

The Rise School Staff

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Office Manager
Ashley Kress

Development Director
Ann Druary

Director of Major Gifts
Megan Mills

Development Coordinator
Peggy Jackson

Receptionist/Lead Teacher Assistant

Emily Berman
Physical Therapist

Veronica Butler
Music Therapist

Jana Post

Language/Assessment Specialist

Betty Vattakunnel

Occupational Therapist

Anita Zachariah
Speech Therapist

Teachers

Jolanda Sinegal

Teacher/Educational Coordinator

Kristen Charlebois

Kristi Ferguson

Tracie Frederick

Star Fuller

Carol Nyberg

Jenny Rickaway

Nan Robinson

Menomanee Smith

Beverly Taube

Teachers' Assistants

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Donna Avolio

Doris Buckley

Jace Charlebois

Donna Cox

Melody Culp

Alicia Dickson

Karen Dunlap

Julie Fisk

Jenny Gil

Patricia Harris

Mary Henderson

Dong Youn Lee

Maribel Lopez

Lois McDonald

Tiffany Maldonado

Kathy Morris

Mercedes Quiroz

Margaret Reith-Herrera

Mellanee Wilson

Jungnam Thompson

Stanna Wilson-Young

Classroom Assistants

Meredith Hanrahan

Kristin Huckaby

Kevin Lake

Shira Levine

Vanessa Martinez

Chris Meaux

Tammy Palmer

Christopher Scott

Cynthia Speagle

Bobbie Tatlonghari

Presenting the Graduating Class of 2013



Join us in celebrating our children and all of the accomplishments they've made in the last 6 years. We invite you to enjoy as our graduates share their plans for the next year along with special music and a guest speaker. The graduation ceremony will be held at The Rise School of Houston on July 19, 2013 at 6:00 pm with refreshments to follow.



The Rise School
OF HOUSTON

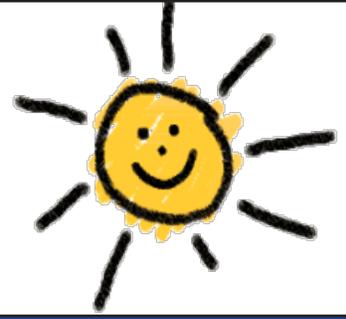
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The Rise School of Houston



Summer 2013

A Child With Down Syndrome Keeps His Place at the Table

By George Estreich

Milo Castillo is a student of The Rise School of Houston. The following is an excerpt from *The New York Times*.

IT'S rare that our daily lives adhere to dramatic form. But as reported on Today.com/Moms ("Waiter hailed as hero after standing up for boy with Down syndrome"), among other places, a little morality play took shape in a Houston restaurant. According to the Today.com article, the Castillo family — Eric, Kim and their 5-year-old son, Milo, who has Down syndrome — were having dinner at Lorenzo's Prime Rib when a family nearby asked to be seated elsewhere.

As the waiter, Michael Garcia, recounted to the NBC affiliate KPRC-TV in Houston: "I heard the man say, 'Special needs children need to be special somewhere else.' My personal feelings took over, and I told him, 'I'm not going to be able to serve you, sir.'"

As Ms. Castillo pointed out, he put his job on the line. Even more inspiring, he knew the Castillo family, who are regulars at the restaurant, and he acted in the name of connection, denying the very separation — between "special" and "normal" — that the unidentified patron implied.

She also noted that Milo has friends "both with and without Down syndrome." That detail stayed with me, not only because it is true to my experience but also because it suggests how far we've come. The history of disability in our country is mostly tragic. During decades of routine institutionalization and sterilization, a shared preschool — let alone friendship, or being a valued regular customer at a Houston restaurant — was not on the table. If there were a slogan for those grim decades, "let them be special somewhere else" would sum things up pretty well.

Most of the progress for children with Down syndrome in the United States — their right to go to school, for instance — is recent and gained momentum, in part, from a recognition that "somewhere else" often meant an institutional horror no human being should ever have to experience. When our daughter Laura was born, my wife and I often wondered about the future. But we did not wonder whether she would be allowed to go to kindergarten.

It's moving to me that Milo Castillo's story takes place in a restaurant, given the civil rights history of lunch counters and water fountains. What's a more visceral expression of belonging than where we're allowed to eat? Where else would manners and rights intersect? As presented in the television report, the opinion voiced by the unidentified patron — "be special somewhere else" — is seen as a shocking instance of rudeness. It is. But more significantly, it's the sentiment that, when widespread, makes it possible for people to lose rights in the first place.

Dehumanizing practices depend on dehumanizing ideas. Instead of seeing the scene in the restaurant as a story with a heroic resolution, we might see it as a debate carried out in words and actions. Taking a kid with Down syndrome to a restaurant is a statement: he's a family member first, and he belongs. Saying that the kid shouldn't be there, as the patron did, is one response; Mr. Garcia's principled refusal to provide service is yet another. That scene, tidy as it is, is only one part of a long American conversation about who does and doesn't belong.

Beneath the human interest story, in other words, is a question about who counts as human. For parents of children with Down syndrome like me, every daily act is an answer. What I live for, though, is the day when the question doesn't come up.

This article originally appeared in *The New York Times*, which holds the copyright. It has been edited for length. Reprinted by paid permission

Fundraising Events



The Rise School celebrated our annual Rise, Shine & Swing Golf Classic on March 4, 2013 on the Tournament Course at The Woodlands Country Club. The day was filled with excitement with 29 teams participating in a golf shamble along with our "Closest to the Pin" and "Hole-in-One" contests. Special thanks go out to The Woodlands Country Club for donating the greens fees that made it possible for all of our golfers to participate. We would also like to recognize our Golf

Committee, Ben Brollier, Larry Callender, John H. Duncan, John Gaylord, Richard Hellmann, Chris Hartman, Greg Hernandez, Ashley Kress, Diane Scardino, Brent Schilhab, and Scott Waltmon who helped make this day a success. We also could not have done it without help from DL Trading, LTD, FishHawk Advisors, Overhead Door, Parkside Capital, Lillian H. & C. W. Duncan Foundation and Julie & Don Weir, along with all of our generous underwriters for their donations. Without them, this day would not be possible.



Please join us next year for our Rise, Shine & Swing Golf Classic 2014!



Mike Padon and team



Committee Members Marian Cisarik, Shannon Nini & Dena Williams with their daughters

On April 27th, women of Houston came together to support The Rise School of Houston at the 1st annual Heart & Sole women's luncheon. Thanks to Loren Allardyce and the Carrabba family's hospitality, the luncheon was celebrated at the original Carrabba's on Kirby. Throughout lunch, we were honored to hear from Miller Kress, Anneysa Gaille, Julia Nini and Sally Cisarik, about the touching experiences they've had while volunteering at The Rise School of Houston.

With the help of our wonderful committee, Loren Allardyce, Marian Cisarik, Sally Easterling, Linda Gammill, Beatriz Havre, Amanda Hellmann, Laura Holland, Mica May, Shannon Nini, Sharin Norman and Dena Williams, Rise was able to raise over \$40,000. Thank you for making this event a true success we will continue for years to come!



Please join us next year for our 2nd annual Heart and Sole Luncheon.



Rosie Carrabba with Loren Allardyce

Fundraising Events



The 10th annual Rise and Shine Fun Run and family festival was held on May 11, 2013 at the George R. Brown Convention Center and the streets of downtown. The day was a huge success, raising over \$100,000. With over 2,500 participants, downtown was flooded with runners of every age. Rise was not only being supported in Houston but throughout the United States with the participation of our virtual runners in various states. After the run, families were able to take pleasure in an exciting festival inside the GRB. The festival was filled with games, prizes, food, music and special appearances from Toro, the Texans mascot, and Orbit, the Astros mascot. With so many participants, we were grateful to have the help of many volunteers leading up to and the day of the event. Special thanks to Lisa Hartman, Erin

Sifuentes and Kim DeFrates for coordinating our volunteers and helping to make the run a success once again!

Please go to www.riseschool.org/houston/events to see the amazing video of the event, produced for us by Hines employee extraordinaire, Jack Chaney.



Rise students Presley Frederick and Tristan Rojas personify the Rise mission

Join us next year for our Rise and Shine Fun Run 2014!

On **September 13, 2013** Rise will celebrate our 3rd annual Rise, Shine & Shoot Tournament at the Westside Sporting Grounds in Katy, TX hosted by owners Dan and Lori Daniels. Guest to the shoot will enjoy a day filled with a sporting clays competition, silent auction, raffle, prizes and other games. Everyone is invited to join the excitement and help support the children of The Rise School of Houston.



Rise Founders Brenda & John Duncan with 2012 Honoree Dr. Richard Wainerdi

Mark Your Calendars!

The Rise School of Houston will be celebrating the 14th annual Gifts from the Heart shopping event at Berings on Bissonett on **November 21, 2013**. Please join us for a night out for dining, drinks, shopping and our spectacular silent auction put on by the parents of Rise. The night is sure to be filled with excitement! For sponsorship information please visit www.riseschool.org/houston/events.



Follow us on Twitter @RiseHoustonTX

Rise Ambassadors

The Rise School of Houston would like to recognize Premier Jewlery Consultant and Rise advocate Gena Palmer. Since 2009, Gena has come to Rise to showcase and sell her jewlery, giving 100% of her proceeds to Rise! During her four years of giving, Gena has raised over \$4,000 for the children of Rise. Not only has Gena raised money for the school but from 2006-2012 she was a beloved teacher's assistant in the green and red classrooms and still continues to be available to the school as a substitute whenever she is able. Gena has been such a friend and advocate of The Rise School and we would like to thank her for everything she has does. Her love and support for the students at Rise shows in everything she does. Thank you Gena for helping us Shine!



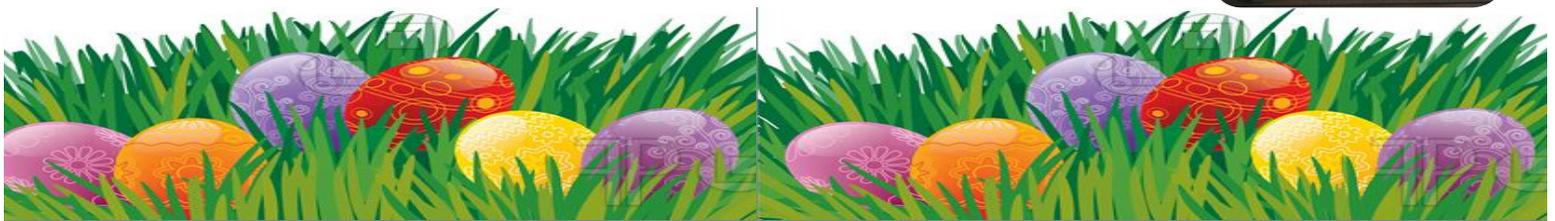
Gena with Rise students

Meg Hagee and Cassandra Ung



The students at Rise were able to celebrate an exciting Easter with the help of Meg Hagee and Cassandra Ung. These ladies donated, hid, and helped children find Easter eggs for our Spring Fling. Meg and Cassandra are members of the Student Leadership Group at Westchester Academy. Through the leadership group, the girls were to choose an organization they wished to help in some way. Together they raised money for the project by selling an assortment of chocolates. The chocolates they sold were beautifully wrapped with the Rise logo and our mission statement. All

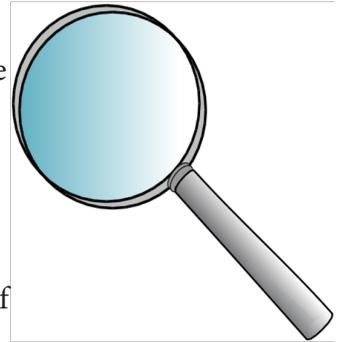
the money they raised went to purchase eggs for our Easter egg hunt. With all they have already done for Rise, the generosity did not stop. Meg and her family came to the school again and made artwork with the students in the Purple Room. The artwork will be displayed and auctioned off at our Gifts from the Heart event in November. These ladies bring so much joy to the students everytime they walk in the school. The generosity of their time and effort has gone above and beyond what Rise could have asked for.



Rise Ambassadors



The Rise School of Houston would like to thank one of our teacher's assistants, Alicia Dickson, and her entire sorority, the Beta Lambda Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. The University of Houston sorority has a strong focus on helping their communities and through their Z HOPE Program (Zeta's Helping Other People Excel), they collected supplies during the month of March for our Science Fair. The ladies posted flyers and talked to numerous organizations in order to receive as many supplies as possible. Through all their hardwork, they were able to collect books, plants, magnifying glasses and so much more for our children to enjoy during the week of their science fair. The science drive was such a success they plan to continue it next year and again collect supplies for our science fair. The staff and students at Rise greatly appreciate the support and time they have given!



Every year, volunteers from Aeropostale stores in the Houston area come to Rise for their teddy bear drive. They bring enough teddy bears for every child to have one and they visit and play with the children in their classrooms. The children look forward to this every year and when the day comes it is magical. The magic this year was focused around Ben Schilhab and his bear. Ben was so excited to get his bear and fell in love with it right away. Because he wanted his teddy bear so badly, Ben walked for the first time, with the help of his walker, to retrieve it. Every teacher and staff member could not have been more proud. What may seem to some like just another small toy can be life-changing to a child. The volunteers from Aeropostale made such a difference in the lives of Ben and the rest of the students at Rise. Each year they come, the children light up with excitement. It is an definitely an unforgettable experience!



Angels Among Us



Executive Director Jan Stailey with Dr. Richard Wainerdi

On April 12, 2013 people from all over Houston gathered together to honor four individuals that gave their time, talent and support to help children in need. Of the select few honored, our very own Executive Director Jan Stailey, was one of the recipients of the *Be An Angel Award*. The *Be An Angel* award is an honor only given to those that have truly made a difference in the lives of children in our community, someone who goes above and beyond the call of duty to help a child in need, and someone who despite all odds, can help a child overcome their obstacles and reach their full potential. The night was filled with pride and tears of joy by all who love her as Jan was presented her award. When presented, Jan stepped up and spoke about her school with such compassion that it was difficult for the audience not to be moved. She boasted about the children's achievements at The Rise School and her love for each and every one of them. She also thanked her staff, who she called "her band of angels" and stated that "she could not do it without them." The truth is, the school could not do it without her. No one breathes, lives, and embodies The Rise School and what it stands for as Jan does.

Jan has been the director of The Rise School of Houston since its opening January 20, 2000 and from day one she has made it her personal mission to help the children of the school succeed and go on to do things that were never thought possible. It is difficult to compare her level of dedication. Rarely do you find a school director that is in the classrooms with the students daily, or out on the playground with the classes every chance she gets. On top of her duties as Executive Director, Jan still finds time to truly



know each and every child personally. You will regularly find her outside welcoming the students as they come in for school in the morning and hugging them all goodbye when the day is done. There is truly no other person more deserving than Jan to receive the *Be An Angel* award.



Jan Stailey with other Angel Award recipients, Mayor Annise Parker, Scotty Sanders of The Faith Center and Fire Chief Terry Garrison

Please join the Rise staff in congratulating Jan on her award and thanking her for her years of service and unparalleled commitment which has made The Rise School of Houston a place where all children can shine!

In Loving Memory



Sandra Wormsbaker with her students

Sandra Wormsbaker was a beloved teacher's assistant for The Rise School from June, 2001 to September, 2006. She worked very hard in everything she did and cared deeply about the children of Rise. She was adored by all who knew her. Sandra and her husband enjoyed coming to all the events for the school and helping out wherever they were needed. Sandra left employment with The Rise School during a very high risk pregnancy at her doctor's advice. Afterwards, she remained home to take care of her little boy. Although she was no longer employed at The Rise School she still remained part of the Rise family and was a very special friend. Sandra passed away in February, 2013 after a brave battle with cancer. She will be deeply missed and will always remain a cherished member of the Rise family.

What the heart has once known, it shall never forget

Melvin St. Julien was a proud graduate of Ball High School in Galveston and one of the original members of our supported employment team at The Rise School. He came to work at Rise on June 6, 2000, just 6 months after the school opened! Melvin supported duties such as laundry and kitchen but also worked with kids in the classrooms. When Melvin came onboard, we not only gained a valuable employee, but a family as well. His

sister, Faye Taylor, was a huge supporter of Rise and really supported Melvin in being here. Melvin's whole family always volunteered to help at all of our events. When Melvin turned 50, the school had a huge party at Rise for him and all who loved him were in attendance. In November 2012, Melvin passed away of Alzheimer's. Melvin made a great impact during his time at Rise and will be missed greatly by all who were lucky enough to know him.



Melvin St. Julien with Jan Stailey and Kem Kennemmer