



The Elaine Clark Center 2014 Scholarship Campaign

5130 Peachtree Boulevard Chamblee, GA 30341 • Phone (770) 458- 3251 • www.elaineclarkcenter.org

The Frank Clark Memorial Scholarship Fund enables children & young adults with special needs from 6 weeks to 22 years old to receive support services vital to their optimal development, including:

EARLY INTERVENTION | PEDIATRIC NURSING | INCLUSIVE CHILDCARE THERAPIES | K - 12 ACCREDITED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING | JOB SITE TRAINING | RESPITE CARE | LIFE SKILLS BASED CURRICULUM | AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT | DEVELOPMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

In the past year, **47 children received scholarships**, made possible by generous supporters of the scholarship fund.

The scholarship fund is easy for families to access. Any family with a child that has special needs is eligible. Families fill out an application and provide income verification. The application is then reviewed, income is verified and if the family demonstrates need, the scholarship is granted. Then the child is enrolled in the program. If a child is on scholarship attendance is compulsory, unless there is a medical reason the child must be out. This allows the child maximum contact with the program which allows the child to thrive. Over 90% of those we serve reach social or developmental goals. But not only does the child thrive, the family thrives. Part of the scholarship program is that families must provide income verification on a quarterly basis and the majority of the times we see the family income increase. The reason for this is simple. Parents can work when they have consistent, affordable, quality care. We are open year round closing for only major holidays and 2 teacher work days. When the Academy or the school system is closed camps are open. Parents can work, children have somewhere to go where they are challenged. Children thrive, Parents thrive.



Multiple Ways to Support the Campaign

There are three different ways you can support the scholarship fund. You can make a **monetary donation** to the campaign, you can become an **apogee donor** by designating a portion of your state taxes to go to the Center or you can participate in our upcoming **5K Hustle for Hope** which benefits the scholarship fund. Of course you could also do all three!

Become an Apogee Donor!

All tax payers are eligible to receive a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit in exchange for contributions to state approved Student Scholarship Organizations. The Elaine Clark Center has selected the Apogee Georgia School Choice Scholarship Fund to manage this program for our donors who would like to return their state tax payment into scholarships for children with special needs at our center. The enrollment process is fast & easy! To receive tax credit for the 2015 tax year, donation should be made before April 2015. Visit

www.apogee123.org for an easy online application. The early application process starts August 1,

2014. Applications are limited make sure you get your application in early! We are listed under the partner schools list as The Elaine Clark Center/ Heart of Hope.

Thank you to the 2014-2015 Frank Clark Memorial Scholarship Fund Donors!

Foundation & Public Support

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This letter was submitted by Andrea and Edward Rogers with their Scholarship Application. A perfect example of the challenges faced by the children served at The Elaine Clark Center and their families on a daily basis. A scholarship was granted to the Rogers, and Christopher, Mom and Dad are doing well!

"I'm going to try something, and just walk away"

I am not surprised when Christopher simply continues to play with Zena and the other kids on the playground. He's great around other people, and perfectly happy and active. I'm surprised at my reaction. I'm crying. It's mostly relief from experiencing a normal moment after 2 years of stuff that has been anything but normal.

My illusion of control sublimates into dull helplessness the morning of October 27th, 2011. Andrea's been in Kennestone hospital for a week on bed rest for pre-eclampsia. She's 6 months pregnant. After a last effort to bring her heart pressure under control, the doctor looks at us and says, "We deliver today. He has no chance to survive otherwise. And he has very little chance when we do deliver." That's our choice.

The C- section is fast. I hear one faint cry with his first breath. It would be a year before I would hear his voice again. I get a few pictures of Christopher: 1 pound, 2.2 ounces. 515 grams. No other immediate problems. We should expect a day or two where everything will be fine. Then things will happen. We have a fabulous education department called the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. A day later, a collapsed lung, two places. Respirator is replaced by an Oscillator with 70% oxygen. His body vibrates constantly. Liver failure and bilirubin lights, digestive tract worries, level 1 brain bleed. Bradycardia: that's a euphemism, a code word for 'your sons heart stopped again.'

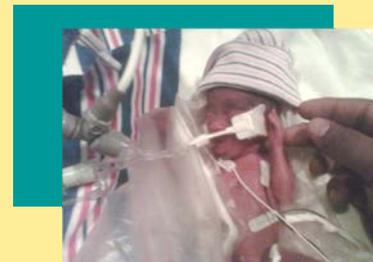
Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia, respiratory Failure, Cor Pulmonale, Oxygen had to be kept between 89% and 95%, otherwise risk of blindness. Days, weeks, months, a New Year. Numerous failed extubations. Stridos. GERD, aspirations, fundoplication, tracheostomy. And a few brave faces along the way. Three hospitals and 9 months later, the three of us go home together. With nursing. 12 hours a day. In our home. That was now a branch of the hospital. A week later we return with an infection. It really isn't over. But we make it back home again. And there are more and more happy playful times. The house is overrun with nursing, specialists, and equipment. We donate unworn infant clothing. We take turns sleeping with the ventilator and the tubes and the wires, and oh yes Christopher.

Now, there's the last feeding issue/ G-tube that prevents us access to traditional day care services. This leaves no room for full-time jobs. This also limits Christopher's social interactions that help him thrive. This is the opportunity being offered at the Elaine Clark Center, it would provide us opportunity to re-establish ourselves back into the workforce, but more importantly, provide Chris a safe atmosphere to grow, learn and play.

All this pales to the present moment, watching him, just like all the other kids, being a kid.

Edward Rogers

Father of Christopher—Ladybug at The Elaine Clark Center



Christopher at birth and at the Hospital with Mom and Dad



Christopher Ready to Go to School



Christopher playing with his friends at The Elaine Clark Center



Please complete below form & return in the envelope provided, or send to the Elaine Clark Center via:
Mail: 5130 Peachtree Industrial Blvd. Chamblee, GA 30341 | **Online:** www.elaineclarkcenter.org, click on the **Donate** button

Yes! I want to provide scholarships for deserving children with special needs!

Name _____ Phone # _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Here is my gift of: (circle) \$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other: \$ _____

I would like to make a recurring commitment of \$ _____ (circle) Bi-monthly Monthly Bi-Annually

This gift is in (circle) IN MEMORY or HONORING: (Print Name) _____

Please provide the name & address for where acknowledgement of this gift should be sent:

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