

DISCOVER & LEARN

Official Newsletter of DLC Nurse & Learn



Catilyn's Courage

At 18 weeks pregnant, most parents are learning if their having a boy or girl. However, Caitlyn's mom was finding out way more about her daughter on the way than she ever anticipated. After many doctors visits, they determined that Caitlyn had a heart defect known as CoArctation of the Aorta, however they couldn't fully determine until she was born how severe the defect was. At two days old the doctors attempted to repair Caitlyn's defect with the least invasive heart procedure



Caitlyn's First Day at DLC

that they could, so they cut her from the back-left side, to about the middle of her back and attempted to make the repair. Unfortunately, the repair didn't "fix" her, as the defect was too great. They also determined after she was born that she has multiple holes in her heart, both ASD and VSD defects.

After the first surgery, Caitlyn had multiple setbacks, so during this time, she was not able to breath off the ventilator. Finally, at about 4 weeks old she recovered enough, so she underwent open heart surgery to repair her heart. This repair was successful in repairing the CoArctation and some of the holes. She still has multiple holes that still are not repairable, but the heart/body has done some amazing things to protect her. However, after the open heart surgery, her body still was struggling. If it could go wrong it did, she obtained many illnesses from just being in the hospital, to things that just happened because she was so weak. At about 12 weeks of still not being able to breath without the ventilator, Caitlyn had surgery to place a tracheostomy, and a few weeks later surgery to place a G-tube. Caitlyn was born August 27th and she didn't leave the hospital until February 1st (via ambulance, since she was on the ventilator still).

With a lot of hard work and determination from all of her family, just after her first birthday, she was finally free of the ventilator! Caitlyn never let her trach hold her back and she was one smart cookie. She realized that if she put her finger over the trach hole, she could make noises, and eventually this allowed her to talk.



Caitlyn's Story continues on Page 2...

News You Can Use:

SPECIAL EVENTS

Passport 2019
Saturday, November 16th
12 pm - 6 pm

Thanksgiving Feast
Tuesday, November 26th
at 11 am

Christmas Party
Wednesday, December 18th
Nurse & Learn @ 10 am
Therapy & Care @ 4:30 pm

Valentine's Day Dance
Frida, February 14th
at 10 am

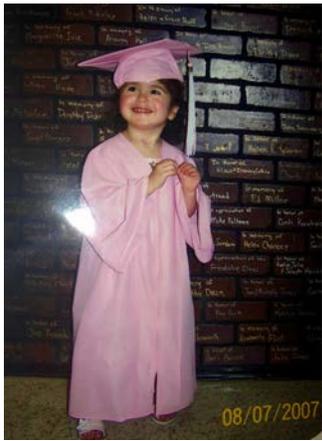
Shamrock Scavenger Hunt
Tuesday, March 17th
at 10 am

HOLIDAYS

November 27th - 29th
Thanksgiving Break
CLOSED

December 23rd through
January 3rd
Christmas Break
CLOSED

January 20th
Martin Luther King Day
CLOSED



Caitlyn's Courage Continued

Once she was off the ventilator, her family was in a dilemma as to what they were going to do for her care, especially since full-time nursing was ending as soon as she turned 13 months. One of Caitlyn's nurse case managers recommended her to DLC Nurse and Learn. So, at 13 months, Caitlyn began attending DLC. When she first began at DLC, she could sit on her own, as she began doing this at about 11 months, but she still had her trach and was 100% dependent on her g-tube feedings. She had extreme reflux, so you basically fed her and just waited for it to come back up, and then start all over again. Caitlyn's Mom shares "to say DLC was a lifesaver is an understatement, as I truly don't know what we would have done without them".

Caitlyn never crawled, she scooted on her butt and since this got her where she wanted to go, she saw no need to walk. It took lots of therapy, as well as some special braces in her shoes for support to finally get her to walk. She would pull up and stand for what seemed like forever, but at 2 1/2 years old she decided it was time and finally took her first steps and never looked back. Eating was a different thing; her oral aversion was something. However, at 4 years old she overcame enough to stop using her g-tube. It was a great day for all!

When Caitlyn was 3, she transitioned to Pre-K at Biltmore Elementary but continued to go to DLC in the afternoons. She left when she was 5 years old and was able to transfer to Kindergarten at the same school her sister was attending near their home. As soon as Caitlyn started walking she started in Dance class, which led to cheerleading and tumbling. She gave up dance a long time ago but still continues to cheer and tumble. She currently cheers at Yulee High School where she is in the 10th grade. Caitlyn is living proof of DLC's motto of 'where anything is possible.' We're looking forward to seeing what God has in store for Caitlyn's future.



Ashley Metz, Amy Buggle and Caitlyn Metz at DLC's 30th Anniversary Celebration, September 2019.

Passport 2019 to Riverside & Avondale

Join us for DLC Nurse & Learn's 5th Annual Passport to Riverside & Avondale Saturday, November 16th from 12pm to 6pm.

For Passport 2019, Shop, Sip, Sample & Stroll your way through 5 Points, Park & King, Murray Hill, and Avondale's Historic District for a fun event where you and a group of friends can visit stores, shop, sip & sample local fare, make new fall memories and support a great cause!

Passport ticket holders will show their passport ticket when they enter the store, and get their free gift or food/drink or receive a substantial discount. Passport pick up will be at Riverside Park United Methodist Church, 819 Park Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204 on Saturday, November 16.

Enjoy a fun day adventuring with friends and family while also helping a great cause. Tickets are only \$40 in advance - includes a FREE swag bag (\$50 the day of)! PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS AT www.DLCNL.org. Contact DLC at 904-387-0370 or info@DLCNL.org for more information or any questions.

Stores committed at print: Peterbrooke, Brew 5 points, All Spiced Up, Lola's Burrito & Burger Joint, Whit's Frozen Custard, Black Sheep, Soluna Yoga Spa, European Street, The Looking Glass, Blue Fish Restaurant, Talk of the Town, The Studios, Sivada's Cupcakery, Hawkers, Sun Ray Cinema, Mellow Mushroom, 2 Dude's Seafood, Southern Crossing, Ale Pie House, The Bread & Board, St. Johns Flower Market, Avondale Gift Boutique, Antique Emporium, Barriquer Kitchen & Wine Bar - **CHECK ONLINE FOR MORE SHOPS TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON!**

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Eileen & Henry Phelps



DLC Nurse & Learn Celebrating 30 Years of Hope & Miracles

On Thursday, September 12, 2019, DLC Nurse & Learn celebrated 30 years of Hope, Miracles and Memories with friends, families and community members. The evening included guest speaker, Author Pam Tebow, a walk down memory lane with CEO Amy Buggle and with guests voting on a new logo concept for DLC Nurse & Learn. The special evening with a full room of guests concluded with Ms. Buggles announcing she will be retiring at the end of 2019 as she wants to spend more time with her husband, mom and grandkids. Amy founded DLC in 1989 and has since served over 3,500 students and families in the special needs community. Join us as we celebrate Amy and her hard work to so many families at DLC - where anything is possible.



Thank You to Our Sponsors!



William & Tracy Crissman
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Mike & Susie Miller
Henry & Eileen Phelps
Stop at Nothing

Wesley Fellowship United Methodist Church

It All Began at DLC *By Mary Trotter, DLC Special Education Specialist*

I've always loved two things - learning and children. By fourth grade, I knew I wanted to be a mother and teacher, and by 9th grade I became so disillusioned with our school system that I ditched the teaching dream. Still, my love for children was deep and I chose to complete the volunteer hours required for high school graduation at a childcare center. Who could predict that volunteering at DLC would change my dreams again?

I spent the summers of 2008 and 2009 volunteering primarily in the two-year-old room. The children made it so easy to fall in love. From their sweet smiles to stories of triumph in learning to walk and talk and beating the odds predicted by doctors, I knew children with special needs would be part of my future. I set off to college at Florida State University with the goal of become a doctor of physical therapy. However, precalculus and I were not friends and I realized I made a mistake. In the midst of despair over what to do now, I met someone majoring in special education and just knew that this was what the Lord had for me all along! I graduated with a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, specializing in early childhood, with my Bachelors in Special Education.

While in college, I became incredibly passionate about early childhood education and child development. I completed my internship in a preschool classroom for children with developmental delays and accepted a teaching position in the same type of classroom after graduation. I married my college sweetheart, Boyd, in 2014 and we have two children - William and Philip. Eleven years after my volunteering days, I am employed where my love for kids with special needs began! Although not the original plan I had for myself, God knew the bigger picture and brought it all full circle. What a joy it is to be part of the DLC family and love on these kiddos!



Jaguar Fun

The kids at DLC Nurse & Learn have enjoyed dressing up for Jacksonville Jaguar Mania this fall. Cuteness overload going on at DLC in Murray Hill.



Meet the DLC Staff



Meet Julie Roziars, she is the Program Director at DLC Therapy and Care. Julie has her Bachelors of Arts Degree from the University of Florida/University of North Florida, and is Certified in Early Childhood, Intellectual Disabilities, and Specific Learning Disabilities. Basic Practitioner for Professional Crisis Management. She has taught for 36 years, with 34 years at Mt. Herman E.S.C. and is also credentialed as a Basic Practitioner for Professional Crisis Management. Julie has been with DLC since February 2017. The next time you stop by DLC Therapy & Care, say hello to Julie!

Amy Over the Years...



Celebrating 30 Years at DLC

Meet the New DLC Executive Assistant



INSERT ELIZABETH'S BIO

More Photos from the 30th Anniversary Celebration



Grant for Goodness

DLC is excited to announce that we have received a grant from the **Blooming Prairie Foundation** to help provide healthier snacks and access to organic foods to the students at DLC for one year. We are partnering with stores like the local **Grassroots Natural Market** in Five Points for fresh fruits and veggies for our kids each week. Many of the DLC students were trying these yummy snacks for the first time. We are extremely grateful to partner with the Blooming Prairie Foundation for such yumminess!



- Event volunteers to help organize, set up, clean up, snack time, arts & crafts in the classroom during special events like the Thanksgiving lunch, Christmas Parties at the both DLC locations, the Valentine's Day Dance, the Shamrock Scavenger Hunt and the Easter Egg Hunts.
- A regular and reliable reading buddy for during the week in the classroom (ust be able to pass a background check).

For more information or to sign up, contact Elizabeth Goodrich by email Elizabeth.Goodrich@dlcnl.org or by phone at 904-387-0370.

Ready for Back to School



Thank you to Judy Ellis and Friends for the donation of backpacks filled with school supplies for students at both DLC locations.



for the future of DLC

The future is now at DLC. Please consider leaving DLC in your will and estate to continue your family's blessings for the next generation. If you have any questions, please contact Heather at Heather.Corey@dlcnl.org.

DLC's 2019 Fall Festivals

Thank you to all of the volunteers, parents and staff who helped make the DLC Fall Festivals a huge success!





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DLC Nurse & Learn Leadership Team

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Heather Corey, CFRE Chief Operating Officer	Ashley Dallis Assistant Program Director
April Saltford Administrative Director	Karen Leslie Program Manager T&C
Annalaura Scott, CNA Program Director	Elisabeth Federico Physical Therapist
Carol Reaves Director of Therapy & Occupational Therapist	Debbie Kozloski Physical Therapy Assistant
Sue Molina, RN Director of Nursing	Mary Trotter Educational Specialist

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Mission Statement

DLC Nurse & Learn provides year-round high quality education, nursing care, and therapies to children of all abilities so that children and families have the opportunity to reach their maximum potential.

