



Green Tree School



BRIGHT FUTURES

Annual Report 2008



www.greentreeschool.org

Executive Voices



Herman Axelrod Ph.D – Executive Director

Being Executive Director of a school like Green Tree involves a collective knowledge about myriad aspects of special education, finance, personnel, development and technology. I do not have the profound understanding of all of those areas, thus I depend upon valued staff to ensure that the programs run smoothly and all is in order.

That is the ideal that all leaders strive for, but is not always the reality. People change, rules and regulations are constantly updated, and public financing is fickle at best. A universal acclaimed genius, Albert Einstein, said, "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them." How true!

Green Tree just celebrated its 50th anniversary, and be assured the problems and kinds of thinking are very different today, than back at our inception. The population of students we serve in our schools and society in general has dramatically changed. For example, we have evolved from having no students in our Autism program in 2000, to more than 100 children with autism that we serve on a daily basis. We are on the cutting edge of preferred practices, and work individually with each child based upon his or her strengths and ability to learn. Professionals from all areas involving Autism are contributing to the knowledge base, and I am proud to say that our team is highly regarded in the community and doing an excellent job. It takes a community of staff, parents, interested board members and stakeholders to not only maintain a quality status quo, but to look ahead and envision what is necessary to move ahead with the times. And, that is what we strive to do at Green Tree.



Larry Hall – President - Board of Trustees

I was at Green Tree School in June and had the pleasure of attending the Autistic Prom. The kids, parents, faculty and staff were enjoying the food, the music, the dancing, and having an all-around good time. Each and every time I visit the school, I am amazed at the dedication and love our staff has for the kids. They are special people for special kids.

On the flip side, I also saw that day how difficult their jobs are in working with our kids. One older girl diagnosed with a severe form of autism, became very agitated with all the noise and commotion of the festivities and had to be removed from the party by two of our staff members. They carefully escorted her to a quiet room where they worked with her to calm down. Because the girl has very limited verbal skills, it was a challenging and demanding job helping her out of this difficult time.

In a nutshell, this is what Green Tree School is all about...working with kids — kids who have needs that require specialized programs not generally available in the public school districts. Whether it be severely emotionally disturbed or autism, I am proud of the programs our school has developed and the work we have done help these children with special needs.

Green Tree School is at a crossroads. Our new entity, Green Tree Partnerships, is growing exponentially and developing new programs for a number of school districts and non-profits. Our reputation as a leader in special education is becoming more and more well-known. Our next big step is to secure a new building to house our SED and Autistic kids under one roof. This has been a dream of the school for the many years. I hope that in the next few years this can become a reality.

The best is yet to come for Green Tree School! Please become a part of Green Tree School's future through your generous gifts and donations. Best Regards,



Bright Futures



The future of our students is bright. Green Tree Students have the good fortune of growing up in a nurturing environment with teachers, support staff and administration that are dedicated to their education, their developmental adjustment and their overall wellbeing. Our students are fun-loving, joyful and intelligent children, that absorb the warmth our environment provides. Our challenge is nurturing families and students beyond the Green Tree environment.

The future of our staff is bright. Green Tree Staff, find ways to teach, counsel and care for students and families facing complex challenges, and we do so because we are committed. We participate in frequent staff trainings, so we can be in top form, throughout the school year and extended school year. Our challenge is to identify resources for continued intensive professional development for all.

The future of our organization is bright. With the benefit of current technology, an influx of expertise, dedicated staff and support from donors like you, we can create a brighter future for everyone. Our challenge is to garner resources that enable our organization to expand our physical and educational capacity.

To continue our efforts, our vision for the future, ensures that children, youth and families are able to rediscover their strengths, develop new skills, and make new gains in the pattern of their lives. As the past 50 years lights our way, our school will continue shining, working strategically and collaboratively toward a bright future.



Illustrious Programs

Early Intervention

The E.I. program was created to serve children between with ages of 3-5 years old identified with serious developmental delays. We provide a center-based program for a ten-month school year, as well as a six -week summer session. Classes are small and staffed by a certified special education teacher and an assistant teacher. The curriculum is focuses on the following areas of child development: Social skills , Language development, Self-help skills, Psycho-motor skills, and Creative expression.

Wraparound Program

The Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services Program is designed to provide intensive individual, group and family therapy; behavior management; guidance, resource identification and strategic therapeutic interventions and skills training to children, adolescents and their families or care providers. We offer intensive mental health services for children and adolescents with Autism, severe emotional disorders and service their families as well. The primary objective of the program is to sustain each child in their home environment.

Autism Spectrum Disorder Program

Autism is a severe neurological disorder that is characterized by delays in the development of a child's cognitive, language, social and motor skills. Our students receive individualized education plans used to establish goals. Our staff strive to increase students independence, level of comfort in social interaction and promote functional communication preparing them to be active participants in their community.





Green Tree School Snapshot



Green Tree School was founded on the belief that every child deserves a quality education, regardless of his or her special needs. We are a, civic minded, caring community of devoted educators, and other professionals committed to serving special needs students. Yearly we serve up to 250 children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, serious emotional disturbances and preschool developmental delays. Our commitment to the children in our charge is extensive and heartfelt, as we teach and train through our

individualized educational and therapeutic curriculums. With a staff to student ratio of 1:2.5, our programs focus on the acquisition of academic, personal, vocational and social skills necessary to enable students to succeed in school and the community at large. Green Tree is a non-profit, state licensed, Approved Private School, with campuses in the historic Germantown section of Philadelphia. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, we warmly welcome you into the school community, and offer an open invitation to come tour our school for a visit.



Green Tree School is a premiere institution for Special Education of Autistic children.

Points of Interest

- © Green Tree School was founded in 1957 and is celebrating our 50th Anniversary!
- © Our campus rests on the site of a former day school where Grace Kelly once attended!
- © All year long, we serve children from the greater Philadelphia region, with our extended school year program.

Mission Statement

Green Tree School is dedicated to improving the quality of life for students with special needs and their families. We connect students to effective academic, therapeutic, personal and vocational services that enable success throughout the lifespan.

Vision Statement

Green Tree School will be the premiere provider in special needs education, services, and awareness. We are transforming the landscape of specialized education for students and families by using best practices.

Vibrant Core Values

Focus on Ability

All students present their own unique challenges. We focus on student achievement in a nurturing environment that values growth and individualized instruction

Personalized Care

We meet the vastly different needs of our students through blended interventions, tailored academic curriculums and counseling for everyone.

Purposeful Partnerships

We collaborate with fellow nonprofits, city agencies, academic institutions and like minded organizations to positively impact the community. We assist parents with finding natural supports.

Every Child Learns

We believe that it is our collective, civic responsibility to provide every student in our school with the best possible education.



Radiant Supporters

Green Tree School gratefully acknowledges the kindness and generosity of our valued donors, in-kind contributors, and charitable givers who supported our school during the 2007-2008 fiscal year. We are deeply appreciative of your financial gifts. Your support enables us to expand our reach and further our scope to continue making Green Tree School the place "Where Success Begins." If a name has been misspelled or omitted, please accept our apologies and contact the Development Office at (215) 843-4528 ext 210. The following lists donors for all gifts received between 7/1/07 - 6/30/08. Continued on Page 6.

United Way Hero's

Mrs. Denise M. Alexander	Dr. Eric R. Mitchell
Mrs. Carolyn D. Allen	Mr. Andre A. Montier
Mr. Herman Axelrod	Ms. Patricia A. Morris
Ms. Linda Betof	Mrs. Kathryn M. Palermo
Mr. Thomas Black	Mr. Peter Palermo
Mr. James R. Burris	Mr. Ross J. Reese
Ms. Felecia A. Clark	Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Reider
Mrs. Aletha I. Dempsey-Pauley	Ms. Julie Sandblade
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Golf4Autism Corporate Champions

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Katz Deposit Group	Tri-State Clinical Support Services
Kremer Laser Eye	UltraFlex Systems
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Golf4Autism Individual Stars

Jan Albert	Hal Gelstein
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Dr. Michael Aronsky	Morton & Judy Goldfein
Madeline Axelrod	Steven & Carole Greenberg
Mike Baker	Mike Grill
Scott & Kathleen Bank	Lawrence Hall
Robert Bartow	Gerald Hamburg
Keith Boyd	Scott Hornbaker
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Pearl Cardonick	Bonnie T. Kay Ph.D
Drew Cardonick	Michael Keitz
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	Jim Ravina
	Irian & Marie Ruiz
	Robert & Ellen Shrager
	Nick Speliopoulous
	Fredrick Strober
	Lewis Sugarbread
	Jan Talamo
	Fredrick & Sheila Tucker
	Johanna L. Walters, CFM, CLU, CFP
	Marc Weinberg
	Seth Wilcox
	Victor Young



You make a difference in my life... Thank You!



Class Spotlight

Parent Appreciation



The Life Skills class in the Upper School, has made great strides this year as they used their talents to benefit the school community. The class sold hearty soups in the winter to school staff to fund their culinary expeditions. The highlight of their year was giving back to those in need. Throughout the school year they generously catered and served women at a Project H.O.M.E. Women's shelter, in Center City. In honor of their charitable work, they have been selected as finalists for a Young Heroes Award, given annually by the National Liberty Museum. The vocational programs at Green Tree, taught these students the value of being charitable and hospitable, and those are skills that will last a life time!

Ms. Ophelia Turner is a proud grandparent, and supporter of Green Tree School. Her grandson has attended our Early Intervention program for the past 3 years and loves it. She states "I'm happy to have the support system of Green Tree, It has been instrumental in raising a special needs child. I want him to stay the rest of his education!" Ms. Turner graciously donated over \$600 of snacks, toys, juices and school supplies to our school. She also recently became a Green Tree Ambassador spreading the news about our school! She states "GTS has a special place in my heart, hopefully this will inspire other parents to do the same." We salute Ms. Turner for her school spirit!

Glowing Accomplishments



We were able to raise enough funds to buy The Cougars (our winning sports team) uniforms for their flag football and basketball games. The Cougars continued their stellar progress throughout the year. As a result a league of greater Philadelphia area schools is set to start next season with The Cougars at the helm!

We received an environmental mini-grant from PAISBOA (a consortium of Pennsylvania private schools) to become environmentally friendly in our operations and "Green" our facilities. We started a recycling program and continued to farm in our on campus Green House providing healthy meals for all.



Our Golf4Autism tournament held Monday June 2, 2008, was a resounding success. We had 100+ participants enjoy a day of golfing, and dining at the beautiful Meadowlands Country Club. All proceeds of the Elaine Cardonick Memorial Golf Tournament were donated to enrich the Autism program at Green Tree School. Board member Jason Cardonick, (chairperson of the event) will continue the event to honor the life and work of his mother Elaine Cardonick a dedicated special education teacher and her impact on special needs



Autism Awareness

Donors Cont'd

Green Tree Partnerships' 2nd Annual Autism Awareness Conference on April 23 was a big success. Over 300 people gathered at the Philadelphia Academy Charter School in Northeast Philadelphia to hear keynote speaker Eustacia Cutler and workshop presenters from Green Tree School and partner institutions. Ms Cutler—the mother of Temple Grandin, a scientist who has won world-wide recognition for her descriptions of her life as a person with autism—moved the audience with her spirited account of raising a child with ASD in the 1950's. As one listener put it, "Eustacia Cutler was engaging, fascinating, [with] great historical perspective and outstanding connections. Chills went up and down my spine!" Workshops focused on understanding Asperger's syndrome, navigating the network of service providers, building behavioral health programs within schools, and designing interventions for children. Many participants said this event was an important experience for them. One wrote, "This day was wonderful. Thank you. I gained so much."



50th Anniversary Friends

Lorraine & David Anton / Art Bagelman / Robert J. Bartow / Ronald & Charonda Deshazo / Diane & Lowell Dodge / Susan G. Ellis / Rosemond Estriplet / Steve & Carole Greenberg / Jeanne M. Gelbach / Lawrence Hall / Millicent T. Hartsfield / Frances Jackson / Dr. Maury R. Leas / Joanne Mamrosch / Frances G. Martin Ph.D / Hugh O'Neill / Peter C. Paul / Shirley Phillips / Joan C. Reese / Emmanuel & Judith Reider / Scott & Karen Silverman / Fredrick Strober / Marc Weinstein / Brenda J. Young / Valley Forge Financial / Mt. Zion Baptist Church / SOLES, A Shoe Experience

Kathleen Duplantis Scholarship Fund

Nan Porter—Alliance of Approved Private Schools / Herman & Madeline Axelrod / Joseph & Nancy Fischgrund / Diane Gallagher / Lawrence Hall / William J. Marrazzo / Brenda J. Oliphant / Edward O. Shakespeare III / Scott & Karen Silverman / M. Courtenay Willcox Margaret Jacobs Trust /

Foundation Support

Wright—Hayre Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation / The Posel Foundation / PNC Charitable Trust / PAISBOA Environmental Grant / The Jonathan E. Rhoads Trust / The Sovereign Bank Foundation / White & Richardson Trust.



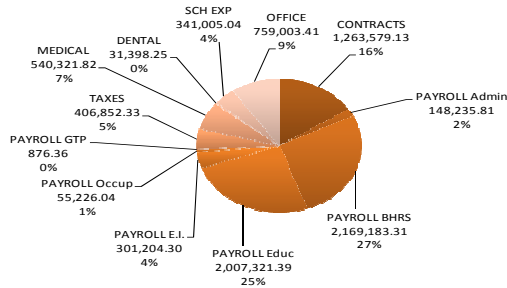
Financials



We continue to commemorate the life of Green Tree emeritus, Kathleen Duplantis who served as Executive Director of Green Tree from 1989 until her retirement in 2000. She is remembered as a pioneer in special education and a tireless advocate for children and their families. She completed a rewarding and fruitful 11 years of leadership at Green Tree, establishing deep professional and personal relationships throughout Philadelphia and across the state. We invite you to honor her legacy with a donation to the Kathleen Duplantis Scholarship Fund, benefitting students at Green Tree School.

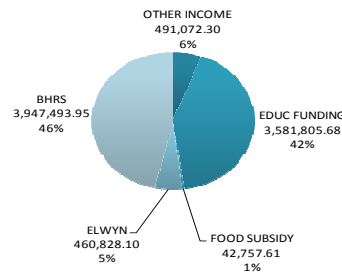


Expenses: \$8,024,205.36



Our school is mindful of the resources we have been charged with using. We are proud to operate a fiscally sound non-profit institution, in which surpluses are reinvested into our school, to create a continuum of high quality programming. We are dedicated to running an efficient, impactful "green" organization that serves as a resource to our students, parents, staff and community.

Income: \$8,523,957.64



The GTS 07' surplus was used to jumpstart our Capital Campaign!



146 West Walnut Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19144
Phone: (215) 843-4528 ext 210



Ways to get involved with Green Tree School

- Pledge your resources to supporting special needs children.
- Attend our Autism Conference and Golf4Autism tournament.
- Sign up for school updates by visiting: www.greentreeschool.org.
- Help us find employment opportunities for our graduating students.
- Donate to our school through your United Way Campaign: Donor # 321
- Call to schedule a school visit and witness the great work our teachers do.

A Brilliant Difference



Eric Mitchell Ph.D

Consulting Psychologist
Worked for GTS 4 Yrs.
Consulted for GTS 2 Yrs.

What drew you to the school?

I was working with a very challenging autistic client who began attending Green Tree, and found GTS to be an excellent place for collaboration and growth. For me, the atmosphere at Green Tree was and is all about moving forward and bettering ourselves in the services we provide and the skills we develop to provide them.

How has your contributions helped the students?

Helping is always a work in progress... just when you think you've helped a situation get better, the situation changes. Ultimately, I look at the organization as a whole and where we are positioned with a blossoming reputation, and know that all the hard work and little things we have done to help each child and family have added up to a mountain of success beyond what we can truly measure. I like working with the kids individually the most, sitting down and seeing the learning soaking in brings everything into perspective.



Doreen Williams

Autism Spectrum Disorder Program Coordinator.
Worked at GTS for 19 years.
While Driving by, she fell in love with the house the school is located in.

What do you do in an average day?

I love a lot, care endlessly, worry (about students and staff) more than I should, oversee implementation of education and behavioral plans, communicate with parents, agencies, and so much more.....

What do you like most about GTS?

The love and concern we have for the children and the way we pull together in time of need.



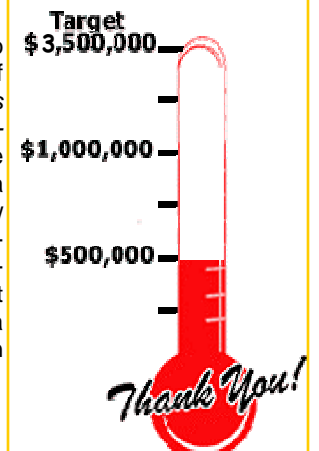
Gayle Gates

Dance / Movement Therapist & Counselor
Working with a student on expression/emotion and non-verbal communication skills.

No other team of professionals exerts such a profound influence in the life of a child, as does a teacher. Education is golden and the men and women that devote themselves to the pursuit of teaching are rare gems. Any teacher will tell you, discovery and hope are part of the fabric that makes up Green Tree School. We discover daily the amazing ingenuity of our students, and we hope to provide them the tools necessary, for continued educational progress. We seek to provide students with an education that prepares them for success throughout the lifespan.

Green Tree School asks for your continued support, in the spirit of our **"50th Anniversary New Building - Capital Campaign"**. Our goal is to house all of our education programs in a new school building designed to meet the demands of our schools changing landscape. This building would symbolize a unity of purpose in our programs, integrating our operations, technology, education, and therapeutic services into a singular hub of learning. We invite you to become a member of "Green Tree School's Scholarly Giving Society" and support the initiative of securing a much needed new building for our students. Call us for information on how to get involved and ensure a bright future for Green Tree School.

You helped us raise \$500k of the \$3.5 million needed for the campaign.



Green Tree School - Where Success Begins