



the Independent Star

transforming lives through greater independence

Joanna's Song

Real Love

You weren't like other children
and God was well aware,
You'd need a caring family
with love enough to share.
And so He sent you to us
and much to our surprise,
You haven't been a challenge
but a blessing in disguise.
Your winning smiles and laughter
the pleasures you impart,
Far outweigh your special needs
and melt the coldest heart.
We're proud that we've been chosen
to help you learn and grow.
The job that you have brought us
is more than you can know.
A precious gift from heaven
a treasure from above,
A child who's taught us many things,
but most of all Real Love.



Joanna was born in January of 2007 at Hershey Medical Center. The birth mother had a normal pregnancy, during delivery Joanna became wedged in her mother's pelvis and an emergency C-section was performed. Joanna was born clinically dead. CPR was performed and she began to thrive, although she did have had organ failure. After a month in the NICU her liver, kidneys and intestines returned to normal. Since her muscles were very weak and she could not suck and had swallowing difficulties a peg tube was placed in her stomach for feeding. An MRI showed brain damage in the T1, T2 area which is the fine motor area. At 3 months the birth mother and father decided to give Joanna up for adoption. Since she was a family member, we adopted her.

At 5 months of age, Joanna could not hold her head up. She had delays of a year to 18 months and no one could tell us if she would be able to walk, talk or feed herself. We were given no hope, just "I don't know." Early Intervention was contacted and Joanna began to receive Physical Therapy (PT) and Occupational Therapy (OT) at 6 months old. Later Speech Therapy (ST) was included. They came to our home and gave her therapy. Therapists worked with Joanna to try and bring her delays to age level. Early Intervention would ask us what we expected of Joanna and we would work toward that goal. We wanted Joanna to be able to walk, run, climb, feed herself and make her needs known. PT worked with her crawling, walking and balance issues. Her balance was a very difficult problem. It was the Physical Therapist, Sue, who advised us to get braces for Joanna. One doctor refused us, but Sue encouraged us to go to Hershey and Joanna got the braces she needed and she walked much better.

She was very determined to do what other children her age were doing. She wanted to be at her age level in her mind but her body had muscle delays and she would get frustrated. A speech therapist came to our home and helped Joanna start vocalizing. Her biggest joy was being able to sing. She watched The Wiggles and Sprout and saw children dancing and singing and she would come to me and put her hands to her mouth wanting to sing. *(Continued on back)*

DDS is a not-for profit charitable organization. Its mission is to empower children with developmental delays and persons with disabilities to lead more productive, satisfying and/or independent lives.

Since 1961, DDS has provided training, educational and therapeutic services to hundreds of persons with disabilities living in Lebanon County. DDS remains committed to helping individuals achieve greater independence for a happier healthier life.

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DDS Programs

- Physical, Speech, Occupational & Developmental Therapies
- Community Based Early Intervention (children birth - 3)
- Alley Learning Center Preschool (children 3-5)
- Community Based Job-Coaching (adults)
- The Elks Home Service Nurse (children and adults)
- Accessible Communities Today (adults and caregivers)
 - Brave Art Studio (adults)
- Summer Stars Day Camp (school age children)
- Special Needs Scout Troop (boys 11 years and older)
- Special Needs Cub Scout Pack (boys in grades 1-5)

Joanna Continued

At 2-1/2 years, Joanna was tested cognitively and found to have the intellect of a 5 year old. Joanna is very intelligent and can understand everything you say and can make her needs known by speaking, signing, using her own sign language and also using a picture book made by the ST at the DDS school. She flips the pages and points to the picture. PF, OT, and ST worked continuously encouraging and showing her how to advance forward.

Joanna is now at DDS Preschool and is loving it. There she is learning to talk better, ride a bike, and put on her jacket. She being encouraged in potty training, working with her hands and fingers and coordination. We are truly grateful for all the work Early Intervention and DDS Preschool has done for Joanna. She is improving daily and we are hopeful she will be able to start school without difficulties.

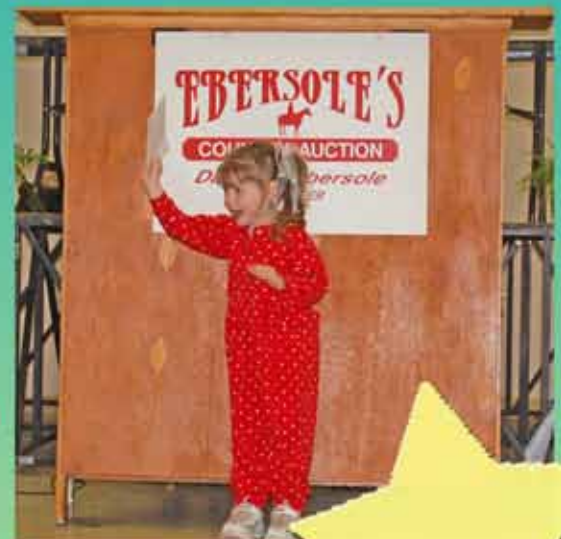
Story and poem by Jeanne Miller,
Joanna's adoptive mother

Auction Wrap-up

DDS raised over \$15,000 at its annual benefit auction on April 9th at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center and Fairgrounds. On behalf of the DDS employees, board of directors and the more than 400 individuals who benefit from DDS programs and services, we would like to thank the Lebanon community for supporting this important fundraising event—you empower us to empower others.

DDS is indebted to Dave Ebersole of Ebersole's Country Auction for donating his and services for this year's event. Lebanon County businesses, churches and individuals donated over 400 auction lots for this year's event. In addition, the following businesses donated funds to underwrite the expenses for this year's event: Dutch Valley Foods, Hauck Manufacturing, Shalters Insurance, TNT Sanitation, Weaber, Inc., Your Financial Community, Cedar Crest Equipment, Good, Firestone & Remlinger, Keller Brothers Motor Company, Meyer Oil Company, State Farm Insurance, Kelly Parks, Transport for Christ and Randy Early.

There were 55 volunteers who helped run this year's event including Boy Scout Troops 439 and 404. *We couldn't do it without you!*



Joanna volunteered at the auction. Pictured above, she is holding up a gift certificate that was put up for bid.



Champions for Life

Who do you think of when you think of a champion? Do the names Drew, Kiersten, Joanna, Dillan or Karen come to mind? How about any of the hundreds of individuals who receive services from Developmental & Disability Services of Lebanon Valley? A **champion** is one who perseveres every day through vigorous training, overcoming feats of strength and never losing sight of the goal. Some goals are simple; others take months, years or a lifetime to achieve. So, what does DDS do?

DDS helps individuals become champions for life.

For 50 years, DDS has enabled hundreds of individuals to live as independently as possible. Our therapists help infants learn to sit, crawl and talk. DDS teachers prepare children with special needs for school and for life, while our job coaches work side-by-side with individuals and train them to be gainfully employed in the community. Many of these **champions**, DDS has had the privilege to guide throughout their lives.

As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary, we are asking you to become part of a winning team for people with disabilities. has been able to provide these vital programs for 50 years because of the generous support of caring individuals in the Lebanon community. With your help, we'll be there for the next 50 years.

Thank you for choosing to be a Champion for people with disabilities in your community!

Drew, Kiersten, Joanna, Dillan and Karen

How your financial investment matters....

- \$1/year (\$50) - Approximate cost of 1 job coaching visit for an adult
(DDS serves 45 adults in the competitive employment program)
- \$2/year (\$100) - Approximate cost of 1 therapeutic early intervention session
(DDS provides approximately XXX therapy units per week.)
- \$5/year (\$250) - Approximate cost of 1 week of job coaching services for 4 adult clients
(DDS serves 45 adults in the competitive employment program)
- \$10/year (\$500) - Approximate cost of weekly early intervention services for 1 child
(DDS serves approximately 100 children through early intervention)
- \$20/year (\$1,000) - Approximate cost of running the preschool classroom for 1 day
(30 children are enrolled in the DDS-Alley Learning Center Preschool)
- \$50/year (\$2,500) - Approximate cost of running 1 week of the Summer Stars Day Camp
(DDS averages 16 campers and 10 volunteers per week of camp)
- \$100/year (\$5,000) - Approximate cost of 1 month of early intervention for one child
(DDS serves approximately 100 children through early intervention, many who receive multiple types of therapy sessions.)

50-4-50 Roll of Honor

Join those who have supported the 50-4-50 Campaign so far:

Laura & Calvin Davis IHO Preschool Staff, Bob Haynes IMO his brother, Colleen Christian, IMO Eneida, Penchard Family, Liz Kelly IMO Michael, Mr. & Mrs. James Yoder, Susan Kramer IHO Sue, John Santana, IMO Eneida, Mr. & Mrs. John Wengert, Dr. Richard & June Blouch, Gloria Shatto, Thomas Jackman, Melinda McKenna IHO Janet's 50th, Denise & Tom Kotay, DDS Friend, William & Joyce Weik, Donald Beck, Anonymous Friend of DDS, Tara Perlaki, Dorothy & Robert Bucher, Terri Lehman, IHO Mary Jo Laughlin, Julie Mentzer, IHO Current & Past 0-3 Kids, Cheryl & Karl French, Lee & Mary Rhodes, Frank & Doris Bergman, Kay Hornberger IMO Ronald Hornberger, Ann Ormond, Elizabeth Heiligman, Dr. Paul Peterson, The Grumbine Family IHO The Wonderful DDS Staff, DDS Employees IMO Betty Holsopple, Ricky Santana IHO My Teacher Miss Kayla, Tanya Sensenig, Marion Leshner, Dr. Abram Hostetter, Anonymous Friend, Mary Louise Sherk IMO Carl R. Sherk M.D., Harry & Emily Booker, Katherine Whitner IHO St. James where classes started for CP, Mark & Joanne Krall IHO Tony Krall, Nancy J. Arnold Shannon Baker, Anonymous Friend, I. Erdman, Denise Mercado IHO Dillan Matthew Brandt, Phyliss Powell IHO Kiersten Powell, Ned R. Shanaman IHO Clarabelle, Shirley Rothenberg IHO Vicki Koch, Anonymous Friend IHO Nancy J. Bretherick, Louis Battle IMO Eneida Battle, Eileen F. George IHO Joanna, Ann Zak IHO Dillan Brandt, Richard & Sandra Wizar IMO Joseph Stegmoyer, Kenneth George IHO Joanna Horst, Allen & Kim Powell IHO Kiersten Powell & Karen Ream, Ricky Santana -Thanks Miss Kayla, Anonymous Friend IHO God's Little Children, Anonymous Friend IHO Martin K. May, Phil & Shirley Pfaltz IHO Brave Art, Tracey Peterson, Richard & Debra Ney, Stephen & Lori Baker, Vic & Paula Faralli, Charles M. Brooks Jr., Christopher Powroznik, Debra DiPasquale, Kenneth Grumbine, Shelby Margut, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Rugalla, Charles & Lorie Welker, Richard J. Welker, Ryan & Mary Sneddon IHO All of God's Children, Shirley Binner IHO Kiersten L. Powell, Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Zvorsky, Howard Heckman, Randolph Hummel, Charles & Ruth McCrone, Stella Fortna, Violet Horst, Kevin Deaner, Jonestown Bank & Trust Co., Retire-Wise Financial Services, Inc. IHO Greer Leggat, Wesley Musser, Gerald & Nancy Brinser, Wesley Musser, Anonymous Friend, Anonymous Friend, Mr. & Mrs. Haller A. Loy, Jeffrey & Sue Werner, Verizon Foundation, Janice Herschkowitz, Gerald & Nancy Brinser, Anonymous Friend, Brinser, Wagner & Zimmerman Law Offices, John & Patricia Stormfeltz IHO Kiersten Powell, Bo Yi & Polly Tha-Yi, Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Wenger and you...

\$50,000





Developmental & Disability Services of Lebanon Valley
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The *Independent Star* is a seasonal publication. To have your name added or removed from the mailing list, call 274-3493. Please address comments to the Editor, Jessica A. Penchard.

DDS is proud to be a member of



United Way
of Lebanon County



*Ensure that DDS services will be available for future generations,
remember the DDS Foundation, Inc. in your will!*

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50th Anniversary Celebration!

Join the fun and festivities

June 5th

DDS will be participating in the

UNSTABLED HORSE POWER

Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show
at the Quentin Riding Club

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Open to the Public

Flamin' Dick and the Hot Rods from 12-3 p.m.

Look for us at the Bouncer!

Reserve the date of July 15th!

DDS will be hosting a community night at the

Harrisburg Senators Game

Game Time: 7 p.m.

Fireworks to follow the game

Tickets are only \$6

Order or reserve your tickets by calling DDS at
717-274-3493.

DDS Alumni Reunion Community Picnic

Join us for food, fun and games; reminisce with old friends while you make many new friends as well.

Who: DDS Alumni, participants and families,
past and current employees/board directors

Where: DDS-Alley Learning Center
12th and Walnut Streets, Lebanon.

When: June 20th

Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

RSVP by calling DDS at 274-3493 before June 13th

August 31st DDS will host Business After Hours
With the LV Chamber of Commerce

At the DDS-Alley Learning Center from 5 - 7 p.m.

RSVP by calling the Chamber at 273-3727