

*Where we see your
children with our hearts
and address their needs
with our minds.*



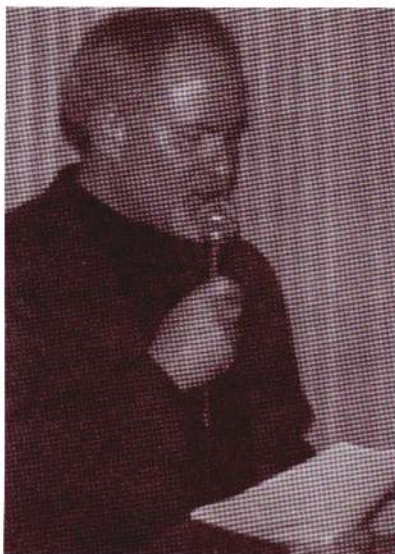
Spring 2006



A Taste of Lionheart

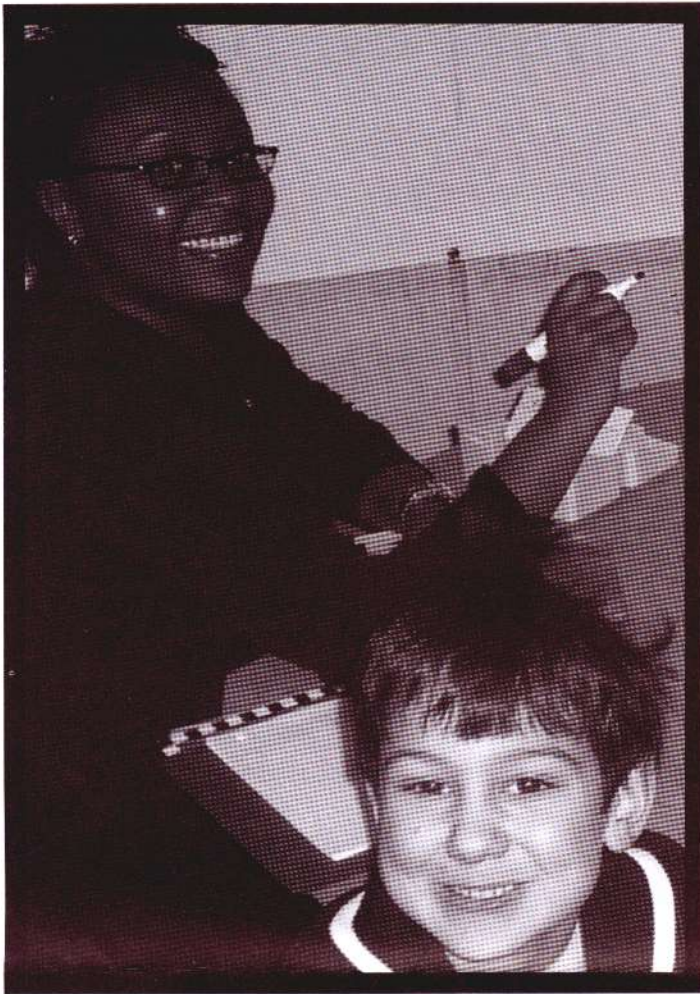
THE FIFTH ANNUAL WINE TASTING & AUCTION RAISED \$180,000!

J A N U A R Y 2 2 , 2 0 0 6



We continue to be overwhelmed and humbled by the generous support we receive at the Lionheart School. This year we once again exceeded our expectations much in the same way we are watching our children exceed theirs. We are lucky to have so many who donate time and services for the auction which allows us to use all funds raised directly towards curriculum needs, therapeutic interventions and financial assistance for families. This year's DVD presentation explained the journey for some children that are at Lionheart and how the school has filled a large gap for those whose needs were not being met in the public system. Our goal is to continue to expand the opportunities for children and their families. We sincerely thank all who have donated their time and talents which makes this important event a continued success.

*Diane Smith
Lionheart parent*



SPOTLIGHT: LIONHEART INTRODUCES VISUALIZING AND VERBALIZING AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TO ITS CURRICULUM

This past fall, Lionheart was fortunate to add two new staff members, Aisha Williams and Ann Leverette. Aisha is responsible for Lionheart's Visualizing and Verbalizing program, a program designed by Linda Mood-Bell. Ann runs the school's assistive technology program. Ann and Aisha have been working throughout the year with the Lionheart students. As a result, parents and staff members can attest to some amazing results associated with these programs!

WHAT IS VISUALIZING AND VERBALIZING?

Visualizing and Verbalizing is a program designed to attack weaknesses in comprehension and critical thinking skills. A huge focus of the strategically designed process is to stimulate concept imagery. Concept imagery is the ability to process the gestalt (whole) of language that is heard or read. Imagery is the sensory system's way of connecting to that language. The brain sees the language that it reads and/or hears but, for some individuals, the brain does not image the whole or concepts of the language. This weakness puts individuals in the often tragic situation of grasping parts of what they hear, or simply parts of what they read. With only "parts" understood, they have a great deal of trouble with reading comprehension. They have trouble following conversation, getting the main idea, making inferences, drawing conclusions or even understanding jokes. However, they can often read words well, and do not have

trouble with phonemic awareness. Consequently, they appear to not be paying attention, or they appear less "bright." They can have logical thinking problems or expressive language problems. It is the sensory information that connects us to language and thought.

Therefore, it is with Visualizing and Verbalizing that concept imagery is stimulated and strengthened. Focusing on making pictures/images in ones mind based on simple words, sentences and eventually progressing to whole paragraphs, pages and books. Continually increasing the brain's ability to create a "movie" in the mind. Then using that "movie" to understand what is read, heard and to answer Higher Order Thinking Skills Questions.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY WITH A LIONHEART TWIST

Most people have never heard this term. What is it? Simply put, Assistive Technology is anything adapted or created to help a person with a disability complete a task, or to perform a task more easily. For example, a wheelchair is assistive technology. In many public school systems, assistive technology is used mainly as compensation tools, such as Books on Tape for the Blind. These tools however, do not help the person overcome the disability.

At Lionheart, the Assistive Technology program not only helps students compensate for their different challenges, but the programs are geared towards remediation, or, overcoming the disability. Ann creates these programs mainly via the computer, and mainly for teaching academic skills. For example, one Lionheart student may have difficulties in letter recognition. Ann will either find a computer program suitable for this specific child or will create a program to fit his/her specific needs. For example, Ann may adapt a program by creating pictures instead of words for one particular student, or create a program involving a "high affect" activity in order to gain the interest of another student. One example is a younger student, who was only interested in animals as they appeared on sports teams logos, such as a falcon on an Atlanta Falcon's shirt. Ann worked with this student on a computer program which categorized these animals into different species. He even reached the point where he developed a greater interest in real animals than the animal caricatures depicted by sports teams. This activity served a two-fold purpose. It taught the student the science of different species and sub-species of animals. Secondly, and even more importantly for him, it gave his mind a chance to "branch out" from a perseverative interest on animals on sports' team logos to animals in the real world. In fact, Ann has a library of software geared towards a plethora of topics and skills; topics include math, phonics, spelling, and working with money.

Ann has been teaching our middle school students Power Point, a presentation software. They used the software to make presentations on various topics to the younger students. The presentation topics represented their specific interests. There were presentations on snakes, wolves, sports, and the history of aviation. Those of us familiar with the middle schoolers were easily able to guess who presented on each topic! Ann has also taught the middle schoolers to email each other, which gets them excited about composing their thoughts on paper.

As is evident, we our proud to add Visualizing and Verbalizing and Assistive Technology to our curriculum, and the gifted instructors who have implemented these programs.



CHICK IN A CHAIR: LIONHEART'S TELEVISION DEBUT

The Lionheart School was highlighted in a segment of the pilot episode of "Chick in a Chair", which aired this past January 17 on GPTV. The show is co-hosted by Tricia Patterson and Tom Sullivan of Star 94's Steve and Vikki morning radio show.

Five years ago Tricia Patterson was an active working single mother of two. A freak accident left her partially paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair. Later she would learn to walk with crutches. Rather than allow her disability to take control of her life, Patterson used her disability to focus on other with challenges. The concept for "Chick in a Chair" was hatched; Patterson and Sullivan travel around Georgia in an RV, and spotlight different programs geared toward the "disadvantaged" in our society. In the pilot episode, one such program highlighted was the Lionheart School.

In the Lionheart segment, parents and teachers explained the mission of our school. There were also glimpses of our students at various activities in their school day. Best of all, the show celebrated the achievements of our children; both their social and academic progress. At the end of the segment, the Lionheart students were filmed earning their yellow belts in karate class. The "Chick in a Chair" film crew captured our children's pride in their success, which we parents and teachers see everyday.

Thanks to our exposure from Chick in a Chair, we hope to alert others to our program and to inspire other similarly situated parents and educators to provide their own solutions to meeting the needs of their unique children.



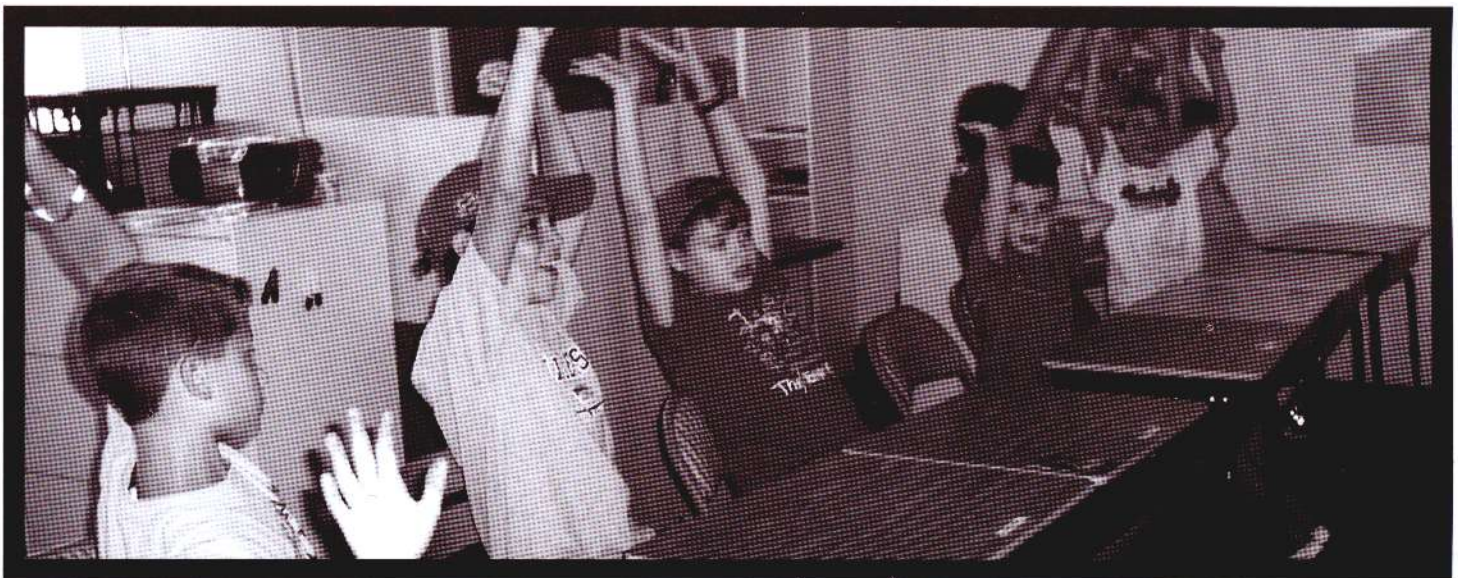
LIONHEART'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE:

Land Acquisition & School

Since our inception, the Lionheart School has always relied on the generosity of our community for just about everything. Virtually everything we use in our school, from computer equipment to office furniture to school supplies and therapeutic equipment have been donated. We could not have done it without the help of family and friends. However, no person or group has been as generous as the Alpharetta Presbyterian Church, who has provided us with both land and several educational modular units in which to operate. APC also provides us with playground space, gym facilities and a kitchen. The Church has continued to make necessary repairs for our modular units. Without the generosity of APC, the Lionheart School simply would not have gotten off the ground.

We will always be eternally grateful to APC. However, both Lionheart and APC have always been aware that one day

Lionheart would outgrow the donated space. We operate out of several educational modular units which are, well, trailers. These trailers are getting older and are in need of more and more repairs, which we rely upon APC to undertake. In order to move from classroom to classroom, our students must transition outdoors several times throughout the day. Most of the time, this is not a problem. However, given the unique needs of some of our children, transitions on some days pose a challenge to both teachers and staff. Some of our children cannot handle getting wet, or cannot tolerate the extreme cold or the extreme heat. They must also travel several hundred feet to the church building in order to access the gym or the kitchen facilities where the students learn life skills such as meal planning and cooking. In severe weather, we must gather all of our student body, with all of their sensory and transitional issues, and quickly get them into the safety of the church building. The Lionheart children share a fantastic





playground with the preschool students who attend APC. However the joint use of the playground is not appropriate at times, because of the differences in ages and different needs of each group.

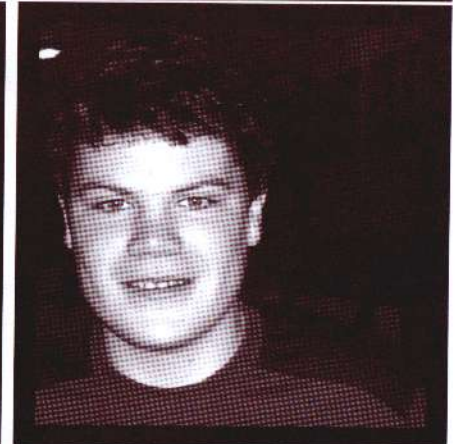
The educational modular units in which we operate can only accommodate a certain number of staff, students, and activities.

Therefore, it has been impossible for the Lionheart School to expand beyond its current student body.



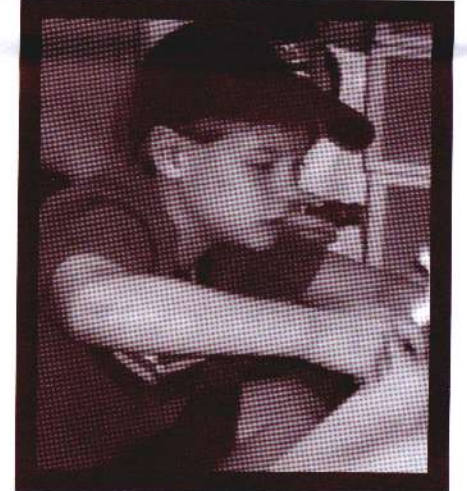
Every year, we have the heartbreaking task of turning away children who would benefit from our school simply because there is no room physically to accommodate them.

It is time to start realizing Lionheart's vision to operate in adequate space – a real physical structure – a building. We would love to have land, parking, and most of all, adequate indoor facilities to serve the unique needs of our children and staff. Our “dream building” would have such facilities as a library for our emerging readers, a large computer room, and adequate classrooms. We face the dilemma of children who are easily distracted, or in fact, virtually railroaded, by even minimal



disturbances to their daily routine. Yet, these children at times need to be observed by other staff, outside professionals and parents in order to properly evaluate and monitor their progress. Therefore, our dream classrooms would have two-way windows so that the children would be oblivious to any observations, and provide opportunities for educational training. We would have a gymnasium or muality-purpose room large enough to accommodate our children's therapeutic equipment. We would have “low lighting” and “quiet rooms” to accommodate the sensory needs of our most sensitive students. And, best of all, we could welcome more children and staff into our schools, to hopefully change the lives of even more families.

Until recently, all of these ideas were only a pipe dream. However, the Lionheart School has recently received a very generous gift from the Forrest C. Lattner Foundation which will provide a start in realizing this dream. This donation has jump-started our capital campaign effort. However, both land and construction in the Atlanta area has become expensive and our greatest hope for making our dream a reality is a donation of land in or near the Alpharetta area.





A Taste Of Lionheart

If you would like be a part of the 2007 Lionheart Wine Auction and Tasting with a corporate sponsorship or item donation, please contact Sarah Provow at 770.772.4555 or at lhrt@bellsouth.net
www.thelionheartschool.com

*I would like to support
The Lionheart School as a:*

- PATRON SPONSOR \$500
- BRONZE SPONSOR \$1,000
- SILVER SPONSOR \$2,500
- GOLD SPONSOR \$5,000
- DIAMOND SPONSOR \$10,000



180 Academy Street
Alpharetta, GA 30004
770.772.4555

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, January 20, 2007

7TH ANNUAL LIONHEART WINE TASTING & SILENT AUCTION

2007 WINE AUCTION SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

DIAMOND SPONSOR / \$10,000

10 tickets to the auction • Name listed on the event invitation
• Recognition at the event and in all related publicity

GOLD SPONSOR / \$5,000

8 tickets to the auction • Name listed on the event invitation
• Recognition at the event and in all related publicity

SILVER SPONSOR / \$2,500

6 tickets to the auction. Name listed on the event invitation • Recognition at the event and in all related publicity

BRONZE SPONSOR / \$1000

4 tickets to the auction • Name listed on the event invitation
• Recognition at the event

PATRON SPONSOR / \$500

2 tickets to the auction • Name listed on the event invitation
• Recognition at the event

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Please send response to: The Lionheart School
180 Academy Street
Alpharetta, GA 30004

