

BREAKTHROUGH



improving the lives of adults with autism

WINTER 2013

UPDATE

Great day at the Golf tournament

Monday, September 23rd brought blue skies and over **200 golfers** to Willow Creek Golf Course for the annual **Autism Society and Breakthrough golf tournament**. A morning and afternoon round accommodated all golfers with lunch and dinner from Buddy's BBQ filling everyone's stomach!! The Sports Animal started the morning for us broadcasting live from the club house. We were also fortunate to have the Budweiser portable bar keeping everyone "hydrated" throughout the day. Thank you to our major business sponsors, individual donors, and hole, cart and flag sponsors: **Rocky Top Markets, Pilot Corporation, CocaCola, Cherokee Distributing Co, Eagle Distributing Co, Eagle Transport Corp., The H. T. Hackney Co., Home Federal Bank, Kresge Krew Foundation, OMNI Visions, Phillips and Jordan, Rodefer Moss & Co, Shell/Motiva, Altria, Turkey Creek Land Partners, Barbara Rentenbach, Lemons Construction, The Clayton Family Foundation, Bruce Fox, Mark VII Equipment Co, Wesley Payne, Slush Puppies, University Health System, University Radiologist, PC, UnderArmour, PrestigeBrands, Hackney Service Merchandisers, Robert Russell, Bionomics, Flowers Food Bakeries Group, Ray Evans, Lazard Frères & Co, Rentenbach Constructors, Scott Insurance, Solray, RJ Reynolds, Nanci Travis, Thom Thompson, Ann Furrow, Carr Rehab, John Harber, Carole Schenk, Bud Sherrod, William Slayden, Tony Wright, Mark Hahn, Smartmaps, Andrea White, and Lisa Ross.** A special thank you to all of our golfers who support us every year and contributors to our silent auction...see you all next year!!!



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Upcoming Breakthrough Events:

• It's Back....Bunco for Breakthrough!

Mark your calendars ladies, for Friday, January 17th for another evening of fun, friends and "fellowship." If you've attended before, you know you don't want to miss it (so bring a friend!), if not, make sure we have your email address (earitchie1@gmail.com).

We'll be sending out the signup forms in mid December.

• Take Home the Cellar:

Start thinking about your wine for Take Home the Cellar (hopefully March 8th!)....bring one bottle for the cellar, one to taste and hopefully you'll bring the winner to "take home the cellar!!"

• Run for Autism:

Watch for information on our Run/Walk for Autism in April. Plans now are for the event to be moved up a week to April 5th 2014 so we don't conflict with other races. Let's make this the biggest year ever!!

WE DID IT!!!

Breakthrough receives the Trinity Health Foundation Grant for \$150,000

In our last newsletter, we announced that Breakthrough, in conjunction with Knoxville Area Employment Consortium (KAEC), received a \$15,000 planning grant in the open category for Job Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities from the Trinity Health Foundation (1 of the 124 applicants for the 15 possible planning grants.) In August, we submitted an implementation grant for \$150,000 proposing a hugely successful employer-driven model, Project SEARCH which was developed at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. The goal of this proposal was to implement Project SEARCH sites at Children's Hospital of East Tennessee (ETCH) and the University of Tennessee Medical Center (UTMC). These sites will create an on-going source of well paying jobs and make an impact on the traditional low employment rates of people with disabilities in this area. On October 30th, it was announced that Breakthrough was one of 5 successful applicants for the \$150,000 grant! Collaborating with KAEC, Breakthrough will be the agency working with UTMC and the Cerebral Palsy Center will be working with ETCH to bring the first Project Search site to the state of Tennessee and develop one of the very few adult models in the country! Interns should be working at each of the sites by February 2014. we are VERY proud and VERY excited!!!!

End of the Year Tax Saving and Donation Opportunities

As the end of the year approaches, we hope you will consider making a yearend gift to Breakthrough. We are always very appreciative of gifts of cash to help us meet our goals but want our faithful supporters to be aware of other opportunities which may better suit their financial plans. For instance, did you know that you are able to donate appreciated securities? By donating such securities, you not only get the full value of your gift but also avoid paying capital gain taxes that might occur on an outright sell. Many of our contributors prefer to donate or transfer their stock donations directly into our Breakthrough account. If you are interested, we would be happy to provide additional information. Please check with your tax advisor about this donation idea that many are using.

Contact Beth Ritchie at 719-0534 if we can be of further assistance.



Meet Branden Cross . . . and did you know that Breakthrough has a Bakery?

In late September of this year, Branden was offered a job at the Breakthrough Bakery as Pastry Chef I. He currently works 4 hours each week under the direction of Ashlee Day and guidance of his Job Coach, Amanda Tate. His duties and responsibilities include dropping and baking cookies, applying a working knowledge of basic baking concepts, understanding and communicating information regarding allergens and ingredients that are in all of the baked goods, maintaining a clean and sanitary preparation space, shopping for supplies and selling merchandise to the public at Farmer's Markets. So far in his role at the Bakery, Branden has learned to follow basic safety rules in the kitchen, developed an understanding of how to relate to his supervisor and learned the important basic vocational principles such as arriving for work on time, wearing and properly maintaining his

uniform and taking responsibility for his actions. Branden will be considered for a promotion to Pastry Chef II in the future if he completes the criteria and learns the skills necessary to earn a promotion.

And yes, Breakthrough has a Bakery! We make everything from scratch and use the best quality ingredients for our products. Consider partnering with Breakthrough's Bakery as an excellent way to promote your company's image and at the same time adding the sweet touch of cookies. We can even make a custom logo to make a great impression with your own branding. The bakery offers an assortment of sizes and packaging options to please your friends or clients. Flavors include Chocolate Chip, Snicker Doodle and Peanut Butter with sizes from ½ dozen **bags** for \$3.50 to a 3 dozen **box** for \$22.00 (complete



information is available on our face book page <https://www.facebook.com/BreakthroughBakery>). For the holidays, gift baskets (including gluten free) are also available. Please contact Ashlee Day at 865.247.0065 ext. 21 or aday@breakthroughknoxville.com to place an order.

Please don't forget the Kroger Rewards Program!



As mentioned in our last newsletter, Breakthrough is now participating in Kroger's Community Rewards Program. There is no cost to you, no impact on your purchases, no personal information traded by Kroger. . . just a wonderful opportunity for Breakthrough to earn up to \$8,000 a quarter while you purchase your groceries!!! Please go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com to enroll your Kroger Plus Card at Kroger's secure website (top right corner). All linked Kroger Plus Cards in the household will begin earning funds for Breakthrough. If you already have an account, just log in and choose Breakthrough as the non-profit of your choice. If you do not have an account, it will take you a few minutes to set one up. After doing so (by just inputting your name, address, rewards card number), you can then link your reward number to Breakthrough. Please consider helping us earn funds when you shop. . . easy for you. . . so necessary for providing services to our clients!!! Thank you as always for your support!!! PLEASE sign up TODAY!!!

Thank you Walgreens for your support!!!

For several weeks this summer, **Walgreens** stores in the greater Knoxville area sold paper **puzzle pieces** to benefit Breakthrough. **One hundred percent** of the donations went to Breakthrough. Breakthrough raised over \$1600 from your donations and Walgreens help with this campaign! We have plans to do this again in April of 2014 for Autism Awareness month. Thank you for purchasing the puzzle pieces and thank you Walgreens for all you do for individuals with disabilities!!



Chairman's Corner

It's hard to believe that my term as the "new" board Chair has been going on for two months now. As past Chair, Andrea White stated in our last newsletter that Breakthrough is in the process of a number of exciting changes in our organizational structure and still faces some on-going challenges and opportunities. We do this with some new board members and without some long-term retiring members. At our October board meeting, we said goodbye to Nancy Carnes, who faithfully served us as both a board member and also as board chair. Nancy's service and contributions were extremely valuable as she helped guide the organization through our growing years. On behalf of the entire board and Breakthrough family, a special thanks for all your years of services.

Along with Nancy's departure, however, there comes the addition of two new members. John Thomas, a former board member, is returning for another term. John is a long-term member who is very active on our Finance Committee and also serves as chairman of our golf tournament, sponsored jointly with the Autism Society of East Tennessee. A new addition is Lisa Skinner, who has graciously accepted our offer to join the board. Lisa brings a great deal of experience serving non-profit organizations in a variety of roles, and we are fortunate to have her on the team.

As was previously announced, Breakthrough had formed a search committee of current and former board members, along with a retired professional with extensive experience in our area of service to find the new Executive Director for our organization. We are very excited to announce that the board has hired our new Executive Director, Marco Tomat.

Marco has a strong background in non-profit service organizations and is an excellent manager and leader. His first day was December 2nd, so there will be more information and comments from him in our next newsletter, but we are very pleased and fortunate to have him join our team.

Work continues on Phase III of our HUD residences. Beth Ritchie, who has helped cover a number of responsibilities during this transitional phase of replacing our Executive Director, has been a driving force in keeping our latest residential phase on track. More updates to come in our next publication.

The board would like to extend its gratitude to Anita Richmond, who stepped in during this transitional time and provided exceptional leadership and guidance while our search was conducted. It was comforting to know that Anita, along with our current management team, had the operations under control. Thanks to all our staff, as well, for their efforts.

I am looking forward to turning our focus to more strategic efforts. We have goals for capital improvements to enhance both our Day Services Program location as well as developing a more suitable office working environment for our staff. As always, the people we serve are our first priority, and we feel we are putting the right team in place to continue improving and serving them and their families. I look forward to an even better year as we head in to 2014. Happy Holidays to all of you who help make Breakthrough the organization it is.

John Lawrence
Chairman of the Board

Green Mountain Coffee Company returns and we look GREAT!!!

On October 25th, **volunteers** from Green Mountain Coffee Company returned to use their muscles to beautify our neighborhood AGAIN!! Really, only seeing is believing and appreciating, but the change is dramatic. They brought in a "dumpster" from Waste Management so all the trash, brush, limbs and trees could "easily" be removed from the right side of Thurman Lane before the cul de sac begins! The change is dramatic and magnificent!!! We can't begin to thank them enough for their efforts and the lift in spirits and moral that it gives to the residents and their families every time they drive down the street!! Thank you, **Green Mountain Coffee Company volunteers**, for your support of Breakthrough. you're the greatest!!!



Breakthrough Board of Directors:

John Lawrence
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Denny Dukes
Vice Chairman

Chris Hockman
Treasurer

Kathie Dorran
Secretary

Lynn Bolton

Fred Coe

Lance Fisher

Kathy Hart

Ron Koksall

Terry Ray

Lisa Ross

Carole Schenk

Lisa Skinner

John Thomas

Andrea White

Breakthrough Staff:

Marco Tomat
Executive Director

Beth Ritchie
Assistant Executive Director

Cynthia Buback
Director of Supported Employment

Melanie Cody
Office Manager

Angie Davidson
Director of Staff and Staff Development

Ashley Day
Administrative Assistant

Sandy Honeycutt
Quality Assurance Coordinator

Jason Riddle
Residential Director

Deana Rutherford
Director of Personal Assistance Services and R&R





We've all been good! Can you contribute to Santa's goodie bag?

Breakthrough's Day, Supported Employment and Residential services are ALWAYS in need of items to assist with their programming. Do you have any of these items that you are not using or can you donate new ones to put under our "tree" this holiday season?

- A SmartBoard
- All levels of books, with the exception of "board books"
- Craft supplies: markers, crayons, colored pencils, glue, construction paper, googly eyes, pom-poms, elastic for making bracelets, beads, etc....really any kind of craft supply is appreciated.
- Household items, mostly small kitchen appliances.
- Game fly and/or Netflix memberships
- Community Sports Equipment
- Second generation or above iPads (approximately 15)
- Heavy duty dining room table and chairs (6)
- Curtains
- Cookie sheets
- Towels
- Paper cutter
- Measuring cups
- Sharpie markers
- Ink Pens
- Desk chairs
- Scanner/Printer
- Laptop computer
- Restaurant Gift cards

We are so grateful for the support of our donors and friends who help us in so many ways. Please contact the office at 865-247-0065 or Beth Ritchie at 865-719-0534 or earitchie11@gmail.com if you can help. Thank you for your support!!

Put a candle in your window and support individuals with disabilities!!!

Breakthrough and East Tennessee Technology Access Center (ETTAC) will be collaborating again this year to sell candles in support of individuals with disabilities for the holidays with our "Light up the Night" campaign! All candles are battery operated and light sensitive. . . .no cords and no having to remember to turn them on or off!! However, best of all, they are selling for \$10 each this year (last year they were \$20), and Breakthrough still receives \$5 for each candle sold!! If you don't need them for the holidays, purchase them for April (Autism Awareness month) and use a blue bulb for the "Light it up Blue" campaign to shine a light on autism awareness (thanks, supporter John Downing for that great idea!). Contact Beth Ritchie to place your order at earitchie11@gmail.com. Please put "Candles" in the heading. Thanks as always for your support!



Construction begins on Breakthrough Phase III

If you visit our offices or drive down Thurman Lane, you'll notice equipment is back on site again!! On September 25th, Breakthrough closed on our third grant with HUD. This will begin our Phase III construction on two additional homes and 4 single "apartment units." Currently, there is a great deal of earth being moved, but we hope to have foundations in place any day now. As construction progresses, we'll keep you up to date in this newsletter. . . . completion is scheduled for mid 2014!!

Calling all Scouts!

Do you know of a Boy Scout troop or any Eagle Scouts needing projects? Breakthrough has plenty. . . help with our warehouse cleanup, walking paths in the neighborhood, projects at the Day Services building, landscaping. . . let us know if you can help!!! Contact Beth Ritchie at 865-719-0534 or earitchie11@gmail.com

Thank you to our Donors!

Happy Holidays to all our friends and family!!! Once again, we want to express our gratitude for the continued support of our loyal donors. Breakthrough has received donations from the following individuals/businesses since our fall newsletter.

Mr. Gregory Baker
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Baker
Butler, Vines and Babb
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Brizzolara
Ms. Judi Brookshire
Ms. Barbara Chandler
Central Flats and Taps
Ms. JoAnn Doty
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Mr. Joe C. Thomas Jr.
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In-Kind donations:

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Myers
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