



wishes
you a
merry
& bright

holiday
season



Birdies for Charity

Kinetic Kids has been a beneficiary of The Valero Texas Open's "Birdies for Charity" Challenge since 2005, raising over \$73,708 to date. 100% of "Birdies for Charity" donations go directly to Kinetic Kids and 5% of the funds are matched by The Texas Open with numerous incentives to earn more money. This year, we need your help to reach our

goal of \$11,500 by March 24, 2015. There are many ways to participate:

- **Make a one-time donation or make a pledge for every "birdie"** (one stroke under par for a hole) made at the Valero Texas Open. In 2014, there were 1,784 birdies made, so a pledge of \$0.01 yielded a donation of \$17.84.
- Guess the correct number of "birdies" with your donation and **win a 3-night stay at the JW Marriott**, including 2 rounds of golf, spa treatment and breakfast for 2!
- Kinetic Kids' participants can **win prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in total sales** by getting friends and family involved via social media or door-to-door sales.
- Spectators who donate online or onsite can check in at the Birdies for Charity table at the Charity Pavilion to enter to **win a brand-new Ford Mustang**.
- **Contribute early** to help us qualify for the top 50 fundraising charities of the PRO AM CHARITY CHALLENGE so we will have the chance to win even more money!

The fun has already started. Go to www.ValeroTexasOpen.com/Birdies for more info or scan this QR code to donate now. DEADLINE is March 24, 2015. **Be sure to **choose Kinetic Kids, Inc as your charity of choice** when donating! Thank YOU for your support!



GENEROUSLY PRINTED BY:

**METROPOLITAN
METHODIST HOSPITAL**
A CAMPUS OF METHODIST HOSPITAL



Co-Executive Directors
Tracey Fontenot & Kacey Wernli

Volunteers
volunteer@kinetickidstx.org

Program Information
210.748.5860

Registration
www.kinetickidstx.org

Donations
www.kinetickidstx.org

Sponsorships
210.913.3513

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2014: Edition 2 newsletter



SAVE THE DATE



It's almost time for our
4th Annual Walk.Run.Roll

Run the 5k, 10k, or 1-Mile races.
The 1-Mile route is safe
for all Kinetic Kids athletes.

We hope to see you there!

January 31, 2015
Race begins at 8am

Wheatley Heights Sports Complex
4098 East Houston Street
San Antonio, TX 78220

Register Online
www.athleteguild.com
\$30 Early Bird until Jan 15
OR scan this code to register:



Try It Before You Buy It!
Kinetic Kids' Equipment,
Service and Resource Fair



On Saturday, April 11, 2015 Kinetic Kids will host our 11th annual Try It Before You Buy It event for the pediatric population with special needs, with a little Fiesta flair. There will be an incredible display of durable medical equipment, services and resources from local and national companies and organizations to learn about and to try. Kinetic Kids will also feature performances by some of our wonderful participants. No Try It event would be complete without our ever popular Fiesta Parade on wheels for all children in attendance. Families of children with special needs, professionals that work with this population and students are ALL welcome! So, save the date and spread the word with anyone who might benefit!

G-O-O-A-A-A-L!! Kinetic Kids Soccer Success



Kinetic Kids had a wonderful soccer season this past summer. With the help of Coach Leone Cruz, defender for the 2014 NASL Champions—the San Antonio Scorpions, our Kinetic Kids learned essential ball handling techniques and had a blast with their teammates! Both teams finished the season with exciting finale games. Our Kinetic Kids showed great improvements in their soccer skills and learned the true meaning of sportsmanship and teamwork! Special thanks to the Mays YMCA for sharing their fantastic fields and to all



of our incredible volunteers for a great season! Stay tuned for more soccer fun in the summer of 2015.

Program Success!



Field Day Fun!

Kinetic Kids hosted their 3rd annual Field Day on Saturday, September 6th at MAYS YMCA. With 43 kids in attendance, Kinetic Kids got loud and dirty!!! Kids participated in good ol' fashioned field day activities such as: tug-of-war, potato sack races and yard bowling. With the Texas heat, we offered stations to cool off with water balloons, water bucket races, splash potato and participants even got to pie their coaches in the face! Our sensory corner and adaptive race center offered something for all abilities, truly making this Field Day a day to remember! Watch for information so you don't miss out on the fun this coming Summer 2015.



Let's hear it for the girls!

On Friday, November 7th Kinetic Kids hosted our first Diva Day for young ladies to enjoy a night of dress up and pampering. Our girls prepared a healthy meal and dessert under the direction a Kinetic Kids' board member and Pediatric Dietitian Karen Martin. After dinner they enjoyed getting their nails, hair and makeup done. We finished up the night cheering on the girls as they strutted their stuff and showed off their new looks during an exciting runway show! A huge thank you to the National Charity League, San Antonio Rose chapter for not only donating many of the girly supplies but also for providing several volunteers that helped with the event. The program was so well received, we are already planning our next one! Stay tuned in 2015!



Makin' a Splash!

Kinetic Kids made a splash this Summer at Northside Aquatic Center during the first-ever, four-week Jump Clinic. Participants learned jumping and diving techniques with the assistance of their Northside Aquatics and South Texas United Diving Academy coaches. To participate, swimmers were required to demonstrate ability to jump into 16' of water and swim independently. Participants were taught unique skills in and out of the water to improve their form and flexibility to jump and dive. In just four weeks, our Kinetic Kids were jumping from the 3M (10') and even 6M (20') diving boards. Thank you STUDA and Northside for this fun and unique experience!



These adorable siblings are **LUKE** and **CLAIRE**. Luke is an adventurous 4-year-old boy diagnosed with Down Syndrome. Claire is a sweet 2-year-old, who is currently undiagnosed. They LOVE Kinetic Kids swimming!!

Mom, Melissa says "Just ask Coach David...Claire HATED swimming when we started. However, over time she both gained confidence and body awareness in the water. Prior to taking swim lessons, Claire could not stand or effectively bear weight in her legs. Now, we are not only working on these skills in physical therapy, but she cries when it is time to get out of the pool! Luke is much more outgoing than Claire. Swimming has been a great opportunity for him to work on listening to instructions, practice a new skill, and show off what he has learned. No one is more excited than Luke to march up to the podium at the end of the season and receive that medal! We LOVE Kinetic Kids!"

PATRICK is an energetic 8-year-old boy with autism, he has been participating in Kinetic Kids for 3 years. Patrick is nonverbal, but his mom, Monica, believes baseball and music are his favorite activities. "Kinetic Kids has given us hope, especially when we become discouraged about Patrick not having a hobby or showing interest in something fun. Everyone is always so kind and patient with him. We never feel pressure to make him do anything he doesn't feel comfortable doing. When we took him to the first baseball practice, we thought for sure he was going to be upset...but he was so excited to play. The coaches and volunteers were very helpful and started to run with him and got him excited about hitting the ball. He was also very happy to receive his trophy and still has it in his room!"



HEATHER is 8 years old and diagnosed with Down syndrome. She has been a Kinetic Kid for 4 years. She loves dance, swim and gymnastics. Her mom, Gloria, says "she has gained confidence, more language, strength and balance from the activities. Seeing her enjoy all of the activities makes us very proud."



Kudos to our Coaches



One of the many unique qualities that makes Kinetic Kids programs successful are our energetic and experienced instructors and coaches!

Each season, our coaches and instructors work diligently to provide a rewarding experience for every participant. Their enthusiasm and passion for their sport and their love of Kinetic Kids shines through at every class and with every child. With their help, Kinetic Kids continues to expand our programs and locations.

If YOU (or someone you know!) are interested in coaching with us, please contact Tiffany@kinetickidstx.org for more details.



Spreading Christmas Cheer!



For the second year in a row, the University of the Incarnate Word School of Physical Therapy students hosted a Christmas Party for our Kinetic Kids! The PT students prepared an incredible party filled with games, festive arts and crafts, music and lots of fun photo-ops! Santa even made a special appearance to gather our Kinetic Kids' wish lists. A HUGE thanks to the UIW PT School for creating a fun holiday experience for our Kinetic Kids!

VOLUNTEER VOICES



"I love that the kids are learning life lessons in a fun and supportive environment. Sports are about trying, failing, and trying again. It's about motivating the person next to you to keep going, and celebrating team over individual. It's about pushing beyond what you think you can do, only to find you're capable of so much more. And when these children get it, and you can see it in their eyes and the way they react when they do, it's a great moment to share. Every child I've had the privilege of working with has taught me as much as (hopefully) I've taught them. I'm inspired, every week, by the passion of the directors, the coaches, the volunteers, and the parents that have created this opportunity for these kids to thrive. And I'll be a part of it for as long as you all let me." —**SCOTT SANN, USAA employee and Kinetic Kids Volunteer**

Every experience with these awe-inspiring kiddos, program directors, interns, and staff members delivers so much more than one could ever imagine. With every swing of the bat, dribble of the basketball, dance move, jumping jacks, or barbell press, there is some measure of success. The kids' jubilation when they triumph in their endeavors in sports and art is simply priceless. I am fortunate to be part of such a magnificent organization. It is my sincere hope that each and every Kinetic Kid achieves some degree of change in their place in this world because they have definitely transformed mine!"



—**AJ MEDINA, Litigation Coordinator and Kinetic Kids Volunteer**



I started volunteering for Kinetic Kids in the Fall of 2013 and quickly learned it was an organization whose sole purpose is to make the lives of children with disabilities better. The impact Kinetic Kids has on children is immeasurable, except for the joy it puts on their faces. Volunteering has brought me the same joy. Every act, no matter how small, has an impact. "No one can do everything, but everyone can do something."

—**KATHRYN CRANE, aspiring Occupational Therapist and Kinetic Kids Volunteer**

Attorney Anthony "Tony" Cutrona began volunteering with Kinetic Kids in 2005, when the smile of tball player, Michael, captured his heart. Though he lived in Houston, Tony drove in each week to work with Michael season after season. Over the years, he has been a dedicated advocate and donor for Kinetic Kids. Tony recently moved back to San Antonio and quickly found his place on the fields with Kinetic Kids! "The last night of baseball was amazing. Must've been over 100 people there. To see how many families and volunteers are now involved and benefit from Kinetic Kids is remarkable. Congratulations!"



—**TONY CUTRONA, Attorney at Law and Kinetic Kids Volunteer**



Meet **BENJAMIN**. He is a happy, 8-year-old boy diagnosed with spina bifida, mild cerebral palsy and on the autism spectrum.

He LOVES basketball, tennis and golf. His mother, Patricia says, "there is just so much Ben has gained...from friends to confidence. But most of all, he has gained a certain type of security whenever he is around any of his Kinetic Kids pals or staff. Most people know him as the little boy with the noise-cancelling headphones. He wears them everywhere, everyday since he was 18 months for both sensory issues and security. Well, AMAZINGLY, since participating in Kinetic Kids, Benjamin removes his headphones without being asked. We are amazed to see him last a whole hour or longer during practice without his gear. As soon as he walks into the gym or court, he hands them over to me! WOW!" *NOTE: no person, place nor individual had ever been able to convince him to hand them over. Such a breakthrough is remarkable.*



ZARIAH Gallegos is 8 years old and has Down syndrome.

According to her mother, Joann Perez, "her favorite sport is swimming. She's also enjoyed dance and gymnastics classes. She has gained self-confidence and is more independent. I have seen her go under the water in swimming class and enjoy it, even though she used to be afraid to do so. It's a big accomplishment for her and very emotional for me."



RYAN, 15, was diagnosed with mitochondrial myopathy and fibromyalgia at age 12. Ryan's mother, Linda, says, "he loves to play competitive wheelchair basketball. Ryan has gained the experience of playing with a team and the sense of fair play. He has made more friends and his self-esteem has increased significantly. More than anything, he has gained a smile...something lost after his diagnosis."

HOOTENANNY Knocks It Out of the Park!



This year's 11th annual Hootenanny gala evening on October 17 at Pearl Stable was a sell-out success! Over \$252,785 was raised to benefit Kinetic Kids' 106 programs. The Spurs' own, Patty Mills, with his outgoing Aussie personality, served as Honorary Chair. Emcee, Bill Taylor, KENS TV chief meteorologist, entertained the crowd throughout the evening and lead them in a game of Heads n' Tails. The game's winner drew applause from the sellout crowd as she donated the \$500 prize back to Kinetic Kids! Guests, dressed in "cowboy chic", filled over 40 corporate and individually underwritten tables while RK Catering served a delicious meal complimented by an open bar generously stocked with donations from Cinco Vodka, Republic National Distributing Company and Glazers.



HEB served as Presenting Sponsor for the evening under the leadership of Cory Basso and the Greehey Family Foundation was the night's top Underwriter! Local auctioneer, T-Bone, warmed up the crowd with a few comedic barbs before starting the live auction bidding. In the end, buyers spent \$46,550 on goodies including 2nd row, center court Spurs tickets, a week's get away to Hawaii, and a private "Cinco Vodka" Martini party for 50, to name a few. At the night's end, Hoot Co-Chairs and dynamic duo, Kim Azar and Kelly Myrick, were elated with the record amount raised to continue Kinetic Kids' good work on behalf of kids with special needs in the San Antonio community. "When Samuel's dad spoke, I got so emotional," Kim said, "because it reminded me why we are here- we're here for the KIDS!" Special thanks to all who helped make this event a tremendous success!





SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SMILE MAKERS!

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** Please forgive any we may have missed.*

