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SPRING 2007

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The Rise School of Houston  
8080 North Stadium Drive  
Houston Texas 77054

tel: 713.532.RISE (7473)

fax: 713.383.7007

[www.riseschool.org](http://www.riseschool.org)

DIRECTOR'S CORNER by Jan Stailey

# High Expectations

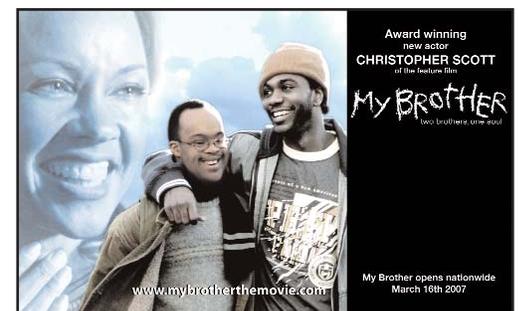
In looking for a story to introduce the theme of this

newsletter I came across this short tale. One day a partially deaf boy came home from school with a note from the teacher. It suggested that the boy's parents take him out of school. The note said that the boy was "unable to learn." When the boy's mother read the note, she said, "my son Tom is 'unable to learn.' If the people at school won't believe in him, I will. I will teach him myself." And so she did. Many years later, when Tom died, the people of our nation paid tribute to him by turning off every light at the same time, for a full minute. In the darkness, they took a moment to appreciate the man who not only invented the light bulb, but also the first music recording devices and the first motion pictures. Thomas Edison has over a thousand patents to his credit.

The connection between Thomas Edison and Rise goes beyond my original thought on the importance of belief in human capacity and the role of high expectations. The story also reminds us of how today's accomplishments impact the future. As we look at the accomplishments of Christopher Scott, one of Rise's most enthusiastic employees, we also understand how the expectations of one young man's mother could give birth to the motion picture and music industries. I hope you

will read all of this Spring newsletter to see how the unexpected interaction between the Rise School and those two worlds play out in the coming weeks.

In mid-March, Christopher Scott, teaching assistant in the red room, will sit in the AMC Studio 30 movie theater on Dunvale, and watch himself on the big screen. Not unlike many Hollywood hopefuls, it has been a long road to stardom for Chris, and not everyone would have expected this moment. Chris was born in the late 1970's with Down syndrome. His mom, Brenda relates the under-whelming expectations of the doctors at the time. "They said we should not expect him to advance beyond a three year old level." But the people in Chris' life embraced expectations much higher than that. At the school Chris more than fulfills those expectations in his daily work.



Mark your calendars for March 16, 2007 to join us for the Houston premier of My Brother, starring Rise employee, Chris Scott, at the AMC Studio 30, Westheimer at Dunvale. For tickets to the movie and reception to follow, please call Rise at (713) 532-7473.

## Rise is so Grateful to our Sponsors of Rise and Shine 2007

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But the expectations reach far beyond Chris' work at Rise. Had expectations not been high, Rise director Jan Stailey, would not have forwarded the email to Chris' parents from the Down Syndrome association asking for help in finding a person to play the role of James, an adult Down syndrome male, in what was to become the movie "My Brother." Had Chris' mom not shared those high expectations she would have never worked with Chris to put together an audition video.

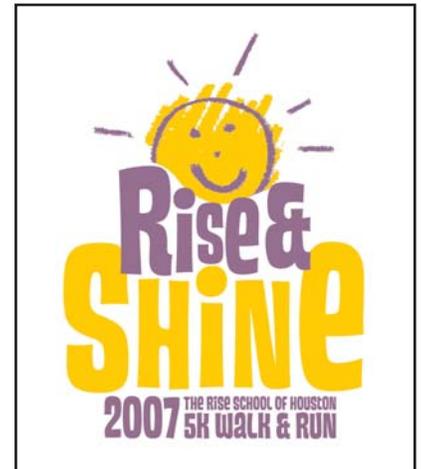
Even when he landed the role, expectations were raised. When he arrived on the set the script was adjusted to give him more speaking lines than the screenwriters originally felt an actor with Down syndrome could handle. In the end, the message in 'My Brother' has played out in Chris' life. Don't ever underestimate the capacity of each human being, regardless of their age or challenge.

At Rise we have great expectations. Those expectations focus on our children, but extend through staff and beyond to our supporters and our community. We continue to discover that for those who believe, much is given. As 2007 unfolds our expectations are great. We hope you will all join us in another great year at Rise! ☀️

## Houston Corporate Real Estate Community Comes Together Again for The Rise School

Mark your calendars for the fourth annual **Rise and Shine 5K Walk and Run and Family Festival** to be held on **Saturday, April 28, 2007** at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Thanks to the hard work of our run committee, chaired by **John Holland** of CBRE and the incredible generosity of Houston's commercial real estate community, especially **Jimmy Erwin** of title sponsor **Partner's Title**, we are well on our way to the best fun run ever. The course is set through beautiful downtown Houston, thanks to the work of **Cyndy Bhattacharya** and **Matt Lucas** of **Luke's Locker** and our run is once again the culminating event in the Texas Round-up and Get Moving Houston, **Mayor Bill White's** city-wide fitness initiative. For the first time this year, the family festival portion of our day is headed inside to Hall A of the George R. Brown, where we

have quite a day planned by our sponsors, including food, drinks and activities for the entire family. For more information or to register on-line, please go to [lukeslocker.com](http://lukeslocker.com) or call **Ashley Kress** at The Rise School at **713-532-7473** or email her at [akress@riseshool.org](mailto:akress@riseshool.org). ☀️



## Rise, Shine and Swing—A Beautiful Day for Rise

Our annual **Rise, Shine and Swing Golf Tournament** went off without a hitch on arguably the most beautiful day of 2006, September 25. Blackhorse Golf Club was simply spectacular under blue skies and just the right amount of sunshine. After being welcomed by Golf Chairman **Richard Hellmann**, 31 foursomes enjoyed a wonderful day of golf. Although no one won the hole-in-one car provided by **Sterling McCall Lexus**, everyone was a winner at the putting contest ably run by **Marvin Marcell** and **Ned Piedmont**. Congratulations to our first place gross scoring team of **Howard Horne**, **Randall Hicks**, **Dan Arnold** and **Titus Harris** and to the first place net scoring team of **Bob Galatis**, **Joe Roden**, **Jim Yarbrough** and **Tim Stinson** of **Rusty Hardin and Associates**. After a wonderful lunch out on the pavilion, **Peter Strohmer**, General Manager of **Sterling McCall Lexus**,



Howard Horne, Dan Arnold, Randall Hicks and Titus Harris

presented **Hexagon** representative **Joel Brown**, who in turn presented Rise with an incredible golf trip for two to play in the **Lexus Champions for Charity** event in **Pebble Beach, California**. Rise is so grateful to Sterling McCall for once again choosing our school as their designated charity so that we could auction off this incredible trip. **Eric Weir**, a Rise parent, was the winner of the live auction and got to take a guest along for this once in a life time vacation. All in all, the day was a quite a success, due to our many wonderful volunteers and sponsors, we raised more than \$130,000 for The Rise School. 🐝

## Bering's Shines for Gifts from the Heart Event

Gifts from the Heart, our annual gala at Bering's Hardware, was held on November 16, 2006. The evening positively shimmered with its holiday theme and the beautiful decorations donated and set up by Rise parents. The Rise School was so pleased to be able to celebrate the contributions of honorary chairpersons **Drs. Judith and Ralph Feigin** and **Mark and Shannon Wallace**, who have done so much for Rise from its very inception. The food was very special this year, created by **Ronnie Bermann** of J&R Catering, formerly of well-known Houston restaurant, Maxim's. Special thanks go to **Dia Blaschke-Sage**, **Shannon Weir**, **Bonita Merrill** and **Kristin Tassin**, the extraordinary Rise parents who made our silent auction such a success, bringing in almost \$30,000 for the school. We are so grateful to **Mr. Augie Bering** and Bering's CFO **Chris Schmitz** for welcoming us every year. In addition, the beautiful evening would not have been possible without the Bering's staff, in particular manager **Walt Haralson**. When the ice sculptures had melted, the music and good conversations were over and all the shopping done, \$185,000 had been made for Rise. What a wonderful way to start the holidays! 🐝



Mark Wallace, Shannon Wallace, Brenda Duncan, John Duncan, Judith Feigin, Ralph Feigin

## Local Bands Rock for Rise

The Rise School of Houston and Houston Margarita Society presented the **3rd Annual "Rockin' for Rise" Benefit Concert** on **Friday, March 2** and **Saturday, March 3, 2007**. The two day event took place **Friday March 2nd beginning at 8:30 p.m.** at **The Hard Rock Café**, located at Bayou Place 502 Texas Avenue and **Saturday, March 3rd beginning at 11:30 a.m.** at **The Last Concert Café**, located at 1403 Nance Street. The event featured more than 20 acts and a variety of musical styles on stage during the course of the event. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the event benefit **The Rise School**.

## NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

The Rise School of Houston admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs. The Rise School of Houston is located at a Texas Children's Hospital facility on 8080 North Stadium Drive, Houston, Texas, 713-532-7473.

*Every contribution makes a difference. The Rise School of Houston counts on generous friends for assistance. Thank you again for helping reduce the challenges of disabilities for our young children while maximizing their abilities. Thank you for caring.*

## The Rise School of Houston Staff

Jan Stailey  
*Director*

Ashley Kress  
*Development Coordinator*

Kem Kenemer  
*Office Manager*

Nan Robinson  
*Educational Coordinator/Teacher*

Morgan Bender  
*Teacher*

Jolanda Holt  
*Teacher*

Tracie Frederick  
*Teacher*

Beverly Taube  
*Teacher*

Heather Meza  
*Teacher*

Alison White  
*Physical Therapist*

Melanie Mims  
*Speech-Language Pathologist*

Jill Lack  
*Occupational Therapist*

Veronica Butler  
*Music Therapist*

Jenny Gil  
*Teacher Assistant*

Donna Cox  
*Teacher Assistant*

Patricia Harris  
*Teacher Assistant*

Lois McDonald  
*Teacher Assistant*

Blaise Konkel  
*Teacher Assistant*

Peggy Nevedomsky  
*Teacher Assistant*

Veronica Anchonda  
*Teacher Assistant*

Melody Culp  
*Teacher Assistant*

Mercedes Quiroz  
*Teacher Assistant*

Heather Ruth  
*Teacher Assistant*

Lupe Isaacs  
*Teacher Assistant*

Menomamee Smith  
*Teacher Assistant*

Mary Gulley  
*Teacher Assistant*

Kristin Huckaby  
*Classroom Assistant*

Christopher Scott  
*Classroom Assistant*

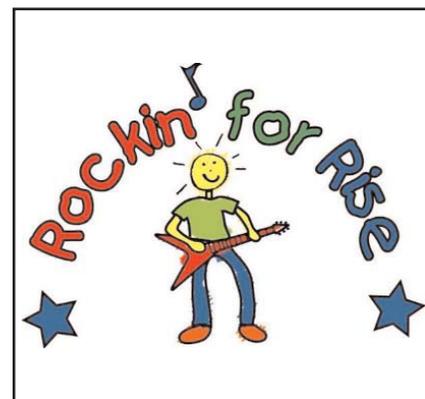
Melvin St. Julian  
*Classroom Assistant*

Tammy Palmer  
*Classroom Assistant*

Meredith Hanrahan  
*Classroom Assistant*

Noted artists appeared throughout the course of the weekend included Grammy nominated children's artists **Trout Fishing in America** and **Jim Newton**. Other noted artists include **Carmen and Camille**, **Seminole County** and **MiGGs**. Additional performances from local and regional included **3 Kisses** (featured on ABC's Wife Swap), **Owen Plant**, **The Mighty Orq**, **Little Brother Project**, **Lee Alexander Band**, **Truck** (whose members will be featured on Dr. Phil) and **Prognosis**. In addition to the entertainment, the event featured door prizes and raffles as well as appearances by The Houston Press Street Team and other special guests.

"Rockin' for Rise" event partners included: Gibson Guitars, Disc Makers, GoGirls Music, Hooters, Houston Women's Festival, Mozes, MyCity Rocks, RedeyeHouston.com, Onlinegigs.com, Scout Bar, Sonicbids, Sweet Leaf Tea, Quick Tick International, Madgrafix Design, Hard Rock Café and Last Concert Café. To see other sponsors and donors go to our website at [www.myspace.com/rockinforrise](http://www.myspace.com/rockinforrise). ☀️



The Brenda and John H. Duncan

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