

Dear Family and Friends,

If you were on our mailing list last year, you may recall the letter highlighting our “adventures” with our son Kenny and his Asperger Syndrome diagnosis (a social skill disorder on the autism spectrum) along with several sensory and learning disabilities (LDs) of which we were unaware. Please go to www.grrrr8.com/kenny to see that letter and weekly newsletters.

Since Fall 2005, Kenny has been attending The Community School in Decatur, GA, a school that specializes in addressing, identifying and exercising the social skills that “invisibly” form the core of how we interact with others and the world around us. To an Aspergers child, those skills (ex: reading tone of voice, facial expression, body language) do not come naturally. Problems may manifest as getting overloaded in loud, busy situations; being unable to recognize good-natured teasing (and thus overreacting to a perceived threat); being the “moral policeman” to others when his own house is not in order; not understanding a joke – the Asperger world can be very literal and, compounded with his language LD’s, very confusing and frightening. The Community School provides an environment to develop social fundamentals, while still focusing on an individualized academic curriculum, to include working on areas of his LDs, and physical activity, in a school that features a 2:1 student-staff ratio.

The school pays a lot of attention to Kenny’s social-emotional growth. We have seen positive changes in the way Kenny interacts with his peer group over the past year, and his overload “meltdowns” are far fewer as well. He is making real progress, but still has a very long way to go. We are eager to help this school, not only for Kenny, but for the growing number of autistic adolescents who struggle to develop solid friendships and find meaning and happiness in the world.

The Community School program split off from a larger school to become an independent school in 2005 and is incorporated as a 501(c)3 charitable organization. While grant money is a possibility in the future, the school needs to have some longevity before most grant agencies will even consider it, so these first startup years are difficult. This means that we have to raise money to help this school thrive, and we would love to have your support.

We deeply appreciate those of you who were able to help last year! The tuition is significant (\$20,000), but covers only about 70% of the cost to educate each student. This means that the school has to raise about \$100,000 this year to be able to provide this nurturing, supportive environment for Kenny and his classmates. We did pretty a pretty good job last year, but did not raise enough . . . our dedicated director took no salary at all for the 2005-2006 school year.

We have truly been blown away by ALL of the staff’s love for and dedication to our kids. Thanks to the efforts of several teachers who have done fundraising parties on their own (a Redneck Fundraiser and Tim’s 1st Annual 40th Birthday Fundraiser) we’re on our way to reaching that goal, but we need your help.

We’d love for you to consider making a \$25 or \$50 or \$100 tax-deductible donation (or more!) to The Community School. They will send you a receipt for your tax-deductible donation. You can either mail a check to the school (see next page) or make a secure donation online with a credit card at www.thecommunityschool.net and learn more about the school there. Feel free to contact us for more information about Kenny and the school. You may also contact the director of the school, Dave Nelson (who is also a parent of an adolescent with autism).

For those of you who at this time cannot or do not wish to make a donation, you can help in another way . . . **please pray for this fundraising effort.** We truly believe we were led to this group to help our son find meaning, happiness and his place in this world and we have seen the results of prayer.

Thanks so much for your love and support,
Steve & Lee Busey
770-977-0037



Enclosed is my tax deductible donation in the amount of

\$ 25.00 _____ **\$ 50.00** _____

\$ 100.00 _____ **\$ 500.00** _____

\$1000.00 _____ **or write in your amount \$** _____

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

**The family of Kenny Busey, all the students, their families, and the staff of
The Community School thank you for your generous donation.
We will send you a letter for tax purposes.**

Dave Nelson, Director

