


Promoting Special Education

The population of children and their families with special education needs continues to grow at an increasing rate. Limited local and state resources for one of our most vulnerable populations have impacted the long-term outcome for these children. Families want and need information on critical resources in their communities but do not know where to go, or even where to begin looking.

Finding the right environment for each student is critical to that student's ability to learn and grow

The Little Keswick Foundation for Special Education devotes itself to promoting public awareness of special education. Through Little Keswick School, the Foundation has access to Educational Consultants who work with parents of special needs children to help identify resources and give families valuable information on schools serving children with special education needs. Finding the right environment for each student is critical to that student's ability to learn and grow. Staff works relentlessly to match children and their families with special education resources available to them.


The Foundation creates opportunities for the general public to learn more about special education and the educational opportunities available to children with special needs. Through an annual educational symposium, the Foundation provides a channel for interested community members, parents, and professionals to learn about special education resources and receive information focusing on special education subjects. A nationally recognized expert speaks to the group providing new information, strategies and support for interested parties.

The Little Keswick Foundation looks beyond its own backyard to educate the public on special education needs and to advocate for this vulnerable population. Funds are needed to provide the financial resources necessary to fulfill this goal. 

A Student's Perspective

By Justin

My name is Justin and I am thirteen years old. I have Tourette Syndrome, ADHD and OCD-obsessive compulsive disorder. These problems cause me to have tics such as sniffing, trying not to get my shoes dirty, and having my belongings in the exact place where I put them. I have lived with these problems since I was eight years old. All through my life I have been made fun of because of them. People stare at me in ways that make me feel like I am very stupid, but I am learning to ignore them because they have not lived with Tourette Syndrome, OCD or ADHD. Having these problems has helped me learn more about myself and other kids with problems that they can't help.

I think having these problems is not too bad. Having lived with them for the past five years I have learned it can be hard being a little different from other kids my age, but I can still be treated like a regular human being. 

Scholarship Opportunities

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Many of the students and families who desperately need the therapeutic, residential program offered at Little Keswick School have searched for years for a school to meet their son's special education and emotional needs. Often family systems are disintegrating, therapeutic needs are not addressed and the child experiences repeated failure in school, financial resources diminish and the hope of being financially capable to meet their child's special education needs seems impossible. An already difficult situation becomes even more stressful-leaving parents feeling helpless.


The Little Keswick Foundation for Special Education makes funding scholarships for families in financial need a top priority. Donors may select from annual or endowed scholarship programs.

Annual Scholarships

For the past 43 years children with special education needs have come to Little Keswick School with hope. Their families rely on the highly trained, experienced and nurturing staff as well as a distinctive learning environment for assistance in meeting the needs of their children. The parents have faced years of frustration and feelings of failure as well as financial hardship. The cost of delivering a top notch therapeutic program for children with special education needs is high-but the outcome is immeasurable.

The Little Keswick Foundation for Special Education provides the crucial funds needed to offer this experience to children and families who otherwise could not benefit from its valuable services. The Foundation secures donations from private individuals, foundations and corporations each year to fully fund scholarships for these families. The need for scholarships continues to grow as the number of children with special education needs continues to increase. We have the tools to help these families; all we need is the financial support of our community to make a life long difference.


Endowed Scholarships

Many donors choose to establish or contribute to an endowed fund, creating a lasting legacy with their charitable giving. To date, The Little Keswick Foundation for Special Education has funded annual scholarships for families in financial need. In an effort to meet the long-term need for financial support, the Foundation has developed Endowed Scholarship opportunities. Establishment of a permanent Endowment with The Little Keswick Foundation for Special Education is a unique privilege and will provide perpetual funding for a valued purpose. Endowment funds will be invested to generate a steady stream of income for providing scholarship funds. We would be pleased to work with you, your family and your advisors, to assist in making an Endowment gift or pledge. 

Therapeutic Support

The boys accepted for admission to Little Keswick School, typically face multiple long-term challenges. The kind of comprehensive and intensive services they require are extremely difficult to obtain in an outpatient setting with an array of unassociated professionals. Each student at Little Keswick School (LKS) is supported in their efforts by a qualified and experienced clinical team which provides individual, group, and family psychotherapies, as well as consultation to academic and residential staff. The entire LKS team communicates continuously to deliver interventions that empower boys to make life-altering social, emotional and behavioral changes. To effectively maintain these coordinated efforts, students and their families work intensively with the clinical team, defining an evolving picture of the student and his unique needs. Coordinated therapies and fully-integrated psychiatric care then support the individual efforts of the students in the overall program.


At Little Keswick School, we have found that the only real antidote to a history of struggles and failures is the experience of sustained self success. At Little Keswick School, careful selection of appropriate challenges and the development of effective strategies provide constant opportunities for new successes. The relationship-based behavior management program sustains student awareness of specific goals, organizes goal-directed behavior, and illuminates clear pathways to success.

Developmentally-graded level criteria create a template for more generalized gains. Choice theory, integrated throughout the management program, teaches students to generate acceptable alternative behaviors, as opposed to developing compliance without self-management and personal responsibility. Formalized and consistent practice of dignity and respect encourages the development of a strong sense of self esteem and personal influence. 

Communications Skills & Speech Therapy

The Communication Skills Program at Little Keswick School teaches students how to be effective and appropriate communicators. Through direct instruction, role-playing, observation and discussion, students learn how and why specific social language guidelines can improve interpersonal relationships in all aspects of life. Competent social language skills are as important as reading skills for success in today's world. Most children develop adequate social language skills as part of natural maturation through imitation, trial and error, and general recognition of what makes the world work well for them, yet some students need direct instruction and supportive training to acquire effective social language skills.


Approximately 75% of learning disabled children has social skill deficits. In order to address this population at Little Keswick School, the therapist developed a comprehensive curriculum that empowers students to use appropriate verbal styles during conversations with peers and adults as well as the appropriate body language. In therapy students learn how to obtain attention appropriately and interpret the nonverbal signals of the listener.

Upon entering Little Keswick School, students are screened and evaluated to determine if an expressive and/or receptive language skill disorder is present. If a student is found eligible for therapy, a comprehensive report and Individualized Education Plan (IEP) are written. 

Occupational Therapy


Occupational Therapy at Little Keswick School is one-on-one therapy that promotes “skills for the job of living”. An experienced therapist works individually with a student to improve the performance of their unique set of body systems. Many of the boys demonstrate impaired fine motor skills, gross motor function, sensory integration problems and sequencing difficulties. As we function in our daily lives, our brain and corresponding systems work together cohesively to perform the various tasks of life. These boys do not have that advantage and need intensive therapy to enable them to thrive in life.

Specific examples of skills addressed by the therapist illustrate the vital nature of ongoing therapeutic sessions for these boys. Try to imagine achieving success in life if your body and corresponding systems operate at a deficit.










Sensory integration and a variety of occupational therapy techniques are used to promote a neurological foundation for the development of these basic life skills. A Stress Management and Relaxation group session is offered which teaches techniques that enable students to practice on their own level of attention, emotion and stress and provides them with tools to manage in everyday life. Occupational Therapy is intricately linked into the other therapies and programs at the school. 

Art Therapy

Art therapy provides a means in which special needs students may explore feelings, increase awareness of self and others, enhance cognitive abilities, and enjoy the pleasure of making art in non-verbal and socially acceptable forms. Images become a metaphor for the child’s understanding of their own situation/reality. The process of creating art acts as a mechanism to discharge feelings, conflicts, fears, and concerns, and allow for dialogue at a symbolic level. Art becomes an extension of the child; which can be used to support, to value, to empower, and to give the child a voice. At Little Keswick School, the Art Therapist looks at both the process of creating art and reflecting on the completed product in a non-judgmental and accepting way.

Art therapy allows students to design a world in which they can explore inner conflict, fears, strengths, and emotions in a symbolic form and in a safe and accepting environment. Students do not have to be artistically inclined to benefit from the art therapy. The program has been instrumental in helping students who have difficulty expressing themselves verbally. The students enjoy sharing their art with family members, their peers as well as staff members. 

Common Therapy Areas

-  Regulating their attention and emotions in a socially acceptable manner.
-  Achieving trunk stability to sit and learn.
-  Possessing fine motor skills and perceptual skills to write, type, and perform tasks with their hands.
-  Exhibiting gross motor skills to run, jump, throw and kick.
-  Having motor planning ability to automatically know how hard to press when writing, to have the timing to run to a soccer ball and kick it, to move food around in their mouth to chew adequately, and eat neatly.
-  Demonstrating the ability to cross their midline with their eyes, arms, and legs in order to read, write, and perform sports.
-  Possessing the ability to accurately process sensory information and screen out unnecessary information (sensory defensiveness).
-  Knowing how to manage their stress and modulate their anxiety with relaxation techniques.
-  Possessing age appropriate social skills.

Occupational Therapy is intricately linked into the other therapies and programs at the school

Faculty Development

The most important asset of Little Keswick School is the dedicated staff that delivers consistent, therapeutic programming to the students in a caring manner twenty-four hours a day. Each staff member undergoes intensive training and certification process to enhance their knowledge of new techniques that will aid them in both program delivery and improving their communication skills. The culture at “Little Keswick” is unique in that the staff are given the tools they need to work and support the boys and their families to achieve both individual and group goals.

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Working with special needs children is a difficult and often stressful job. The demands can take an individual toll on both teacher and student. Staff have the support of the Foundation to access new techniques for dealing with the children’s individualized needs as well as information to provide new programming options leading to the student’s success and feeling of accomplishment. Creating opportunities for professional growth of Little Keswick School staff is a priority of the Foundation. The Foundation works diligently to raise funds so that staff may continue to grow and develop professionally. Personal growth through professional training ultimately benefits the students themselves—and improving the quality of the student experience and increasing the quality of each student’s outcome is what the Little Keswick Foundation is all about. 🌲