is helpful for those who have difficulty using a standard keyboard. Send texts, compose notes, update Facebook and dictate documents all by voice recognition. To learn more, visit www.nuance.com.



Choiceworks Bee Visual, LLC, uses simple and friendly imagery to help children with developmental delays complete daily routines, understand their feelings, suggests appropriate response patterns, and improve their waiting skills (such as taking turns and avoiding interrupting). This app is designed for caregivers/instructors to customize per specific child needs and goals. Bee Visual has also designed a similarly engineered calendar app. To find out more, see www.beevisual.com.



Meaningful MAINTENANCE

Maintaining The Woodlands' campus presents many challenges, and volunteer groups help tremendously with keeping our grounds and facilities fully accessible to those we serve. The Corporate Volunteer Program, which began in 2002, fosters meaningful partnerships between The Woodlands and

local organizations that develop lasting experiences for all involved. For more information on the many opportunities available, and how to get your company involved, email Francesca Sacco at fsacco@woodlandsfoundation.org, or visit www.mywoodlands.org.



531

Total corporate
volunteers in 2016



23

Total number of
corporations in 2016



3,127

Total volunteer hours
served in 2016

*Visit us on social media
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great things we're doing!*





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Our Mission

To enrich the lives of children and adults
with disability and chronic illness.