

Kentuckiana Turns 36

Lorraine Golden, DC

Don Petersen Jr., so aptly stated in the March 26, 1993 issue of Dynamic Chiropractic:

"This the the true spirit of chiropractic care: the willingness to do whatever had to be done, in a caring and compassionate manner, and serve humanity with the great gift of chiropractic. ... Look around and see those that you can share this wonderful gift with, especially if they can't pay or have never experienced what your hands can do. Let there never be a person on earth who didn't have the opportunity to experience the healing of chiropractic care."

What a beautiful statement, and how true! Those of us at the Center can testify by personal experience that living with that kind of heart brings not only great personal satisfaction, but also the opportunity to change the lives of hundreds of children with special needs and their parents.

Since 1957, my stated philosophy has been that handicapped children need, deserve, and have the basic human right to receive all the help necessary, regardless of their socioeconomic status in life. This credo will continue to be, as it always has been, our basic philosophy -- no child denied the health care and/or special education needed just because the family cannot afford the services.

With this ethic driving us for over 36 years, we have also been able to accomplish these "firsts" in behalf of the chiropractic profession:

1. First public service institution providing free chiropractic care for the financially indigent, or children with special needs.
2. First institution in any field to work with the emphasis on the whole child and the individual needs in preparing for a more productive life.
3. First to have members from other disciplines such as speech therapy, optometry, psychology, sociology, osteopathy, and education working together under one roof.
4. First to combine chiropractic care with a special school for handicapped children.
5. First to receive federal tax exempt status, 501(c) (3).

Let me tell you one of our hundreds of success stories:

"Bobby" was only three weeks old when he began having ear infections and later required tubes in both ears. At nine months, he was medically diagnosed as having lead poisoning. For a year he was tested every two weeks but received no treatment. At 18 months, he was diagnosed as slightly retarded. At nine years, he was diagnosed having seizures and placed on dilantin. His behavior pattern included banging his head on the walls, slapping himself, and emitting high-pitched noises.

Bobby was 12-years-old when referred to Kentuckiana Children's Center. An extensive multidisciplinary professional evaluation revealed spinal subluxations, severe visual acuity disorder, and toxic levels of trace minerals. He received spinal adjustments and was enrolled in special education classes provided at Kentuckiana.

After only four months of receiving spinal adjustments, a repeat EEG was done which revealed no seizure activity, so the medication was discontinued. Supplement therapy has reduced the levels of lead in his system.

Bobby has loved Kentuckiana's special school, and is now demonstrating superior ability in mathematics. His parents have said, "We can't thank you enough for the help you have given our boy. We see improvement in him every day, and it's because all of you have shown such care and concern. He has come a long way in the past year, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

The results achieved with Bobby and the gratitude conveyed by his parents exemplify the spirit of Kentuckiana Children's Center. Thank you, Don, for helping to bring back the true spirit of chiropractic care. Hopefully many DCs will heed. The true spirit of chiropractic care makes the true healer!

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