



Spring 2016
every child deserves a childhood and a future

Vision Screenings Show a Bright Future

On February 9th, Spaulding celebrated a new accomplishment: nearly 100% of all of our students received a vision screening! The Franklin Area Lions Club came to our campus with a SPOT screen device to provide free vision screenings for all of our day and residential students. The nature of this SPOT screen device was a perfect fit for our student body. The student simply looked into the device (similar to a Polaroid camera) and received instant results for critical factors, such as eye alignment, focus or whether further evaluation is required. In the past, our vision screenings have been limited to residential students only due to time, resources and capabilities.



Another challenge for our students is the anxiety related to disruptive or unusual processes. Like other basic medical procedures, vision testing can be quite unsettling for many of our students. Although our staff continues to provide techniques and counseling to desensitize students to these activities, existing conditions often will mean that important but not critical health evaluations cannot be completed. In addition, a traditional eye evaluation with visual charts is not realistic for some of our students with special needs.

The vision testing provided by the Franklin Area Lions Club enabled students to stay on campus where they are comfortable and undergo a quick, easy and effective evaluation. This process was especially helpful for those students who are nonverbal. In addition, the Lions Club has offered assistance for any students who require financial support to purchase needed eye care. We are excited to see the future of this new partnership!

Visit the Spaulding Youth Center YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/autismyouthcenter for more information on the sensory challenges of our students.

A Comfort All Their Own

Almost 30 residential students were treated to some homemade comfort over the winter by the Belknap Mill Quilt Guild. After meeting a few of the grateful recipients during their first visit, this organization was inspired to make a pledge to create a custom comfort quilt for each residential student based on their preferences and interests. Each quilt requires 100+ hours to complete, which means over 5,700 hours will be donated to provide comfort and care to Spaulding students when the initiative is completed.

“The first quilt delivery created a positive wave of good will across campus and beyond with our students and staff,” shared James Clements, Spaulding Youth Center CEO & President. “Many of these students arrive at Spaulding without many personal belongings. For these students, receiving a handmade quilt that is not only their very own but also designed specifically for them can be literally life changing. The Belknap Mill Quilt Guild has earned the nickname of ‘our quilt angels’ on campus.” In fact, the students who have received comfort quilts could not contain their gratitude! To view their personal notes of thanks, please visit spauldingyouthcenter.org/thank-you-quilt-angels



Shirley Mento and Diane Orłowski from Belknap Mill Quilt Guild present handmade comfort quilts to residential students.

SPAULDING CAMPUS EVENTS

- April 15th** Annual Science Fair
- May 7th** National Foster Care Month Celebration
- May 25th** Celebrating our 30th Annual Arts Festival!
- June 23rd** Field Day Sponsored by EChO
- June 24th** Spaulding School Awards Ceremony

Our Mission: To leverage our professional expertise to help young people with autism or other developmental and/or behavioral challenges learn the academic and life skills needed to be successful in their homes, schools & communities. spauldingyouthcenter.org



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Jason Perkins Has a Trained Eye on the Future

After returning from active duty in Iraq and then spending a few years as a correctional officer, Jason Perkins started at Spaulding Youth Center in 2010 as a Residential Assistant in Cutter-Wiggins. Since then, his work ethic and accountability has enabled him to transition into an overnight role.

Once the students are tucked in for the night, he starts his second job as a College for America student. After just five short months, he will earn his Associate degree later this month and then immediately begin the Bachelor of Arts in Healthcare Management curriculum. Recently, College for America elected Jason as a student ambassador. Out of 2,400 students, he is one of 45 student ambassadors who assist students in the online community, answer questions on projects and motivate students to achieve their goals. And he's not stopping there: Jason already has his eye on the Master of Clinical Social Work

program at SNHU. His goal is to become a licensed clinician at Spaulding.

On a personal note, he has been happily married for 12 years, and enjoys spending times with his two children, Ashley (6) and Liam (9mos). Jason is also a certified scuba



diver and ice diver, with just three more classes to be a master diver. An avid outdoorsman, he also loves bow hunting, hiking, riding his motorcycle, and anything to do with the mountains, as well as holds a hang gliding license. His other favorite hobby is wood working – he is currently working on a 12-foot cedar strip canoe!

Visit bit.ly/1R6BWU4 to learn more about Spaulding's dedication to trained and highly-skilled employees!

Is the IRA Charitable Rollover Right For You?

In December 2015, Congress passed the federal budget with a permanent provision for IRA Charitable Rollover. You may have looked into the IRA Charitable Rollover in years past since it has been approved on a year-by-year basis, typically towards the end of each calendar year. As of 2015, this direct donation of IRA assets to charity is now permanent.

As you may know, contributing to your IRA enables you to save for retirement without

paying income taxes. With the IRA Charitable Rollover, you can contribute to Spaulding directly from your IRA account and without paying taxes on your contribution dollars. This means you can give more and pay less! To learn more about how to take advantage of the IRA Charitable Rollover opportunity, contact the Foundation Development office at 603-286-7500.



DONATE TODAY IN THREE EASY WAYS

We appreciate your consideration to help children reach their greatest potential. To make a contribution to Spaulding Youth Center today:

1. Visit SpauldingYouthCenter.org/give
2. Call the Foundation office at 603-286-7500
3. Email foundation@spauldingyouthcenter.org

Thank you for supporting the children and youth of Spaulding Youth Center.