



Main Street Miracles: James & Ryan Fehrman

Although I have three children, Laura, James & Ryan, only my boys attended the North Syracuse Early Education Program at Main Street. James as a disabled student and Ryan as a non-disabled student. All three of my children are close in age. In fact, I had three children under the age of three! My boys are Irish twins. They are only ten and a half months apart. It made life very hectic those first few years!

When my daughter was born, things came so easy. She was a happy baby who hardly ever cried and she hit all of her milestones. Things were different with James. A couple of weeks after he was born, he became extremely fussy and irritable. He cried ALL the time, day and night. At first, we thought it was colic. We were wrong! After many doctor appointments and months of sleepless nights, it turned out to be GERD – otherwise known as acid reflux. That was just the start of James' many issues. It took a year for the GERD to dissipate. But soon after, we noticed he was still irritable and sensitive to noise, textures and just about everything else! He never seemed happy. Another trip to the doctor, led us to an evaluation where he was diagnosed with sensory processing disorder and a therapist came to our home to work with him. This is when we first learned about Main Street. The therapist recommended we go and have him evaluated by the school. What a blessing!

James was placed in Shannon Knapp's room for his first year at Main Street. He went 3 days a week for half a day. James was extremely shy and did not speak at school. At first, we wrote it off as typical behavior for a child adjusting to being away from mom and dad. But, as the year progressed, we became very concerned. We knew anxiety ran in the family, but his seemed different and extreme. His teachers worked very hard with James and he seemed to feel comfortable, but he would not talk at school. His second year at school, he was placed in Mary Vaughn's classroom. James made progress in the full-day, 5 day a week program. He would shake his head and point when asked a question in the beginning of the year, but with time, he was answering "yes" or "no" to questions. It was heartbreaking to see my son struggle at school while all the other children were having so much fun. James at times looked "lost." Then, later on that year, his occupational therapist, Mary Warren suggested we have James tested for a very little known disorder called Selective Mutism. Selective mutism is defined as a rare, psychiatric condition characterized by the failure to speak in certain situations, which in James' case was school. Mary's dedication to try to find out what was wrong with James was life changing for us. We had James tested at the Upstate Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Clinic and they confirmed the selective mutism diagnosis, as well as the sensory processing disorder and also diagnosed him with generalized anxiety disorder. We began treatment for him immediately which would include intense counseling and eventually medication. Today, James is finishing second grade and doing very well! He is much more social, more engaging and talks and participates in school!! Although James will always be more of a shy and serious person, he has really come out of his shell and we are so proud of how far he has come! He would not be where he is today without the dedication, guidance and support we received at Main Street.



James and Ryan celebrating a special occasion!

Ryan spent two years in Shannon Knapp's room as a non-disabled student. While his brother James

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Our Mission

The Friends of the North Syracuse Early Education Program (FNSEEP) is dedicated to supporting and enhancing the North Syracuse Early Education Program. We are a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization.

Upcoming Events:

Summer School 7/2 - 8/12 (No school July 4th)

7/24 - The Bubbleman

Friends Meeting @ Main St. School 8/22 @ 6:30

First Day of 2013-2014 School year- 9/4/2013

Friends Meeting @ Main St. School 9/19 @ 6:30

Open House- 10/1/2013

Message From the Principal NSEEP at Main Street ~ Dawn Hussein



As the 2012/2013 school year comes to a close, it is the perfect opportunity to reflect back on some of our accomplishments at the North Syracuse Early Education Program. It has been another successful year with results from our involved community members, dedicated staff, and invested parents. Our 275 students thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to make the Main Street program the "Destination" preschool program!

We recently completed our first full cycle of the Speed DIAL, a screening assessment tool used to gauge growth in performance levels of our students three times per year. Test kits and protocols were purchased by the Friends of NSEEP at the end of last school year. Students were given the baseline assessment at the beginning of the school year. A benchmark assessment was given midyear on 3 key focus areas for our school improvement plan...colors, meaningful counting, and problem solving. Our year-end assessment results were consistent with midyear progress revealing measurable growth in all areas. Great evidence to support the value of 4410 preschool programs!

In an effort to close our budget deficit for the current school year, we greatly appreciate efforts that were made with our local legislators to secure supplemental funding. I am pleased to announce that Assemblyman Al Stirpe has granted us \$100,000 in supplemental aid. In addition, Senator Valesky has granted us supplemental aid in the amount of \$50,000. We continue to ask for your support with approaching Senator DeFrancisco in order to secure immediate funding to cover the remainder of our deficit. As a long term solution, we continue to pursue an increase in our state rates. As you know, there is power in numbers and your phone call can make a difference!

An exciting new venture for the North Syracuse Early Education Program is wrap-around care with the YMCA. This program is intended to satisfy a need in the community for hours beyond the regular school day. Starting in September, qualified YMCA providers will be offering before and after school care at Main Street. Applications are available in the main office at NSEEP or on the Wetzel Road YMCA website.

If you are looking for something fun for your preschooler to do for the summer, please inquire about our 6 week summer school program, starting July 2nd and ending August 12th.

Have a great summer! ~ Dawn Hussein

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is shy and serious and had many issues, Ryan is more outgoing and his issues were minor. His first year at Main Street he struggled with a pretty bad case of separation anxiety. But, that was handled with perfection by the teachers in room 102! Ryan also had a difficult time potty training. His teachers were so patient, supportive and encouraging with him. Ryan loved being at preschool. He was always laughing and smiling in the classroom.

Ryan is always looking out for others and really cares about his friends. He has great empathy, and I truly believe he learned these life skills at Main Street. Today, Ryan is thriving at school. He is finishing up first grade and really looking forward to second grade!

Being a parent of a child with a disability can be overwhelming and lonely. Sometimes you can feel as if no one understands what

you are going through, or even that no one believes you. When your child attends Main Street, you feel as if you are a part of a family. And with that comes an unwavering support system. My boys spent three years at Main Street. During those three years, I volunteered on the PTO. I cannot put into words how valuable those experiences were for me. I made friends who are some of the most important people in my life. Their support means the world to me. I encourage anyone out there who is struggling with their child (ren) to reach out to other parents within Main Street. Make a friend; consider joining the PTO or the Friends organization. It is always beneficial to talk to people who understand what you are going through.

THANK YOU Main Street! I am forever grateful.

~ Chris Fehrman

Help Us Build Our Future, One Tile At A Time!



Here's your chance to contribute to NSEEP while building our school's logo!

The mural will be constructed from tiles that you donate. It will be hung near the main entry doors. Each tile is an important piece in the overall picture-- **Just like your child!**

When you purchase a tile for \$100 each, your name or your child's name will be added to the donor plaque which will be mounted on the wall right next to the mural. All proceeds will benefit NSEEP.

Order forms are available at school or you can download the order form at

<http://fnseep.org/2011/11/main-street-tile-donation/>.

Therapy Ball 2013 Raises \$11,634.55!

This year's Therapy Ball was a huge success, raising \$11,634.55! None of that could have been possible without the help of our many donors, volunteers and the teachers and staff at Main Street School. I would like to especially thank **Barbagallo's** for donating the space for the Therapy Ball and to **Gianelli Sausage** and **Santangelo's Restaurant** for donating some of the wonderful food that was served. The volunteers are just too many to list here; however, I would like to give a special thank you to Mary Ellen, at the NSEA office, for handling all of our incoming donations; Marie and Belva, who were always there to answer my calls and help me to send numerous faxes and lastly, to Mary Alice Swanson for being our emcee for the evening and for spinning the wheel all night long. The wheel was a huge hit! I would also like to thank Jennifer Higgs for agreeing to co-chair this event with me next year.

Again, without all of your help and donations, the Therapy Ball would not be the success that it was and with that, I say Thank You again from the bottom of my heart! I hope to see you all again next year for the 2014 Therapy Ball. **Mark your calendars; it is scheduled for April 3, 2014.**

~Jill Coleman,
Therapy Ball Chairperson



Applebee's
Aspen Athletic Club
Auntie Anne's Pretzel
Bach Photography
Barbagallo's Restaurant
Best Buy
Best Way Beauty
Best Western
Big Dip
Big Don's Wild River
Body Works Massage
Buda's Produce
Buffalo Bills
Buffalo Wild Wings
Cantina Laredo
Caramel Corn
Carvel Dewitt
Cayuga Wine Trail
Chabot Cheese
Chuck Hafner's
Cicero American Legion
Corning Museum of Glass
Corso's Cookies
Countryside Federal Credit Union
Crystal Atkins
Delta Sonic
Denny's
Dinosaur BBQ
Dominic's Restaurant
Donna & Kurt Johnson
Double Tree Hotel
Downtown Dance Studio
Drumlin's Driving Range
Drumlins Tennis
Elan Therapeutic Massage
Encore Hair Salon
Erica Abdo

Erie Canal Museum
Everson Museum
E-Z Unlimited
Ferguson Funeral Home
Fish Cove
Flamingo Bowl
Four Seasons Golf & Ski Center
Friendly's
Funny Bones Comedy Club
Fust, Charles, Chambers, LLP
Geddes Bakery
Gertrude Hawk Chocolate
Gianelli Sausage
Girl Scout Troop 10039
Great Northern Pizza Kitchen
Gymboree
Hampton Inn
Harbor View Liquor
Hilton Garden Inn
Hofmanns Hot Haus
Holiday Inn
Iannuzzo's Karate
Ichiban Japanese Steakhouse
Innovations Salon
Johnny Rockets
Kidzclub
Limp Lizard
Little Debbie
Macy's
Main Street PTO
Mario's Bakery
Moe's Southwest Grill
MOST
Nestico's Restaurant
North Area YMCA
Olive Garden
Opti-Golf
Outback Steakhouse
P.F. Changs
Pampered Chef
Pampered Paws
Papa Sports
Peak Family Dentistry
Petland
Piano & Organ Center
Pizza Hut
Pizzeria Uno's
Price Chopper
Red Lobster
Red Robin
Ritter's Cleaners
Romano Dentistry
Rosamond Gifford Zoo
Sandra DiBianco
Santangelo's
Saunacuse
Seabreeze
Sears
Sherwin Williams
Spaghetti Warehouse
SportsCenter 481
Stella's Diner
Stickley
Studio 11
Sun Chevrolet
Sweet On Chocolate
Syracuse Chiefs
Syracuse Children's Theatre
Syracuse Crunch
Syracuse Opera
Syracuse Sheraton
Syracuse Stage
Texas Roadhouse
The Downtown Dance Studio
Tim Horton's
Toby Keith's I Love This Bar and Grill
Toggenburg
Vince's Gourmet Imports
Wegman's



Fun filled 2nd Annual Walk-a-thon!

The 2nd Annual "Small Steps for a Big Future" Walk-a-thon took place on June 8th. The event was a success! What an amazing day we had at the Walk-a-thon with our Main Street family and the community at large. We met our objectives—raised \$6,553.00 in cash donations and over \$2,000.00 in non-cash donations and our kids had a fun filled day. This money will be used for school improvements and student and staff enrichment for this year and next year.

Our success would not be possible without the tremendous help from our planning committee members: Shari Doherty, Dawn Hussein, Hal Breon, Catherine Podolak, Jessica Knox and Edugie Niepa; our community volunteers; and our Main Street PTO volunteers.

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Friends of NSEEP Officers

Hal Breon, President

Jennifer Higgs, Secretary

Catherine Podolak, Treasurer

**North Syracuse Early Education
Program at Main Street**

205 S. Main St., North Syracuse, NY 13212
315-218-2200 <http://nscsd.org/main.cfm>

Out top 5 student fundraisers were:

Hunter Podolak

Josslynn Farrare

Lucas Aiello

Caitlyn Machalek

Herlynn Niepa

A big thank you to our Main Street Family and
Community Sponsors:

The Aiello Family

Sun Auto

The Ferrare Family

Main Street PTO

Bret & Evie Guilford

Lockheed Martin

Driver's Village

Dunkin Donuts

Liverpool Blueprint

Cooper Industries

CMC Dance

Assante Design

DMB Dance Productions

Cumulus Media, Inc.

BJ's Wholesale

The North Syracuse Lioness Club

Syracuse Banana

M&H Construction and Design, Inc.



Kind Regards,

Edugie Niepa

Main Street PTO Co President 2012/2013 and FNSEEP Walk-a-thon chairperson