

STEPPING STONES

Midland Children's Rehabilitation Center

Changing Lives...One Step at A Time



Meet Presley!

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Did you know?

- **Dyslexia commonly runs in families.**
- **Dyslexics have excellent thinking skills in the areas of conceptualization, reason, imagination, and abstraction.**
- **Numbers of boys and girls who have dyslexia are about the same.**
- **Dyslexia affects approximately 20% of the US population— it is the most common learning disorder in the US.**

Presley Parham has demonstrated some incredible skills in therapeutic riding in the past few months. Presley has been coming to Midland Children's Rehabilitation Center for 7 years, and has been part of our therapeutic riding group since 2014. You've probably seen her perform at our Rodeo Play Day in previous years, but this year Assistant Barn Manager Laura Buzbee wanted to praise how far Presley has come.

During this previous session, Presley has been showing true horsemanship by walking and trotting independently around the arena and doing 6-step show patterns. Presley's diagnosis requires the use of crutches at all times, but she is leading her horse independently around the arena on a regular basis. This is truly significant because of her diagnosis of hypotonia, a condition that results in low muscle tone and weakened muscle strength. She is one of the most advanced riders Laura has seen in the program, and we are so proud of how far she has come!

As with all of the professional services offered at MCRC, our equine therapy services have such a positive impact on so many levels. The inner light that shines through when our students succeed impacts far beyond the student—family, neighbors, teachers, and all who interact with these children can feel the joy kindled from the pride and accomplishments they see.

Midland
CHILDREN'S
rehabilitation center



Stay Connected with MCRC

Mark your Calendars for 2017!

- January 3—MCRC re-opens for 2017
- April 6—Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
- April 8—Spring Riding and Trail Show
- April 14—MCRC closed for Holiday
- April 22—Pumpjack Paradise 2017
- May 6—Basin Bike Fest
- May 29—MCRC closed for Holiday
- July 4—MCRC closed for Holiday

The MCRC Holiday Dance Recital was a Hit!

This year's theme for the MCRC Holiday Dance recital was "A Magically Sweet Christmas." Our performers awed the attendees and truly sparked a feeling of Holiday Magic in all of us. Thank you performers and dance coach Jessica Neves for all of your hard work!



"Thank you so much for offering a safe, understanding, fun dance program. Lucy has loved it after years of wanting to dance but not being able to follow a typical class. She's gained so much confidence and pride! It's brought joy to us all. She told me she wants to do cheer at school now and knows she can because she can do a dance recital! Thank you for making new things possible!"

—Lynn Alsup, mother of Lucy

Top Left to Bottom Right: Tiara Doucet, Amber Hopper, Kailea Aaron, Malia Jimenez, Aloura Sanchez, Hannah Hernandez, Hallee Coulter, Lily Orosco, Katelyn McNew, Sara Marruffo, LJ Sellers, Kaylina Jefferz, Samantha Cummins, Jennifer Logsdon, and Lucy Alsup

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Reaching for the Stars...



2016 Graduates

Jack O'Grady

One of our long-time students Jack is aging out of MCRC because he is turning 22 in December. Jack has been coming to the Center once a week since before 2012 for strengthening, stretching, endurance, and walking. Ever since he has come to the Center, he has not needed any orthopedic surgeries and is able to walk around the Center five times in an appointment—that is a huge accomplishment!

Samantha Cummins

Samantha has been participating in Open Gym for over 7 years. She has been able to enjoy the benefits of exercise even after her traditional PT and OT therapy has ended. Samantha is our encourager! She once printed off pictures to hang on the wall in front of the treadmill to motivate herself and other participants while they do their treadmill walking.

Micah Rosenberg

Micah came for a PT evaluation in 2006 and immediately joined Open Gym. He has now been coming for 10 years! When Micah first began Open Gym, he was very hesitant to use the equipment. He has completely overcome that fear and now operates the equipment on his own!

Join Us On Our Journeyto Infinity and Beyond!

Buzz Lightyear is our new ambassador for 2017 as we continue to grow and expand "to infinity and beyond." Anytime you see Buzz, you can expect to learn about a construction update to the Center.



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Save the Date

Bill and Gail Engvall's



PUMPJACK *Paradise*

We are gearing up for our 2017 major fundraiser—Pumpjack Paradise! Pumpjack Paradise MCRC's fundraiser with a golf tournament and evening event featuring Texas Country dance music in a relaxed and intimate setting in our own West Texas Paradise.

April 22: Golf at 8 AM — Dance at 6 PM

Reserve your spot early!

\$5000 – 4 man golf team & 8 party passes

\$3000 – 4 man golf team

\$2500 – 8 party passes

Invitations will be mailed in 2017. For more information, contact Gail at gheathington@midlandchildrens.org or call the Center at (432) 498-2053.