

RISE and Shine

SUMMER 2011

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Director's Corner *by Jan Stailey*

Dear Friends of Rise,

It's time to let the best-kept secret in town out of the bag! Our beloved Rise School of Houston is **doubling in size and moving to a brand-new campus**. Best of all, our dream is just a month away... with our new building set to open in August. Here we will prepare, inspire and launch the next generations of infants and young children with Down syndrome and other developmental differences into mainstream K-12 school where they, too, can "Rise to the Occasion."

We didn't mean to keep our great news hush-hush. But we discovered some of our best friends and families don't know that we're about to **DOUBLE** the number of children and families we can serve by moving to a brand-new facility designed and built for our needs on 1.56 acres in the Texas Medical Center at Highway 288 and S. MacGregor.

The current Rise School facility at 8080 Stadium Drive can only accommodate 60 children age 6 months to 6 years. Virtually since we opened 10 years ago, we have averaged 200 kids on our wait list. If you ever spent time on the wait list, you know how heart-wrenching it is to have found just the right environment for your child at last, but be delayed or declined entry because of space availability.

Our new facility should eliminate most of our current wait list, bringing it down to a much more reasonable length and duration for most families. Our brand new building is purpose-built for us – not a retrofit of an office building. Our small class size will remain the same, but we will double the number of classes and teachers and have therapy rooms, abundant outdoor play space, support space for teachers and staff and good parking for easy drop off and pick up.

Big dreams don't come free, but they are worthwhile. The total cost of the facility is \$10.9 million for construction, land, equipment and furniture. We are delighted to report we have quietly raised \$9.875 million towards that goal over the past two years.

Each of our children is so worth this investment. We don't have to remind you that 40 years ago, many children with Down syndrome and other developmental differences were institutionalized; all were denied an education, resulting in adults who cannot read and have very limited options to support or care for themselves. After the Rise experience, not only can our children learn to read, they can finish school and some may attend college, to become hard-working, employable adults who contribute to our country as tax-payers and citizens. When you weigh our children's contributions to society against the costs of the new Rise facility, the cost is negligible.

We need your help to complete this dream.

Sincerely yours,

Jan Stailey
Executive Director

Ashley Kress
Development Director
and Rise Family, Classes of 2002, 2004 and 2005

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**WE GRATEFULLY
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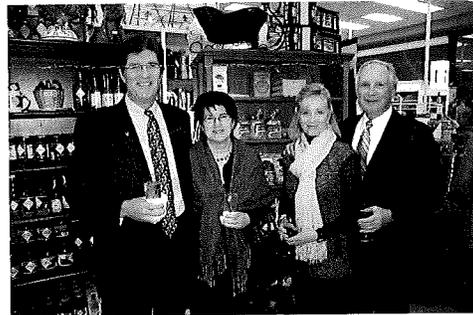
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- Kara and Aaron Howes
- Dinah and William Huthnance

On September 27, 2010, The Rise School of Houston held its 8th annual Rise, Shine and Swing Golf Classic at the beautiful South Shore Harbour Country Club. Thanks to the incredible generosity of **Canongate Golf**, who donated the use of the course, all the proceeds



Pictured from left to right, the winning foursome of Dan Arnold, Richard Barbles, Randall Hicks and Titus Harris.

from this event went straight to the children of Rise! Our wonderful golf committee, **John Gaylord (co-chair), Richard Hellmann (co-chair), John H. Duncan, Sr, Chris Hartman, Greg Hernandez, Aaron Howes and Brent Schilhab** worked so hard to make the day a success and raised more than \$100,000 for the school. Perhaps the most exciting part of the day was the closest to the pin shoot out, in which **Houston Fuel Oil Terminal Company** employee, **Michael Blacksmith**, won a check for \$10,000! The winning foursomes were **Dan Arnold, Richard Burbles, Randall Hicks and Titus Harris** (top gross scoring team) and **Will Huthnance, Tyler Buckingham, Matt Aycock and Ken Wise** (top net scoring team).



Pictured are honorees Tim Conroy, John Crane and their wives.



The 11th annual Gifts from the Heart holiday shopping event was held on November 18, 2010 at Bering's on Bissonnet. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of the **Bering family**, 15% of all the evening's proceeds at the store went to The Rise School. The event honored **FKP Architects** for all of their support of Rise over the years and in particular for their donation of all of the design work for our new building! The evening was an incredible success, raising more than \$150,000 for scholarships. Special thanks go to our parent silent auction committee, led by **Sasha Camacho** and to our amazing underwriters, **The Ellwood Foundation, The Lillian H. and C.W. Duncan Foundation, Brenda and John H. Duncan, Teri Streusand, Chris and Don Sanders and Julie and Don Weir.**

Please consider giving to our new building! The enclosed forms will give you all the information you need to give to our wonderful new facility! Many opportunities are still available to have your name or the name of a loved one displayed on a plaque or brick at our new school, made possible through the incredible generosity of **The Texas Medical Center, Texas Children's Hospital, FKP Architects and W.S. Bellows Construction Company.**



The Rise School of Houston is excited to announce that we will dedicate our new building on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at 2 pm. Very special guest, Coach Gene Stallings, will be there to speak and there will be refreshments and tours of our new facility on the W. Leland Anderson Campus of The Texas Medical Center at **5618 H. Mark Crosswell, Jr. Street Houston, Texas 77021**. We would love to see you there!

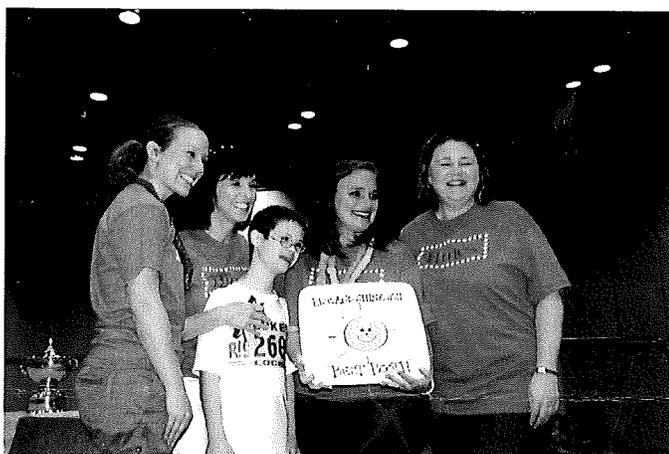


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- William L. Taylor Technologies
- Isabel and Wallace Wilson
- Ziegler Cooper Architects

2011
The Rise School
RISE & SHINE
 5K WALK & RUN

Our fun run this year was the best ever!! The Rise and Shine 5K Walk and Run and Family Festival was held May 7th, 2011 in Hall B of the George R. Brown and the streets of downtown Houston with almost 3,000 people participating. Chaired by **John Holland** (who is also our Board chairman!), this wonderful event brought more than \$100,000 to Rise. Special congratulations to the teams from **Hines, Brookfield and Transwestern** for being the best booth winners, having the most participants and having the best team spirit!



Pictured are Kim Jagger and her team from Hines winning the Best Booth Award.

We are so excited to announce that Rise will have two brand new fundraising events in 2011!!

Our 80's Bash will be a "totally awesome" event the evening of October 1, 2011 at the Firehouse Saloon, with music from the Spazmatics and lots of eating, drinking and gambling for a good cause!



Rise, Shine and Shoot, our very first sporting clays event, will take place on September 16, 2011 at the Westside Sporting Grounds in Katy,



There are still lots of opportunities for sponsorship of these two events! Please call (713-532-7473) or email Ashley (akress@riseschool.org) for more information.

**THE RISE SCHOOL
STAFF**

Jan Stalley
Director

Ashley Kress
Development Director

Kem Kennemer
Office Manager

Jolanda Sinegal
Teacher/Educational Coordinator

Nan Robinson
Teacher

Brooke Nyberg
Teacher

Beverly Taube
Teacher

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Kasey Vernon
Speech Therapist

Betty Vattakunnel
Occupational Therapist

Veronica Llanos-Butler
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Patricia Harris
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Blaise Konkell
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Tara Nevedomsky
Teacher Assistant

Christine Janssen
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Olga Pedrosa
Teacher Assistant

Doris Buckley
Teacher Assistant

Cynthia Matamoros
Classroom Assistant

Kristin Huckaby
Classroom Assistant

Christopher Scott
Classroom Assistant

Melvin St. Julien
Classroom Assistant

Tammy Palmer
Classroom Assistant

Meredith Hanrahan
Classroom Assistant

**CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF
2011!!**



The Brenda and John H. Duncan
The Rise School

OF HOUSTON

"Where Special Kids Shine"

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