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CHRISTOPHER'S SEAWORLD

Adventure!

If you happen to spend a day at SeaWorld San Antonio this summer, you just might run into our little friend Christopher and his dad, John. They'll be holding hands and grinning broadly, amazed at their good fortune in having this time together in such a magical place.

Christopher, a 9-year-old boy with autism, was the recipient of the "Give a Weekend of a Lifetime to a Child with Special Needs" package at Any Baby Can's Taste of the Hill Country event this year. As beneficiary, Christopher and his dad won VIP access to SeaWorld/Aquatica, behind the scenes tours, front line privileges, meal vouchers, a one-night hotel stay and a meal at Sea Island. Many thanks to Rick Cheshier, Bill Bird, Seaworld San Antonio, La Cantera Hill Country Resort and Sea Island Shrimp House who helped make this package possible!

John speaks of his son's struggles and achievements with love and understanding. The Reaching Families Facing Autism program has helped him face the challenges of parenting a child with autism. He attends support groups and educational meetings and has learned a lot from other parents. "Any Baby Can has helped me so much," he says. "I know that patience is key and I've learned to distract my son when he has a meltdown. Dr. Josue Gonzales and the other

parents have helped my perspective on so many levels. And while I'm attending meetings, Christopher enjoys the play area."

Christopher is in 3rd grade at Fair Oaks Elementary School where he is learning life skills. "His biggest obstacles are communication and reading social cues, but his communication is improving... now he can formulate questions," John said.

John says Christopher has a great sense of humor and loves Legos. He recently won a prize in an H-E-B contest where his entry was a complex Lego city that he designed. He loves spending time with his dad, who works as an emergency room tech, and he is bilingual, thanks to his Spanish-speaking maternal grandmother. One of his favorite school activities is horse therapy. He is a sweet little boy who is beloved by his family.

When Christopher was announced as the winner of the SeaWorld prize at the Taste of the Hill Country event, the emcee asked him where he would go if he could go anywhere and he replied, "Daddy's house." We think this little homebody also will love going to SeaWorld and

that the adventure will bring him a day of joy and many years of happy memories. John says, "I don't know how to thank this organization that has done so much for us. I'm humbled by their support and grateful for this amazing gift." 🚂



John and Christopher gear up for their SeaWorld adventure.

KEEPING KIDS SAFE!

After the tragic death of a San Antonio child with autism who wandered from home and was killed in a traffic accident, our staff created a program to help parents prevent avoidable accidents that can befall children with autism. Reaching Families Facing Autism (RFFA) is offering “Autism in the Community Safety Training” for parents and caregivers of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The intention is to reduce the risk of wandering and household accidents for ASD kids, who have unique learning styles and sensory challenges. The 40 parents who attended the first session in June learned to identify potential hazards in the home; develop a household safety plan; understand wandering patterns and triggers; and secure their homes to prevent incidents. Participants attending the free workshop were given a safety tool kit containing a door alarm, signs to post on doors and a checklist of how to prepare their homes for optimum safety. Our RFFA staff trains first responders and teachers in how to de-escalate and interact with ASD kids in crisis ... another step in protecting precious lives. For information on future events, contact Rachel Trevino at 210-547-3013. 📞

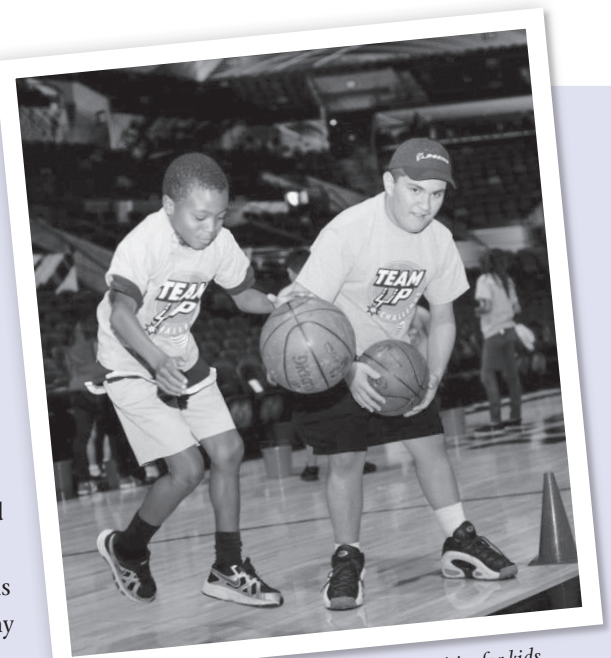


Sporting crazy hair and big smiles, this vibrant team takes on the Walk for Autism.

TAKE A HIKE!



If you've seen a bunch of happy hikers trekking through Eisenhower Park, you've seen our Fit Kids & Sibs program at work. We love getting kiddos and their siblings and families healthy, fit and outdoors to enjoy nature. You also might see our little ones at the YMCA Tri-Point in a collaborative effort with the YMCA, Alamo Kid Sports and our own Any Body Can. We provide stimulating physical activities and sports opportunities in an adapted fitness approach for kids with developmental or cognitive delays. Our programs are designed to improve kids' muscular strength, endurance, coordination and flexibility and to make them feel a part of our community of inclusion. And it's FREE, thanks to a \$6,000 Silver & Black Give Back Foundation grant and funding from the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities. If you know families who might benefit from Any Body Can, tell them to check out our Facebook page! 📱



Fit Kids & Sibs offers exciting fitness opportunities for kids with developmental or cognitive delays and their families.

AIDING RESEARCH FINDING CURES

You probably already know that Any Baby Can is the “go-to” agency for families who have children with special needs. What you may not know is we're also a key source for research into many of the issues that plague children, including autism, sleep disorders and brain studies. Students, scientists and research physicians know Any Baby Can is a critical hub for families dealing with multiple chronic health concerns and they look to us to identify families willing to participate in their research projects. We're grateful to be able to support research that is working toward intervention, strategies and cures for childhood health issues. 📞

Delicious!

Our 2nd Annual Taste of the Hill Country was a splendid, delicious success, thanks to participating restaurants, auction and raffle donors and the 200 partygoers who came out for an evening of extraordinary food, craft beer, local wine and spirits, music by The Countrymen Band and all-around good times on June 19 at the Kronkosky Place in Boerne. We raised money to provide support and guidance to families who have a child with a chronic illness, disability, developmental delay or health risk. Congratulations to our food and beverage winners: 1st Place — Myron's Prime Steakhouse; 2nd Place — Frederick's Bistro; Best Drink — Papa's Pilar Rum; and Best of Show — La Gloria. Bon appetit! 🍴



Board Chair D'Ann Harper and her granddaughter, Marlee Allen, were among the enthusiastic supporters who made the Taste of the Hill Country a grand event.

Any Baby Can **ROCKS** THE **BIG GIVE S.A.**

On May 6, thousands of generous folks went online for a spirited competition in The Big Give SA. Thanks to all who lent your support! We received 253 gifts totaling \$12,931, and came in 11th in the total number of independent gifts out of the 467 participating nonprofits. And we came in 23rd for the total dollars raised. Additionally, we won a \$1,000 hourly incentive, thanks to Local Coffee, which hosted us and to our early morning donors; a \$1,500 matching gift from Cadence Bank and a \$1,000 win from District 1 and Councilman Diego Bernal for a grand total of \$16,431. Wow! Overall, San Antonio raised \$2,095,606.50 for its very first Big Give SA. We can't wait 'til next year! 🍴

CRIBS, MATTRESSES & DIAPERS, OH MY!

All babies need cribs with mattresses, diapers and wipes. Lucky for us, Access Midstream's corporate giving initiative awarded a \$3,000 grant to buy these necessities for families in need. Thanks, friends! 🍴

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!



We love our volunteers for their generosity and sacrifice. Our good friend Rafael Hernandez is a longtime volunteer. He comes twice weekly to help with clerical duties and puts his whole heart into his work. He says, "I volunteer at Any Baby Can because my elementary school teacher works here. I met Mrs. (Tisha) Gonzalez when I was 8 and now I am 39. I enjoy working with the Any Baby Can Staff. I love folding papers that have the Any Baby Can logo on them. I also enjoy shredding papers with the RFFA Staff." Tisha Gonzalez, Any Baby Can Director of Autism Services and former elementary school teacher, says, "Rafael enjoys being here and people love to meet and greet him. He is a joy and a very meticulous worker. Two former students of mine, Rafael and Ana Marie Ramirez, work here and we are so grateful." 🍴



More than 1,000 participated in the 12th Annual Jon's 5K Run/ Stroll to memorialize beloved children.

SAVING CLIENTS \$2.5M


IN PRESCRIPTION MEDS



Imagine you have a life-altering, life-threatening disease that can be controlled by medication ... but you cannot afford the medication and your health is in jeopardy. Where do you turn?

Every year, more than 2,187 people of all ages (yes, this is not just for children) call Any Baby Can to save their lives. “We’re a safety link,” says Marcela Iguala of Any Baby Can’s Prescription Drug Assistance program. “We work with pharmaceutical companies and if the patient qualifies, they can get their prescriptions free for a year. There’s a time lapse from the day of application, and we refer the clients to Christian Assistance Ministry for \$50 one-time assistance to tide them over.” Paperwork is complicated and lengthy and Any Baby Can helps clients through the process.

“Physicians’ offices and the Texas Department of Health and Human Services refer clients to us and others come by word of mouth,” Marcela says. Grants from the Kronkosky Charitable Foundation, the Genevieve and Ward Orsinger Foundation, Christus Santa Rosa and St. Luke’s Lutheran Health Ministries, along with the City of San Antonio, help cover the cost of operating the program that saves clients from \$1.4 to \$2.5 million annually!


Diabetes takes the biggest slice of the Prescription Drug Assistance pie, saving individuals thousands in monthly insulin costs. “This is such rewarding work,” Marcela says. “I love helping people get their medications. One client went two years without medication until she found us; she has now been with us for five years. Most of our clients are uninsured; elderly clients are often those who’ve fallen in the Medicare Part B ‘donut hole.’ We are saving lives.” 

SAVE THE DATE!

20th Annual Style Show & Luncheon

All the chic fashionistas will be there, checking out the latest looks at the 20th Anniversary Any Baby Can Style Show & Luncheon on Wednesday, September 24 at the Pearl Stable. Twenty years!

Julian Gold will be back with beautiful clothing and gorgeous professional models. The luncheon will be delightful. The company, excellent. And the purpose: support for Any Baby Can. Another highlight of the festivities: Susan Moulton, founder of the Will Smith Charitable Foundation, will be receiving this year’s Angel Award.

Contact Kay Maynard at kmaynard@anybabycansa.org, 210-547-3019 to reserve a table and inquire about corporate sponsorship. This is a popular annual fashion event and we urge you to make early reservations. 

PLANNED GIVING

A Loving Legacy



Your legacy gift will help secure the future of Any Baby Can so we may continue making lives better through our core mission to serve families who have a child with special health needs. For more information, please contact Kay Maynard at kmaynard@anybabycansa.org, 210-547-3019.