

Come Celebrate!

A SPRINGER CELEBRATION! ON APRIL 30, 2008

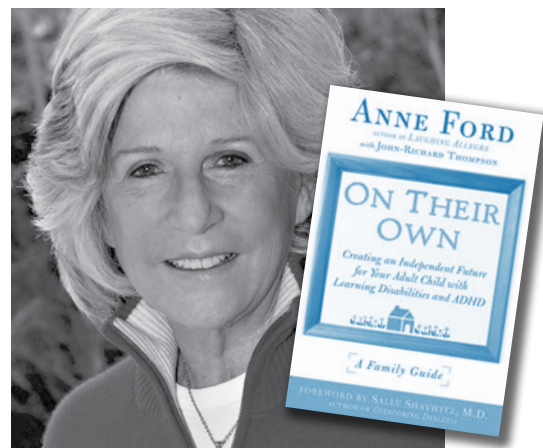
SPRINGER SCHOOL AND CENTER IS PROUD to present author and learning disabilities advocate Anne Ford as the guest speaker at *A Springer Celebration!* 2008. Ford, daughter of Henry Ford II and former Chairman of the Board of the National Center for Learning Disabilities, will discuss her new book, *On Their Own*.

Springer's major annual fundraising event will be held at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza Hotel on April 30, 2008 from 6:00-10:00 pm. The event will include cocktails & hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, live auction, dinner and program featuring guest speaker, Anne Ford. Also during the evening, Springer will announce the completion of *Imagine the Possibilities*, Springer's capital campaign and honor Kate Lawrence, Campaign Chair, with the Springer Champion Award.

Each year Springer hosts an event to increase awareness about Springer's mission and to raise funds for scholarships and center programs. Previous events have featured Nick Clooney, Coach Marvin Lewis, and Henry Winkler.

Event Co-chairs for the 2008 fundraiser are current Springer parents, Nick and Linda Spadaccini, and Andy and Jackie Wilson. Nick is a Springer board member while Linda provides assistance as VP of Classroom Programs with the Springer Parent Association. Andy and Jackie are also highly involved in the Springer community through numerous volunteer activities.

Save the date for what promises to be an exciting evening of celebrating the many ways in which Springer helps children realize their dreams.



"Having met the challenges of a child with learning disabilities head-on, Anne Ford is the perfect guide to help the rest of us see our children through the transitions they will meet throughout life."

Henry Winkler,
author of the Hank Zipser children's books

The Legacy Continues...

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES, SPRINGER'S capital campaign, launched more than two years ago, and since then, many supporters have joined together to make the goals of the campaign an exciting reality. But, even though completion of the capital campaign will formally be announced during the April 30th *A Springer Celebration!*, in many ways the impact has just begun. Long after campaign dollars are sought, the goals of the campaign will live on. Building and campus improvements will serve as a visible reminder of the important work that Springer does for children and families.

Campaign funding will provide increased scholarship dollars, ensuring full enrollment that will maximize Springer's impact on the community. And most importantly, the children served through Springer programs, will carry the legacy even further – spreading the possibilities into the future, new surroundings and new families. Beyond achieving our strategic objectives of campus improvements and increased financial aid, the campaign has generated increased awareness and visibility for Springer. More people have come to understand the specific services we provide

and are now in a position to help share our story with friends and acquaintances who could benefit from Springer's programs. One current student says it best: "Springer has helped me so much with everything, not just my grades, but also the confidence I have in myself. My hope is that every child who needs the help should feel the way I do." *Imagine the Possibilities*, a Campaign for Springer will ensure that families in our region can continue to rely on Springer as an essential resource in addressing the needs of individuals affected by learning disabilities.

Imagine the Possibilities
A Campaign for Springer



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

SHELLY WEISBACHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IN THIS ISSUE OF NEWS AND VIEWS, YOU can read an interview with Anne Ford, the mother of a daughter with learning disabilities and author of *Laughing Allegra* and *On Their Own*. You can also read about the ways in which the Center reaches out to parents on their journey to understanding and helping their children who are struggling. These articles speak to an important theme: empowering and supporting **parents** whose children have learning disabilities.

Our students come to us because they have struggled significantly in traditional classroom settings. Yet, as we all understand, it is not by the students' choosing that they enroll at Springer. Rather, their enrollment results from the confluence of any number of events that cause their parents to seek a better learning environment. Sometimes, like in Anne Ford's case, families begin to hear of their child's struggles as early as preschool. Other times, the

problems remain masked until much later. In each instance though, parents likely had a hunch something was not as it should be and either started searching for answers or at least were not surprised when someone else suggested they should.

Fortunately, much has changed in the past few decades to ease the search. Research has greatly increased our understanding, access to information is ever easier, and many of the self-limiting myths have been dispelled through the stories of successful adults. Despite all this, however, it can still feel scary and even lonely when one first is told of their child's learning disability. How a family responds is deeply personal. For some, it is an immediate call to action while for others there is an extended period of disbelief and perhaps even efforts to prove the diagnosis invalid. Families who make their way to Springer fall into both camps and every point in between. We join them wherever they are.

Just like we seek to give their children the tools and strategies they will need to be successful when they leave us, we strive to do the same for parents. We accomplish this in a global way through parent education programs and at a personal level through the many interactions we have both formal and informal. Equally important are the lessons learned and comfort gained by being able to talk freely with other parents who share the experience.

Families may seek us for their child and we may most promote Springer for the direct services we provide to children, but truly Springer is about the family. When we help parents to understand, to reframe their fears, and to appreciate all that is truly wonderful and unique about their child, we are helping to build a future for the child that is filled with possibilities for success in school and beyond.

MEMORIAL & TRIBUTE GIFTS

Thank you to the following friends of Springer School and Center who made Memorial or Tribute gifts from July – December 2007.

Tributes

In honor of Brian High
CREW Greater Cincinnati

Memorials

In memory of Mrs. Ruth Bollmer
Ms. Margaret M. Barry
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sonderman

In memory of Mr. John Brennan
Ms. Elizabeth F. Wenker

In memory of Don Burkhardt
Mrs. Norita Aplin

In memory of Mr. Robert Conger
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Connors

In memory of Mr. John C. Finn
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Connors

In memory of Jacqueline Cosgrove
Mrs. Norita Aplin

In memory of Mr. John H. Gall, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Connors

In memory of Delores Lotz
Mrs. Shirley Allen

In memory of Mr. Roger M. Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Connors

In memory of Arebba Maxwell
Shelly and Ken Weisbacher

In memory of Frank M. Peter
Ms. Donna McLaughlin

In memory of Mr. Charles Tobias
Shelly and Ken Weisbacher

In memory of Mr. David West
Ms. Treva L. Potts

In memory of Mr. Stephen Allen
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Abraham
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TALKING WITH...Anne Ford

Q. We're so excited that you are speaking at our upcoming annual event, A Springer Celebration!, on April 30th. Can you share a bit about your background and why you have taken such an activist role in the area of learning disabilities?

A. In 1977, my daughter Allegra was diagnosed with severe learning disabilities. At that time there was very little known about the issue and I struggled to find the help and information I needed. It was even difficult to find a school that would accept Allegra. After many years of schooling in New York City, I enrolled her in the Riverview School in Cape Cod. Once she left home, there was a huge vacuum in my life and I needed to channel the energy that I spent taking care of her. At that time I decided to find ways to help other parents find the information and help they needed. I joined the board of the National Center for Learning Disabilities and within a year I became Chairman. I remained in that position for twelve years. I stepped down in 2001 to write a book (though I remain on the Board and on the Executive Committee). My first book, *Laughing Allegra*, was published in 2003, and the second book, *On Their Own*, was published in 2007.

Q. The topic of your new book, *On Their Own*, expands on some of the ideas and personal experiences from your first book into the area of young adults with learning disabilities and ADHD. What do you feel is the most difficult challenge faced by this group of young people?

A. The main challenge is really the same as our title – being out *On Their Own*. They no longer have the confines and structure of school and parents, and are often surrounded by people who have no under-

standing of LD and the social issues that go with it. This can lead to many problems both in college and the workplace, and with relationships of all kinds.

Q. What would you say to reassure parents of younger children with learning disabilities who are concerned about their children's future?

A. In order to create a positive experience for your young child, start empowering your child now. This means that the parent must teach the child to understand their own disability, and how to advocate on their own behalf. It should also entail role-playing and other methods to help with social skills as these are the most difficult challenges in a young adult's life.

Q. If your daughter Allegra, the focus of your first book, *Laughing Allegra*, were sitting in on this interview, what would she say about you – her mother and advocate – in relation to your role in her life?

A. (Editor's note: Mrs. Ford felt that Allegra could best answer this question. Allegra's response is below.)

"My mother has been such a wonderful role model to me. Because of her work with the National Center for Learning Disabilities and the two books, I know she has helped so many people - and she has definitely helped me. She's the best!"

Q. In your book, *On Their Own*, you highlight several famous individuals who have achieved great success in their lives in spite of their learning disabilities. What trait, circumstances or strategies have allowed these individuals to excel?

A. We interviewed several CEO's for this book: Sir Richard Branson, CEO of Virgin



Atlantic; Charles Schwab, CEO of Charles Schwab and Company; John Chambers, CEO of Cisco Systems; David Neeleman, former CEO of JetBlue Airways; and Gaston Caperton, former Governor of West Virginia and current President of The College Board. They all have LD, but we did not specifically ask them to talk about themselves. We asked them for advice to parents of young adults with LD. They all said the same thing, and their advice was based in their own experiences growing up with LD: "help your child discover his or her passion, and do everything you can to encourage it. Most of all, be there to support and love them." It makes all the difference in the world.

Q. What advice or short quotation has given you guidance in your journey as the mother of a child with learning disabilities?

A. I can only say that my mother must have given me guidance throughout my own life that I then translated into my advice and guidance to Allegra. But aside from that, I had no guidance at all – especially as it related to having a child newly diagnosed with LD. In fact, my journey from those difficult days of confusion and isolation to acceptance and understanding are the heart of the story in *Laughing Allegra*.

IN MEMORIAM STEPHEN ALLEN



THE SPRINGER COMMUNITY WAS SADDENED to learn that Stephen Allen, past President of Springer's Board of Trustees, passed away October 27, 2007. Steve's involvement with Springer coincided with the enrollment of his daughter Lauren, who graduated from Springer in 1987.

Steve joined Springer's Board of Trustees in 1988 and during his tenure lent invaluable assistance as Vice President and President ('93-'95), committee member and Annual Fund chair. More recently, Steve had joined

in the capital campaign effort. Former Springer Executive Director, Norita Aplin, said of Steve, "Steve's deep love for family and especially children extended to his leadership at Springer. As President, his primary concern was always 'is this in the best interest of the children and their families?'" His consistent focus was an inspiration." Springer salutes Steve's passionate dedication and commitment to Springer's mission throughout many years.

He will be missed.



FROM THE CENTER

Connecting Families to Learning Resources

PICTURE A RESILIENT YOUNG WOMAN walking across the stage to receive her high school diploma. She is relieved that she is finally graduating. You see, for her learning had been a lifelong struggle, having been diagnosed with a learning disability since grade 4. Accomplishing this goal was huge. However, what would be the next step?

Five years after that high school graduation, Nicky knew what she wanted to do, but was having a difficult time executing a plan to accomplish her goal. Enter Springer School and Center. With a commitment to getting Nicky the learning assistance she needed, Nicky's boss called Springer to see if we could help.

Within the week, Springer worked to connect Nicky to an adult literacy program and gave her ideas for accomplishing her future goal of studying for and taking the Dental Assistant National Board (DANB) exam. In a follow-up phone consultation, she was given the name of a tutor, skilled in working with adult learners. The tutor

would then help Nicky organize a study approach for the DANB exam study guide and give her strategies to learn the information and ultimately take the test.

This is just one example of the useful services offered at Springer through the outreach center. With greater frequency, families are finding their way to Springer in this way. Each year hundreds of families call the center and talk with trained education professionals regarding concerns about their child's academic difficulties or, as in Nicky's case, their own.

Many of the calls received are from parents of students in the elementary or early secondary grades. These students are having trouble with reading, written language, comprehension, math foundations and/or attentional difficulties. Springer takes the time to listen to the parent, asks meaningful questions, and then gives advice as to what may be helpful next steps to academic success. Sometimes a tutor list may be needed and other times, the parent may need

someone to help with organizing questions to ask the child's teacher or special assistance team. A parent may request a face to face consultation to pour over work samples and take a more in-depth look at the child's learning profile.

Regardless of the level of service provided, Springer School and Center has been a great salvation to many seeking answers to academic concerns. To find out more about this service and other programs the center offers please contact Barbara Hunter at bkhunter@springer-ld.org or call 513-871-9174.

If you have questions or concerns about learning, for yourself or someone in your family, please call Springer School and Center at 513.871.9174 or email to center@springer-ld.org.

Springer Students Reach Out to Those In Need



Springer's Student Council Officers: 1st Row – Viktor Elkins, Abby Rau, Katelyn Schmidt, Natalie Heimbrock, Trevor Cohen, Joshua Grout; 2nd Row – Bryan Bohl, Martez Copeland, Josh Harness, Mike Naber, and Patrick Dowling.

AS THE HOLIDAY SEASON NEARED AND THE FIRST SNOW BEGAN TO fall, students at Springer School and Center decided they wanted to make a difference. Springer Student Council representatives and officers organized the 2nd annual "Wishing You a Warm December" winter clothing drive to benefit local service organizations.

The clothing drive lasted two weeks and was a huge success! Students sorted and counted the many coats, hats, scarves, and gloves – totaling more than 320 donated items. On Friday, December 14th, Student Council officers and advisors took the items to One Way Farm Shelter for Children and Interfaith Hospitality Network, two local organizations dedicated to helping children in need.

EACH YEAR, A COMMITTEE OF STAFF MEMBERS nominates a small group of 8th grade students to be Springer Ambassadors. These Ambassadors represent Springer through "Everybody Counts," a community-wide program that teaches elementary and middle school aged children about different disabilities. In the fifth grade, students typically focus on learning disabilities. Throughout the year, local 5th grade classes invite Springer Ambassadors to come talk to their students about their learning disabilities. The Ambassadors talk to groups of students about their learning strengths, weaknesses, and strategies, and then answer questions from the group. Student reactions to the Springer Ambassador visits have been very positive and grateful. As one student wrote, "I learned a lot about learning disabilities today. It must be hard for you to concentrate. I found it very interesting. If everyone in the world was the same it would be very boring." As Jan Annett, the Everybody Counts program advisor says, "The program not only benefits the students we visit, it is also a wonderful experience for our Ambassadors. They are able to reflect on their own learning profiles, talk about their strengths,



Front row: Erin Nordhill, Anna Gayle, Patrick Schenk, Mitch Frazier, Josh Kuebbing; Back row: Alyssa Babb, Anna Harty, Josh Harness, Albert Friend, Tyler Sirn, Martez Copeland, and Halee Curtis.

Springer Ambassadors Speak at Area Schools

and feel empowered with the confidence to stand in front of a group of their peers and share their stories." So far this year, the program has taken Springer Ambassadors

to St. Margaret of York, St. Veronica School, and St. Aloysius Gonzaga. Several more visits are planned for the spring.

SPA Officers for 2007-08 School Year



SPA Board (l to r): Linda Spadaccini-VP Classroom Programs, Caroline Cox-President, Brandi Voss-VP Fundraising Programs, Candace King-VP School-Wide Programs, Patty Lufkin-Recording Secretary. Not pictured, Karen Kramig-Treasurer.

THE SPRINGER PARENT ASSOCIATION (SPA) continues its vital role in supporting Springer's mission through fundraising to benefit students and staff, and by providing a forum through which parents can share ideas and come together for family networking and social activities.

Some of the SPA programs include one of the students' favorites – Order Out Days, as well as Spirit Wear, the much anticipated Bike/Hike and Family Picnic (this year on April 13), Visiting Author, Holiday Shop, Room Parents, and Staff Appreciation.

Many thanks to the SPA Officers and SPA volunteers for countless hours of dedication and hard work in support of Springer!



ANNUAL FUND 2007-2008

Helping children believe in themselves.

The 2007-08 Annual Fund Campaign is Underway! Help Us Reach Our Goal of \$220,000!

Money raised through the Annual Fund is used for Springer's financial aid program and center programs for students, parents, and teachers. Arlene Roane, this year's Annual Fund Chair and the Springer Development Office would like to thank all who have already given to this year's campaign!

Together we can make it happen.

Yes!

I want to help children with learning disabilities believe in themselves, with my gift of \$

DONOR INFORMATION

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PAYMENT OPTIONS

- ☐ Pledge to be paid by June 1st, 2008
- ☐ Check payable to Springer School and Center
- ☐ Transfer of appreciated stock
- ☐ Credit card payment (Visa or MasterCard only)

Card# Exp. Date

Signature

MATCHING GIFTS

If you and/or your spouse are employees/retirees of a company that matches charitable contributions, you can multiply the impact of your gift to Springer.

_____ will match my gift.

RECOGNITION

Please indicate below how you would like your name listed in the Annual Report:

☐ I would like my gift to remain anonymous.

STAY CONNECTED

I would like to receive Springer's e-newsletter, featuring current and upcoming programs, learning disability resources, and much more! My email address is:

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Springer's Development Office at (513) 871-6080 x213.



ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

Megan Heekin Triantafyllou '91 received her BA from the Art Academy of Cincinnati in 2001, and within 2 years of graduation she was exhibiting her work at the Hyde Park Art Show. She currently paints from her studio at the Essex Studios in Mt. Auburn where she shares a studio with two other working artists. Her paintings are abstract, nonobjective representations of aspects relating to nature and spirituality. In 2006 she exhibited at the New York Art Expo, and she was honored at Art Comes Alive 2007. This past July, she was chosen as Artist of the Month at the Pendleton Arts Center.



Chip Pratt '96 graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice. His weekly radio show, "Saturday Night Live with the Chipster," is a huge hit on campus, and was recently featured in an article in *The News Record*. In addition to being loved by his fans, he was named Bearcast Member of the Year 2 years in a row, and was rated No. 1 DJ on Bearcast in the spring of 2005. In addition to his radio show, while at UC Chip was also involved in College Republicans, UC Student Government, the Criminal Justice Society, Catholic Campus Ministry, Alpha Pi Omega, and Eagle Scouts.

Adam Isaacs '01 is a senior at Scott High School where he is a member of the National Honor Society. In the summer of '07 he was accepted into the Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts for his

talent in the musical theater category. At the 2007 Kentucky High School State Swimming Meet, Adam placed 3rd in the 200 individual medley and 2nd in the 100 backstroke. He also achieved the All-American qualification in the 100 backstroke.

Danny Benedetti PFC '02 has been serving in the United States Army for the past year and a half. He is stationed at Fort Campbell in Kentucky, and is a member of the 101st Screaming Eagles division. He is getting ready for his first deployment to Iraq in April 2008.

Geoff Lovett '03 graduated from Moeller High School. He was a member of the National Honor Society, made honor roll every quarter of his high school career and sang in the men's chorus for 4 years. He also acted as student manager for the Varsity Volleyball program. Outside of school, Geoff was very involved in the Invisible Children program, as well as the Over-the-Rhine Community Housing Project. He is now attending the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati.

Santino Ellis-Perez '04 is a junior at the School for Creative and Performing Arts. He was chosen as one of seven students who won the Corbett-Mayerson Award. In the spring of each year, SCPA juniors compete for this prestigious award, performing or displaying their talent in their chosen field. The winners are chosen by a jury of community professionals, and are considered to be students who best exemplify a professional artistic standard. Santino's field is Instrumental Music, and he performed the Finale of the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto.

Brad Langford '04 has signed a letter of intent to the University of Cincinnati as part of their swim team. In an article featured in *The Pulse Journal*, Brad's swim coach Mark Sullivan stated, "We knew all along back when he was a freshmen that he definitely had that potential. It's exciting to see him go through the recruiting process and have that difficult decision to choose his school. We're

very happy for him." Brad, who will receive a partial scholarship and major in architecture, also considered Michigan State, Clemson, Ohio State and Purdue.

Alan Kleesattel '06 is currently in his sophomore year at the School for Creative and Performing Arts. He has made the "A" Honor Roll every quarter, and is a member of the Junior National Honor Society. He is very interested in theater production, and has recently done designs for the Black Box Theatre and Jersey Productions. He was awarded the Faculty Award at SPCA for his focus and dedication to his major, theatrical lighting design. This year he is taking AA English and working as a lighting designer for a show playing at the Aronoff Fifth Third Theater. Alan says his goal is to be "an LD/LD – Learning Disabled Lighting Designer!"



Megan Northway '06 is a sophomore at Turpin High School. She serves on the Color Guard team, has been on honor roll several times, and has been awarded Student of the Quarter. Last winter, Megan traveled with her Color Guard team to London, England to perform at the Queen's New Year's Day Parade.

Michael Stewart '06 was the runner up for the Citizen of the Year Award from The Vanguard School this past year. This award is the most significant honor given at Vanguard, and is based on nominations from staff members. The award is given to a student who shows exemplary achievement in the following areas: attitude, helpfulness, leadership, grades, room care, cooperation, teamwork, and more. As described by his mom, "He has come a long way this year!"

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INSIDE

Talking With...
Anne Ford

New SPA Officers

and more!

Mark your calendars!

MONDAY, JUNE 23 - FRIDAY, JULY 18, 8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. Call (513) 871-9174 or go to Springer's web site at www.springer-ld.org for more information.

ADVENTURES IN SUMMER LEARNING



SAVE THE DATE

SPRINGER ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSES

February 13, 2008

March 2, 2008

April 16, 2008

A SPRINGER CELEBRATION!

April 30, 2008

Featuring Guest Speaker Anne Ford

How can you help?

A *Springer Celebration!* is Springer's major annual fundraising event. You can help support this important evening by:

- Donating auction items for our silent and live auctions.
- Securing a table sponsorship. (This could be your place of employment, your own business or other interested parties.)

Call the Springer Development Office at (513) 871-6080 x213 for more details.

