Summer 2018

Leap of Faith Learning

Believing in Every Child's Potential

Nothing Short of Amazing!

A Message from the Executive Director

The first half of 2018 has been nothing short of amazing as we watched how God has brought forth champions to support our families and help us form lasting relationships with very special parents and children. Thanks to the generosity of so many people, we have enrolled 13 new families in the last 9 months. Just when we think we'll have to create a waiting list, someone steps forward to sponsor a child for the entire academic year and beyond.

In June, we gathered our families, staff, volunteers and supporters for our summer family picnic. Although it was 104° in the shade, we had most of our families in attendance enjoying good food, fun and fellowship at Verde Park. When I asked one little boy if he liked the food, he told me he actually forgot to eat because he was having so much fun. While that took me off guard, his comment points out the real value of our family picnics, to come together as families and friends, let our guard down and just have fun.

While we don't meet as a group with our Bible study and support group over the summer, the moms and dads do get together separately for meals, to laugh and support each other. While all the practical services we provide give our parents and children some relief from rather challenging lives, we continue to point families toward the only real source of comfort and hope through Jesus Christ. I am humbled by all the love and resources we receive from our generous supporters, friends, board of directors, staff and volunteers who not only provide hope but practical help to families facing overwhelming circumstances. Thank you to all our friends who truly put faith in action!

If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? *James 2:16*

THANK YOU!!!

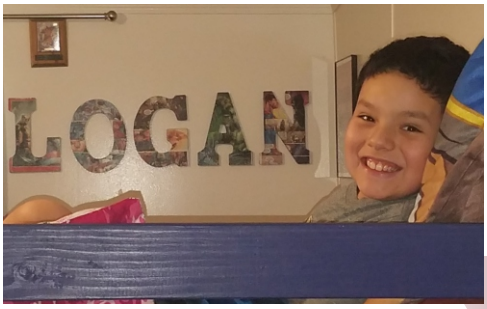
Ron Vachon-Vierra

Introducing Logan

Through the Eyes of His Parents

Logan is a rambunctious young man with an amazing imagination. He loves watching movies and acting them out. It's so entertaining to hear him act out a scene from Phineas and Ferb and sing and dance to the musical scenes. Logan is starting to look for some independence and has shown some great moments of clarity. He has been using proper language to ask for things or ask to do a special activity. It is a blessing to see the growth and successes in the small things that we take for granted.

Daniel & Cindy



Welcome Dan

Please join us in welcoming our new Operations Manager & Tutor, Dan Lempke. Dan's background is in manufacturing, mechanical engineering and design. He is currently Vice President of Engineering for a fabrication company in Cleveland Ohio, where he has been employed since 1990. His experience includes office management, spreadsheet and database construction.

Dan and his wife, Linda, have assisted in children's ministry at their church in Ohio working with preschool children. He has also provided individual math tutoring to middle and high school students. Since coming to Arizona in 2013, Dan spent two years as a Big Brother in the Yavapai County Big Brothers Big Sisters program where he successfully mentored a young boy from a fatherless home.

As part of the Leap of Faith Learning team, Dan's technical skills have already proven to be invaluable. He has automated time keeping, IRS reporting and student records as well as providing logistical and volunteer support for our events, workshops and family picnics. Dan has such a heart for our children and is currently teaching independent living skills to a high school student.

Parent Perspective

After adopting our then eight year old daughter, we soon realized we were over our heads in every direction. How to best care for her was our goal but it was overshadowed by finding the help she needed and fighting school battles. Life had become about taking care of business instead of loving a child. We had lost focus. Leap of Faith Learning provided Kelly, an advocate and psychologist, to make sense of neuropsychological evaluations. Her focus was on our family and our daughter rather than another agenda. LOFL shined a light for us by bringing back perspective through Bible study. It keeps us focused on God the creator of our children while providing fun and support. Social events bring us parents together in a community where we just "get" each other. It's a time that we can relax and be accepted with no one judging our child's behavior or questioning how we deal with them as parents. LOFL not only provided transportation to meetings in Flagstaff and Phoenix to better our children's lives but made it about getting together. We had fun instead of the mundaneness of doing it alone. Thank you to everyone who comes along side our family through Leap of Faith Learning!

Rob & Ginny

Day of Service on Campus

We owe a special THANK YOU to Verde Community Church (VCC) for their help in making our campus more welcoming. In April, over a dozen volunteers from VCC assembled at the Leap of Faith Learning Tutoring Center to clean and repair the buildings and grounds. It was an active day of painting, weeding and constructing. We spread out over the entire campus doing projects for Cupertino (school for autism) and the other tenants located at the Cupertino Power Learning Center. We even had a visit from a "wild" turkey we named Tom who was chasing our volunteers around and keeping them on task.

Leap of Faith Learning

FAMILY PICNIC

Bringing together
special families

Wall of Hope

Be strong and *take heart*, all you who *hope* in the Lord.
Psalm 31:24

Our Champions are Giving the Gift of Hope!

Giving the **Gift of Hope**

We view Leap of Faith Learning as merely a platform by which our wonderful supporters come along side and serve these families and their children who are truly God's workmanship. With our youngest child being 2 years old, we know we may be serving some families for 20 years until the student reaches the age of 22. While every dollar helps us assure our parents they are not alone, we are recognizing our regular, ongoing, Champion & Hero-level donors through the Wall of Hope. We want to put your name on our Wall of Hope to recognize this ongoing support our children need. Monthly donors giving $50 or more for individuals or $100 or more for organizations and Hero/Champion level onetime donors will have their names (or the names of loved ones) permanently inscribed on our Wall of Hope.

Would you consider giving the gift of hope? Any size donation gets us one step closer to helping another child unlock their God-given potential.

If you'd like to support families who have children with special needs, please prayerfully consider a monthly recurring gift or send a one-time donation by check to:

Leap of Faith Learning
P.O. Box 3898
Cottonwood, AZ 86326

or online at:
www.leapoffaithlearning.org

Thank You - to all who - **MINISTER TO** OUR FAMILIES

Champion/Hero Donors:

- William & Joanne Blatt
- Scott & Marilyn Bradley
- Brian & Kristy Herman (Precision Structural Concrete)
- Kenneth & Christine Herman
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- Arlene Vierra (In Memory Of)
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- Rosemary Salinas
- Erin Vachon-Vierra
- Gil & Ruth Vierra
- Vineyard Christian Fellowship

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