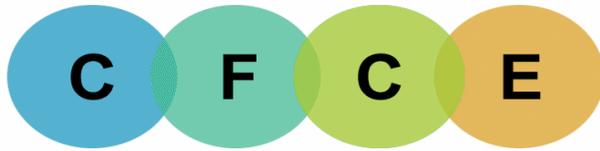


# COLORADO FOUNDATION



## FOR CONDUCTIVE EDUCATION

... Achieving independence through active learning

Fall Newsletter 2011



Volume 3, Issue 2

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The Colorado Foundation for  
Conductive Education is a 501(c)(3)  
public charity committed to  
providing opportunities for  
individuals with motor challenges  
to achieve optimal physical,  
cognitive and social independence  
through the application and  
promotion of Conductive Education  
principles.

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## Off to the Golf Course! 2nd Annual Golf Tournament

Expansion to Denver!

See page 5



June 16<sup>th</sup> turned out to be a very successful day for CFCE as many of our loyal supporters joined us at Inverness Golf Club for

our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual golf tournament fundraiser. After a successful 1<sup>st</sup> tournament in 2010, we had high hopes of doing even better this year. The day started off sunny and beautiful as guests arrived wearing their golf attire. After checking in and receiving their golf goodies, then signing up for the ball drop game and Mulligans, players warmed up for golf, loaded up their carts with clubs or grabbed a beer, depending on their priority, and chatted with their many friends and business associates also arriving for a great day of golf.

A delicious lunch buffet was served outside on the immaculately groomed Inverness grounds before the ball drop competition got underway. There was only one ball drop winner this year, Ed Nemnich, who generously donated the cash prize back to CFCE. Thank you Ed!

At 1pm the shotgun fired and everyone cruised onto the course. With the help of Odells and Coors, who provided ample beer while on the course, players' spirits were high and golf clubs were swinging. Halfway through the tournament the Colorado wind picked up and provided a gusty breeze to make this tournament ever more challenging for the golfers. Nevertheless, everyone continued to enjoy the day but had to up their game a little with better aiming!

There were many incentives at the holes to keep the competition friendly between team members, including longest drive, closest to the pin, hole-in-one and the betting hole. Thank you to Doug Liller for organizing the golf games and co-chairing the fundraiser with Roxanne Waechter.

After five hours of golf, our players were ready to wind down and enjoy a relaxed evening as their spouses and the dinner only guests arrived. A wonderful array of silent auction items and accompanying displays were set out and ready for bidders to begin the friendly bidding against one another. Scrumptious appetizers were passed around and the bar was open with more Odells and Coors beers for everyone. We had over 60 items donated from generous businesses and friends of CFCE. There were vacation trips,

sporting items, game tickets, restaurant vouchers and a variety of experiences for bidders to choose from. The bidding continued as guests were invited into the ballroom for a fabulous dinner buffet with a selection of fine dishes and mouthwatering desserts.

During dinner, Jennifer Peterson gave a short presentation delivering a message to our supporters about the achievements of CFCE since the last fundraiser and what CFCE's plans are for the coming year. Also as part of the evening presentation, we heard from three families. Unable to attend the fundraiser, the family of three-year old Madison shared their message by video. The parents described how Madison was unable to walk independently and after bringing her to CFCE she is now able to walk by herself thanks to the work of the CFCE conductors. Next we heard from Julie and Fred Reichert, who have been bringing their daughter, Emma, to classes since CFCE started three years ago. They talked about CFCE and how they consistently see Emma's progress. They described the benefits of Conductive Education for their daughter. Last we heard from Jim, Katie, Libby and James Waechter. Libby, 11 years old, wrote a poem full of passion and humor, that she shared with the guests about what it's like to have Cerebral Palsy and her day to day challenges of having a motor disability. When she finished, there wasn't a dry eye in the room!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone involved with making this 2<sup>nd</sup> annual golf tournament a great success! We also thank everyone who attended the tournament and for their generous donations and support of CFCE. Without your donations and support, CFCE would not be able to provide this amazing program of Conductive Education for these very special and gifted children. We THANK YOU all from the bottom of our hearts!



Tournament Chairmen: Doug Liller and Roxanne Waechter, President and Founder of CFCE

# Golf Tournament Photos



# Ball Drop!



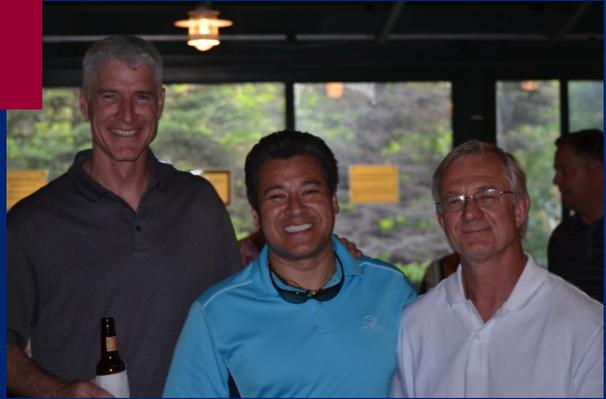
# Silent Auction and Dinner Photos



*The Welcoming Committee*



*Thank you for helping to change these kids lives! Your donations keep us going!*



## Meet CFCE Child: Hunter (by Hunter's Mother, Kristi)



Hunter is a 4 year old boy with Spastic Diplegia Cerebral Palsy. His condition was a result of a growth restriction in utero that went undetected. His legs have always been extremely tight so in July of 2011 we decided to have a Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy surgery performed on him. The SDR involves opening the vertebrae and severing the errant nerve pathways that cause his spasticity. We knew we would be taking away most of his function by doing this, but it would give him the opportunity to learn new brain pathways and a new way of walking. This new way of walking could help prevent the damage to his bones, ligaments and other tissues that his former gait pattern was causing.

The big thing about SDR is that it's not the surgery that's the "miracle cure", but the therapy you do afterwards. They [doctors] have you commit to 1 hour, 5 days a week but for Hunter that wasn't enough time for him to re-learn to do anything properly. After surgery Hunter had to learn how to do everything again that his spasticity used to do, including sitting up! So Conductive Education was the answer we found and we are SO fortunate to have the Loveland CFCE. It may be a bit of a drive for us, but I have friends who picked up and moved to a state with Conductive Education after this surgery and we are so lucky to have Hunter's conductive therapist Jennifer [Peterson] and this facility here in Colorado.

CFCE works with Hunter daily on how and where to put his body in order to gain a more functional, typical, gait pattern. They strengthen and lengthen his muscles with their one-of-a-kind program in addition to teaching age-appropriate school concepts and life skills like writing, tooth brushing and dressing. This program is the only one to evaluate and treat the child as a whole and the results show that. You can do OT or PT (which we do still maintain traditional appointments for both), but neither discipline takes into account the child's whole body. Conductive Education takes it all into consideration and the product is a boy who is stronger and more confident than I ever imagined. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who makes this program possible for us! (for pictures of CFCE children, go to [www.conductiveed.com](http://www.conductiveed.com) and click on the heading Children)



## 15 year old Eagle Scout shows his woodworking skills for CFCE

CFCE would like to acknowledge and thank Erich Deutsch for his hard work completing his Eagle Scout project where he designed and produced fantastic pieces of equipment and sensory boards for CFCE.



Below is a short bio about Erich and how he developed his projects for CFCE:

*"I, Erich Deutsch, am a 15 year old Boy Scout from Troop 5 (based in Denver, CO), who is in progress to achieve my Eagle Scout award. I started working with ideas for my Eagle Project two years ago, and after several other ideas, I was inspired to help kids like my Cousin Matty (who has cerebral palsy, severe retardation, and several other ailments). I contacted CFCE in the summer, and asked if I could do my Eagle Project for them. I ended up building them the sensory boards, several conductive education stools, and even a slatted table with a water play box!"*

We are so grateful to Erich and his scout troop for putting in many hours of hard work to fundraise, design and make these very useful pieces of equipment for CFCE. Erich's dedication is shown through the quality and outcome of his projects.

At CFCE, we regularly use the sensory boards to help children learn to feel different textures and stimulate their hands through touch. We also use the 'daily skills boards' which have shoe laces to tie, pants to do and un-do, buckles and other fun but challenging tasks for our higher level children who need to learn these skills to be more independent in their daily lives. The stools are necessary for our increasing number of students and the water table is very useful for sensory enhancement. **Thank you Erich and congratulations on completing your Eagle Scout project!**

## Summer Camps at CFCE

This summer, CFCE held two camps for all the hard working youngsters who were fortunate to attend camp 5 days a week/4weeks each month. CFCE invited three conductors to come teach at our camps. The first half of the June camp was led by conductor Eva and the second half by conductor Katalin. The July camp was taught by conductor Pearl who has over 25 years of CE experience. Pearl has been our temporary conductor since CFCE started Conductive Ed in Colorado three years ago. We appreciate Pearl, Eva and Katalin for coming to our summer camps and bringing us their special CE techniques. All the



children worked very hard at camp to learn new skills and fine tune past skills all while having fun with their friends.

During camp, the children practiced daily activities such as brushing teeth, using the restroom, eating and walking, working on motor skills and interacting with their peers. The classroom was constantly filled with giggles, laughter, singing and encouragement as all the kids pushed each other to do better and try new things. Many of the kids took their independence to the next level by learning to walk with canes or walkers. The staff facilitated learning and fun as the children moved through each day doing activities while sitting, lying and standing. The completion of each camp was celebrated with a lunch-time party. All family members were invited to come enjoy the celebration and to hear all about the children's many accomplishments.



**Thank You** to all the staff and parents who helped us during our two busy camps.

### SAVE THE DATE:

**November 9th– November 20th CFCE Fall Camp**

## CFCE Expanding to Metro Denver

CFCE is ready to expand Conductive Education into the metro Denver area. We have been talking about expanding since 2008 but the timing was never right. CFCE will, however, continue classes at the Loveland center for all of our Northern Colorado families. Currently, several enrolled CFCE families are making an hour commute from Denver to Loveland. This is a long and many times difficult trip for them to make every week. We are already in contact with six families living in the Denver metro area who are very interested in Conductive Education but are unable to make the commute. CFCE is proposing to start a CE program 2-3 days a week as a trial to see if the demand warrants our opening a center in the Denver area. Jennifer and Roxanne have been checking out spaces and are currently looking at the Clayton Early Learning Campus on the corner of Colorado Blvd and Martin Luther King Blvd. The Clayton campus grounds are beautiful and well groomed. The older buildings are stately and there is ample parking with plenty of handicap spaces. The classroom available for CFCE to rent is very modern, well equipped and handicap accessible; perfect for our young students. We are continuing to look into other potential sites as well.



We would appreciate each of you spreading the word of our expansion to everyone you know who may have a connection to a family with a child or children with a motor disability and live in the metro Denver area. Our plan is to reach as many families as possible. Hopefully, we can make a significant difference in the lives of these families and especially the lives of the children who are living with a motor disability. We hope to give them a chance to be in an enriched environment that gives them the opportunity and time to learn how to be more independent in their lives!

**Donate today!**

Go to:  
[www.conductiveed.com](http://www.conductiveed.com)  
 Your donations help change lives!

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 www.conductiveed.com

**Watch for our  
 Holiday Cards!**  
**Coming soon for you to order  
 in November! Check your up-  
 coming emails for details.**

**ARK visit!** - At the beginning of our July summer camp, we had the privilege to invite ARK up to our center to paint with our summer camp children for a day. It was yet another chance for the children to enjoy expressing themselves independently through painting on canvas with different tools and of course, their hands! It was a very fun and messy day! Thank you to Janine Sturdavant and her team of volunteers for taking time out of their summer to work with CFCE! Here are some photos of the day for you to enjoy!



**Thank you to our Volunteers:**

Katie & Jim Waechter IV, Julie & Fred Reichert, Bill & Julie Mosher, Janine & Charlie Sturdavant, Meighan Meeker, Jeff Zoller, Ron Hancock, Rachel, Leah, Erika & Ryan Griess, Doug & Debbie Liller, Sarah Schlagel, Trey & Angela Mallon, Maureen & Tom Corey, Debbie Davidson, Jay Rebel, Jeremy Schwartz, Christie Taylor, Cathy Schneider, Peter Doyle, Chris & Krista Gottschalk, Megan Gottschalk, Jamie Jurkoshek, Steve Carr, Ariel Madlambayan, Valerie Houseman, Denise Wise, Carol Lillo, Kevin McDougal, Madeleine Van Oppen, Lisa Brands, Lynn Stout, Kelly Kozlowski, Janet Befort, Tamara Sturdavant Monroe, Sharon Klipping, Andrew Lechowicz, Tunde Horvath, Erich Deutsch and Scout Troop 5, CFCE children James, Libby & Emma.



**I'll do my part to help CFCE....**

**Yes,** I would like to donate to CFCE and help individuals with motor disabilities. I want to do my part to help them achieve their goal of independence. I've enclosed my **tax-deductible** gift of:



\$25      \$50      \$100      \$250      \$500      Other\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
                             

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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