

## Grand Opening Held

On a beautiful, sunny day this past July, DDC Clinic celebrated the Grand Opening and Dedication of its new facility at 15809 Madison Road in Middlefield. The day was truly perfect.

The Grand Opening, a culmination of five years of hard work and planning, was highlighted by a ribbon-cutting ceremony officiated by DDC's board president, Dr. Tom Stone, and its Medical Director, Dr. Heng Wang.

DDC is especially grateful to attendees Dr. and Mrs. D. Holmes Morton from the Clinic for Special Children in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Speaking to a crowd of over 100, Dr. Morton thanked Dr. Wang for his dedication and praised the community for its tremendous support. He also reminded everyone that while a large amount of work has already been done, DDC is just at the beginning, with much work still remaining.

*On behalf of DDC, its board of directors, staff, and patients, thank you to everyone who helped make this event possible. Your generous contributions of money, services, and materials, along with your unfailing support and commitment have been heartwarming and uplifting. We look forward to many years of continued service as we work to make a difference in the lives of special needs children everywhere.*



Dr. D. Holmes Morton (right) presents DDC Board President Tom Stone with an Amish print to commemorate DDC's Grand Opening.



(from left) DDC board members Tom Medhurst, Gordon Safran, JoAnn Leach, and Dr. John Tumbush stand at the new clinic site with Geauga United Way's Executive Director, Kimm Leininger (middle) at DDC's Grand Opening.

## United Way of Geauga County Provides Funding

**United Way of Geauga County** has again designated DDC Clinic to receive generous funding to support an education program that will provide information to families caring for children with genetic diseases in our county. The first pro-

gram outreach that these funds sponsored was a meeting at our clinic for families of children with Cohen syndrome. Cohen syndrome is a rare disease with only a handful of children identified nationally—but has been found to be more common in our immediate community.

This outreach is especially significant because it is the first-ever program for Cohen syndrome in the United States and will provide support for families who have felt isolated and alone in dealing with this rare genetic disorder. Fortunately, this meeting was just the beginning - DDC is in the process of setting up newsletters for the families and caretakers of these children, along with a web site, informational brochures and more.

Thank you **United Way of Geauga County** for your continued support that allows DDC to offer these innovative programs to families so desperately in need. For more information please call our clinic office at 440.632.1668.

## DDC Funding Update

- ◆ Thank you to **The Mid-Atlantic Connection for PKU and Allied Disorders, Inc.**, that recently awarded DDC Clinic \$12,500. These funds will allow DDC to launch a pilot study researching factors that might be responsible for different dietary phenylalanine tolerance levels between siblings with PKU.
- ◆ Thank you Geauga County Commissioners. At their request, **The State of Ohio, Department of Development, Office of Housing and Community Partnerships** recently awarded \$25,000 to DDC Clinic. This money will be allocated for programs and services under our Children's Fund for families with special needs children.

*On behalf of DDC's Board of Directors, staff, and patients—thank you! We are truly grateful for this financial support that will allow us to continue our groundbreaking work and be of immeasurable help to our patients and families!*

## President's Letter

Dear Friends:

Summers are always a busy time in the country. Warm days are filled with chores and occasional breaks for wading in the creek. The evenings give way to hard fought ballgames in the fields beside country schools. This summer was cool and wet until the first of August. The drought was finally broken. The rain stopped long enough for the grand opening of the DDC Clinic.

There is a real sense of accomplishment among the families now that the clinic is open. Dr. Wang is seeing patients and continues to make progress toward identifying genetic disorders and providing comprehensive medical care. Our sense of accomplishment has not lead to a sense of complacency, however. Our mission will not be complete until every child is born healthy and every disabled child receives the best of care.

Last Spring, the board began its renewal by making subtle but important changes in our mission statement. Our mission now reads, *"To enhance the quality of life for special needs children with*

*metabolic and inherited disorders through early diagnosis and treatment, research, and education."* Lengthy discussions were held about the meaning of each word and every punctuation mark. In September the board met to review DDC's strategic plan. This was a new experience for some of our newer board members, but any apprehension disappeared with the facilitation of board member Darla Klein. We were pleased by the accomplishments. Still, much work needs to be done.

The board has renewed its commitment to expand our unique services to children throughout northeast Ohio and has strengthened its resolve to expand the breadth of DDC's educational services. Committees are being restructured to facilitate these objectives.

A journey well begun can still go astray if you do not keep your eyes on the goal. DDC Clinic's journey is well begun. With your continued support we will keep our mission.

Sincerely yours,

*Tom Stone*



## DDC's 2nd Annual Don Leach Golf Outing Hits Hole-in-One



*Thank you to the following sponsors for helping to make our Second Annual Golf Outing a success!*



**Black Tee Sponsor (\$2,000+)**

Western Reserve  
Farm Cooperative

**Blue Tee Sponsor (\$1,000+)**

Monroe Plumbing

**Yellow Tee Sponsors (\$500+)**

Camelot Investments  
Red Maple Inn

**Red Tee Sponsors (\$250+)**

Portage Precision Polymers  
T. Medhurst Builders

**Friends of DDC:**

Tom and Judy Benda  
Bob and Linda Toth

**Hole-in-One Sponsor (prize of \$25,000)**

The Frank Agency

It was the day after the "East Coast Blackout" and we were pleased to be having our event at all. As 36 golfers readied themselves for the tee-off at the Grandview Country Club, Bill Fisher, Bob Berg, and Cathy Driver fired up the grill just in time for lunch. Once on the course, golfers tried their best to hit them long—and not so often. Beating Alex "the kid" Salashour on a Par 3 proved to be difficult. While no-one claimed the \$25,000 hole-in-one prize, Monroe Plumbing's foursome (Keith Monroe, Joe Lesko, Robert Fisher, and Jeff Coleman) came up big winners—shooting a 13 under par 57—nice work guys! And surely, no other foursome had more fun on the course than the team of Martha Hyatt, JoAnne Szydowski, Karen Peters, and Joan Cechinato—you ladies certainly know how to have a good time!

Dinner and the silent auction were wonderful! Items from hand-painted turkey feathers to Indians tickets and Amish-made crafts kept guests busy and bidding fierce.

Thank you to Crist and Pete Miller (Sheoga Flooring and Hardwoods) who teamed up to design and make beautiful cherry plaques for each of our sponsors. Once again, through the support and generous donations we received from our golfers and many sponsors, we were able to raise over \$8,000. **THANK YOU!!**

Watch for upcoming news on next year's event which promises to be even bigger and better with no blackout (we hope!)



Rev. Larry Marshall (left), representing the Painesville District United Methodist Church, presents DDC board president, Tom Stone, with proceeds from their golf outing held in August.

*Special thanks to event organizers Bob Berg and Jeff Klein—your commitment and hard work are greatly appreciated! Sincere appreciation to Michael Johnson of Grandview Country Club and its staff for your excellent service in preparing the course and restaurant for our use.*



## Early Intervention



“Something just doesn't seem right. Sara should be talking by now.” At times many parents have concerns about their child. Sometimes those concerns can be easily resolved, but at other times those concerns increase as a child develops. One family has a lovely one-year-old daughter who cannot sit up by herself. At two years she is not yet walking. In another part of town, a 2-1/2 year old boy just jabbars away but family members can't really understand what he is saying. Yet another child does not seem interested in playing with all of his toys; ignoring others around him, he is content spinning the wheels on a toy truck.

When parents voice their concerns to family and friends the response is often “Let's wait until he's older and see what happens. He'll probably outgrow it.” Parents need to know that waiting may not resolve the problem. Research shows that 85% of a baby's brain development occurs during the first three years of life. These years present a prime opportunity to reorganize or “fine-tune” pathways to learning for a young child.

Each family wants to do what is best for their child but often do not know where to turn for information and assistance they need. Help is just a phone call away. **Help Me Grow** specialists are available to complete a

developmental screening on any child from birth to three years. Following the screening, if additional help is needed, **Help Me Grow** collaborates closely with the early intervention team at Metzenbaum Center to schedule developmental evaluations with a number of specialists including speech and language pathologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and early intervention specialists. These services are provided free of charge to families. Ongoing therapies are available in Geauga County, for children who qualify, through Metzenbaum Center as well as other public and private settings.

Additional resources are

available to families including toddler classes, family support and informational workshops, service coordination, and respite care services. Each child is a unique individual. Very young children may have special needs that require specialized assistance. We want to stress that families do not need to travel this path alone. Together with other families and qualified professionals, your path can be one that leads to success for you and your child.

If you have any questions about early intervention please contact Help Me Grow at (440) 285-1100 or JoAnn Leach at (440) 729-0026.

### Welcome, Leah!

We are pleased to welcome Nurse Practitioner, Leah Nye, to our staff. Leah has past experience working with special needs children and is excited to return to this rewarding work. Already the office staff and patients have come to appreciate her sparkling personality and cheerful disposition—along with the smile she always has for those around her.

Residing in Windsor, Ohio, with her husband and three of her four children, Leah learned about the clinic through local news coverage and knew immediately this job was for her. Though the position was not yet available in 2002, her persistence paid off and we were pleased to bring her on board this past July.

When asked what she likes best about the job, she replied, “It's definitely working with the patients. Each one presents with a heartwarming and unique story.”

Welcome, Leah—your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with you for many years to come!

### *DDC is a NON-PROFIT organization.*

#### *Your donations, along with corporate funding, allow us to:*

- ◆ Provide medical services to non-insured patients at a 50% reduction in cost.
- ◆ Provide patients with expensive nutritional supplements at a fraction of the cost. These are much-needed, but have been too costly for many families to afford until now.
- ◆ Provide patients requiring special diets with reduced-cost, low-protein foods. Making these expensive foods more affordable and easier to obtain has had a positive impact in many of our patients' lives.

#### *Ways you can continue to support us. . .*

- ◆ Contact us at 440.632.1668 to learn about planned giving, donations of stock or securities, or other giving options.
- ◆ Fill out your company's matching gift form and send it to us with your donation.
- ◆ Volunteer on one of several committees to assist in DDC's growth.
- ◆ Send your gift in memory of a family member, to mark a special occasion or to honor a friend. We will send an acknowledgement at your request to you and whoever you designate.
- ◆ Let us know of any business, corporation, foundation, or individual you may know of that is interested in supporting us—we would be glad to contact them.



**DDC Clinic**  
for Special Needs Children  
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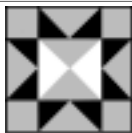
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**MISSION STATEMENT**

*To enhance the quality of life for special needs children with metabolic and inherited disorders through early diagnosis and treatment, research, and education.*



*DDC Clinic's  
Fourth Annual*

**Patchwork**

*Benefit  
Dinner and Auction*

*Saturday, May 8, 2004*



**As you consider end-of-the-year gift giving . . .**

As the end of the year quickly approaches, many people traditionally set this time of year aside for their meaningful giving. Whether considering gifts to loved ones or for charitable purposes, a little thought and careful planning can increase the rewards to those who give and receive.

There are many ways to make charitable gifts more effective to achieve financial and philanthropic goals. Many have found that, by "honoring" or "memorializing" someone close to them, monetary gifts are made more meaningful. Additionally, the designation of gifts made through transfers of securities, property, retirement plans, life insurance, wills, or charitable trusts, can sometime seem complex, but offer tremendous rewards to all involved.

This holiday season, we ask you to please remember DDC in *your* gift planning. Your gift will make a difference in the lives of our special children and in those of future generations. Blessings of the Season to you all and Happy New Year!

DDC Clinic for Special Needs Children

I will gladly support DDC. Enclosed is my check.

My Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please make the donation in memory/ honor of:

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Occasion \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Please acknowledge my gift to:**

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Work Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to:**

**DDC Clinic  
P.O. Box 845  
Middlefield, OH 44062**

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