

The Building Block

An e-newsletter of the J. D. McCarty Center for children with developmental disabilities

Social Language Group Offered this Summer at the McCarty Center

Kelly Hawkins, speech-language pathologist here at the McCarty Center, will be conducting a social language group program this summer. The program will meet every Monday for six weeks beginning June 22, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

“The objective of this program,” explained Hawkins, “is to help adolescents and young teens with social language impairments to overcome some of the social language obstacles they face in their day-to-day interactions with their peers and adults.”

Individuals with social language impairments are varied in their cognitive, social and language abilities. These children may do well on psycho-education and/or language testing and consequently fall through the cracks in special education placement.

Social language impairments can effect anyone, but are most commonly found in children with Autism, Aspergers, ADHD and non-verbal learning disabilities.



Kelly Hawkins, Speech-Language Pathologist

“These are often bright children,” Hawkins said, “who may seem to have a difficult time connecting with their peers and may seek out the company of adults. These children may desire to have relationships with their peers, but struggle frequently. They don’t realize it’s their social behavior that makes others react negatively, especially their peer group.”

The social language group is designed to give these kids a safe, honest, secure environment to learn and practice a variety of social language behaviors.

Social language skills to be covered and practiced in this program include: how to initiate conversation, emotions/body language, asking for help and staying on topic.

To be eligible for the social language group program participants must be between the ages of 10 and 16, have social language impairment and must be able to participate in small group activities with minimal behavioral support.



Kelly Hawkins demonstrates to the group an inappropriate way to greet someone.

Conquer the Heat! Conquer the Hills! Norman Conquest Returns to McCarty Center

Conquer the heat! Conquer the hills! That is the mantra for the Norman Bicycle League's 14th annual Norman Conquest bicycle tour to be held on Saturday, July 18.

The bicycle ride will begin and end at the McCarty Center. Proceeds from the Norman Conquest will go to support the Camp ClapHans scholarship endowment fund. Camp ClapHans is a summer camp project of the McCarty Center.

"We are pleased to once again be a part of this regional cycling event," said Uwe von Schamann, director of development for the McCarty Center. "Proceeds from this event will help to fund all or part of a child's camp tuition for Camp ClapHans.

Registration and packet pick up will be held Friday, July 17 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday morning beginning at 6:00 a.m. with the ride starting at 7:30 a.m.

To pre-register on line visit www.active.com.

The Norman Conquest offers four routes for riders to choose. The first route is a 10-mile family tour through the city of Norman. The second route is a 22-mile ride with some hills. The third route is a 46-mile course that is considered hilly. And the fourth and final route is the 66-mile, very hilly course that the Norman Conquest has become known for among bicycle enthusiasts in this region of the country.

The cost to participate for a single rider is \$25. The cost includes a Polar Bottle and lunch. After July 10, the cost is \$30, which includes lunch, but does not guarantee a Polar Bottle. The family tour is \$10, which includes lunch only.

For tandem riders the cost is \$35, which includes two Polar Bottles and two lunches. After July 10, the cost is \$40, which includes two lunches, but does not guarantee Polar Bottles. The family tour for tandem riders is \$15 and includes two lunches.

For more information about the Norman Conquest, including route maps, visit www.normanconquest.bicycleleague.com.



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Uwe's Corner



with
Uwe von Schamann
Director of Development

In collaboration with James Kruger Productions we have created a unique opportunity for you to contribute to the McCarty Center without ever having to write a check.

The program is called "Three in Big D." The Sooners will be playing in two, and very likely three, football games in Dallas this season. We open with BYU on September 5 at the new Dallas Cowboys Stadium. On October 17 we have our annual meeting with Texas in the Cotton Bowl. And finally, the Big 12 Championship game on December 5 at the

Dallas Cowboys Stadium.

A special rate has been negotiated for a block of rooms at the Sheridan Dallas North Hotel, located at 4801 LBJ Freeway. That's the corner of LBJ Freeway and the Dallas Tollway.

When you make your room reservation for one or all three of these games at the Sheridan Dallas North Hotel, the McCarty Center will earn 5% of the room rate. Make sure to ask for a room from the McCarty Center block of rooms.

The room rate for the September 5 BYU game is \$129 per night.

The room rate for the October 17 OU-Texas game is \$169 per night.

If you book a room for both games, the room rate is a low, low \$109 per night.

All room reservations include a full, hot breakfast buffet for two.

You can also beat the traffic and the parking fees at the stadium by taking advantage of bus transportation to and from the game. The cost is \$25 per person. There will be a sign up

table in the hotel lobby.

The Sheridan Dallas North Hotel is a 14-story high rise hotel. Warm and comfortable, the guest rooms will make all you Sooner fans feel right at home.

Amenities include high speed internet access, state-of-the-art fitness center, indoor/outdoor heated pool and sauna. The hotel also offers free transportation to and from nearby locations including the Galleria Mall where you'll find Macy's, Saks Fifth Avenue, Nordstrom's and over 400 specialty shops and boutiques, as well as an indoor skating rink.

Big 12 Championship Game room rates will be available a little later on www.Oklahomavstexas.com.

Tax Deductible Donations

We are a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit hospital. Donation checks may be made out to the J. D. McCarty Center or the J. D. McCarty Center Foundation. The IRS has designated these donations tax deductible.

For questions about supporting the McCarty Center, contact Uwe von Schamann, director of development, at 405.307.2804 or uschamann@jdmc.org.

Donation Card

Thank you for your support of the programs, services and capital building needs of the J. D. McCarty Center. Please fill out this card, cut it out and mail it along with your check to Uwe von Schamann, Director of Development, J. D. McCarty Center, 2002 East Robinson Street, Norman, Oklahoma 73070.

Make your check payable to: J. D. McCarty Center Foundation

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