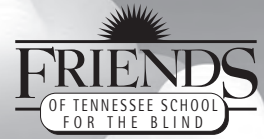


# FOCUS on FRIENDS

The Newsletter of Friends of Tennessee School for the Blind



## Bowling Alley Accessibility Renovation Opens New Paths to Success for Every Student



The entire space is now a single level with easy access to bowling equipment. Steps and access barriers were removed. The vintage seating was retained and repositioned.

**Our sincere thanks to Jeff Casella and Brandon Cothron of Gilbert | McLaughlin | Casella Architects for their fine work.**

Thanks to the continuing generosity of our friends in the community, Phase 2 of “Bring Back Bowling to TSB” is providing new access and independence to students with mobility challenges!

After successful completion of Phase 1, which replaced the old pinsetters and ball return, Friends

of TSB considered a careful redesign of the space at the end of 2013 to create accessibility and remove existing barriers. Construction took place during the summer months of 2014 and students returned to the beautifully renovated space in October. Now *every student* has been given the opportunity to succeed, be independent, and have fun bowling, while working on a variety of social and recreational skills.

We anticipate funding completion of this renovation in 2015. If you would like to support this worthy project through a donation, please specify “Bowling Project” on your donation. We appreciate your support! 🌞

## WTSB Studio B Opens to Students

In July, 2014 the Cracker Barrel Foundation made a most generous donation to help complete funding for the new WTSP Studio B with additional equipment, giving hands-on opportunities in learning music production and broadcasting skills in an adaptive setting. Friends of TSB is very grateful for their donation and those from other friends in the community. We also thank the Wilson County Photography Guild whose 2013 fundraising event set the stage for this remarkable learning experience for TSB students. 🌞



**TOP:** Architects met with our committee in April, 2014 to discuss plans. This pre-construction photo shows the multi-level placement of risers, seating, shoes and balls which created many obstacles for students with mobility issues and a lack of access to the lanes.

**BOTTOM:** During the construction phase the door was relocated to create an accessible ramp for wheelchairs and walkers. A new window was also created.



Friends of TSB board members tour the studio.

# Big Hearts present “Big Checks” to Friends of TSB



Left to right: Donna Richmond, secretary, Friends of TSB; Hunter Lynch, TSB student; Jim Oldham, president, Friends of TSB; Nevaeh Valdes, TSB student; Dr. Martin Monson, Superintendent of TSB; Hope Monzalvo, TSB student; Bobby Bass, Friends of TSB Board; Michele Friedrichsen, Parks, Mt. Juliet office; Michael Leach, Parks, Managing Broker, Mt. Juliet Office; John Harris, vice president, Friends of TSB, Sue Glore, Friends of TSB Board



Left to right: Friends of TSB board member, Ralph Brewer; Friends of TSB president, Jim Oldham; Murfreesboro Breakfast Rotary Club members, Greg Tidwell and Dr. David Spivey; Michelle Cormier and Andy Joiner from TSB.

## *Our sincere thanks to the organizers of our two major fundraisers!*

### 13th Annual Brunch and Bid with Friends

On December 20th, 2013, Michael Leach and Michele Friedrichsen from the Parks, Mt. Juliet office, made the official “big check” presentation of funds raised from the 13th Annual Brunch and Bid with Friends. This fun, yearly event featured an incredible buffet and desserts,

silent and live auctions, and an outstanding holiday concert by Judy Denning and the talented TSB chorus. The location for the event was graciously donated by the Mt. Juliet Hampton Inn & Suites. Friends of TSB Board members were elated to receive this most generous gift of \$17,600 to be used on behalf of the TSB students.

### 2014 Blindness Awareness Golf Scramble

On April 23, 2014, twenty-

seven teams of golfers were treated to a BBQ lunch, the TSB jazz band, prizes and a beautiful 70 degree spring day to play! Not only did the TSB students enjoy meeting and greeting the players supporting this event, they received tips from some terrific golfers on the putting greens!

We would like to thank the Murfreesboro Breakfast Rotary Club for their 14th year of sponsorship which raised \$14,585 for projects benefiting the students of TSB. 🌻

## FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

I must begin by expressing gratitude to our many “Friends” who have been so generous in their support of Friends of TSB and our efforts to provide for the needs of students at TSB. Our partners at Bob Parks Realty and the Murfreesboro Breakfast Rotary Club worked countless hours to make our two fundraisers successful. Touching expressions of your support came in many ways through the year.

Wolf Gholson and his students of Hillwood High School sponsored a second “bowl-a-thon”, and a TSB family gave their annual donation to Friends, in lieu of having gifts under their own Christmas tree. Several families each year ask that gifts be made in memory or to honor loved ones. Each grant and donation, large or small, is very much appreciated.

The state legislature has granted 501(c)(3) charitable organizations permission to conduct one raffle for fundraising purposes each

year. The regulations on how the event can be conducted are rather stringent, as they should be, but we have appointed a committee to investigate the possibilities.

You can probably surmise from the content of this year’s “Letter from the Board President” that he is shameless when it comes to asking for your continued support for the kids he loves.

Respectfully,  
Jim A. Oldham  
Friends of TSB Board President





# FRIENDS Donors

## Enrichment Opportunities

In addition to major projects, Friends of TSB funded enrichment opportunities for students throughout the year including:

- Senior independent living grants
- Tiger ticket shop rewards program
- Pumpkin patch trips
- Children's Theater tickets
- Senior "Bon Appétit" bags filled with adaptive safety kitchen items for students to use in their home kitchens as they graduate
- Student fashion show
- Goalball goal repairs
- Functional vision assessment eye charts
- Chorus necklaces
- Work/study grants for students
- TV room equipment
- Frank DePriest Award

## FOUNDATION, GRANT, BUSINESS and COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION SUPPORT

CIC Foundation  
 Parks/Bob Parks Realty  
 Murfreesboro Breakfast Rotary Club  
 Donelson Lions Club  
 Louis R. Draughon Foundation  
 The Cracker Barrel Foundation  
 The Bowling Foundation  
 HCA Caring for the Community  
 United Way of Metropolitan Nashville  
 TSB Alumni Association  
 Hillwood High School Developing Community Leaders Class  
 Verizon Foundation  
 Wilson Creek Primitive Baptist Church  
 Stones River Woman's Club  
 Pactrucking, Inc.  
 TFWC Brandywine Woman's Club of Old Hickory  
 B'nai B'rith Maimonides Lodge #46  
 Buddy Lee Attractions, Inc.  
 Delek Fund for Hope  
 Jane and Richard Eskind and Family Foundation  
 Cullum and Maxey Camping Center

## INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

Raymond Beck  
 Dr. Deborah Hatton  
 Chris Gilbert  
 Wendell O. Mandrell  
 David B. Taylor

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to community organizations, business leaders, corporate foundations, and generous individuals who support and are an integral part of the charitable efforts of Friends of TSB.

Through your generosity, Friends raised over \$42,000 in 2013/14 towards projects to benefit TSB students.

Paul S. Crisp  
 Don Bass  
 Pat and Jennifer Leech and the family and friends of Samantha Leech  
 Helen Cornelius  
 Major Frank W. Young USAF, (Ret.) and Mrs. Young  
 Scott R. Redlinger  
 Bessie Mitchell  
 Randall and Carol Ann Beasley  
 Rosine Young  
 Margaret Riegel  
 Leroy Krantz  
 James and Sharon Perdue  
 Debra Smart  
 W. Jarratt and Deanna Bell  
 Dorothy S. Hunter  
 Dennis and Dorris Smith  
 Terry and Linda Murphy  
 Vicki Tyner  
 Ronald E. Harman  
 Kelsey Leavitt  
 Penelope Van kuren  
 Phillip Ooi Kheng Jin  
 Jackie Gleaves  
 Pat Galvin  
 Sherrill Peters  
 Martin Monson  
 Jim and Carolyn Oldham  
 Ralph and Linda Brewer  
 Donna Richmond and Scott Williams  
 Judy Morris  
 Amy Waymire  
 Hilary Murtagh  
 Kevin Carini  
 Carlee Smith  
 Mary Strader  
 Davis, Ginger and Isla Bell  
 Teresa Tronson  
 Cory Hood  
 John C. Hobbs  
 Matthew Granish  
 Dave and Barb Schultz  
 Bill, Kathy, Ryan, Will and Anna Galvin

## Friends of Tennessee School for the Blind Mission Statement

The mission of Friends of Tennessee School for the Blind is to supplement state appropriations by enhancing and enriching the educational, vocational, special skills, and social development of students enrolled at the Tennessee School for the Blind.

## Gift in Memory

James Bruce Stanley *in memory of Rosemary Stanley*  
 Judy G. Jones *in memory of Earl Jones*  
 Bobby and Sandra Bass *in memory of Dianna Henderson Foy*  
 Allen Justice *in memory of Hortense Foreman*  
 Jim and Carolyn Oldham *in memory of Ernest Manning, Connie Winters and Mildred Tyssowski*  
 Don and Judy Hutchison *in memory of Bob Becker*  
 Rebecca Hendrix Bogle *in memory of Roy and Sally Hendrix*  
 Donelson Lions Club *in memory of Mildred Tyssowski*  
 Larry and Linda Boardman *in memory of Judy Henkel and Sarah Henkel*  
*Gifts in memory of Lilbern Rutledge:*  
 Lorene Burton, Wendy, David and Preston Wilkerson, Brenda and Jennifer Pollock, Family of Fred and Colene Brown, Robbie Burton  
*Gifts in memory of Janice Martin Carson:* Lacie Simonton and Cory Hood  
 Dean Lay *in memory of Roy Glenn Seale*  
 Pat Galvin *in memory of Max P. Bailey, Jr. Capt. USN (Ret.)*  
 Rick Carthel - Ray and Jack *in memory of Bill Norris*

## Gift in Honor

Catherine Keating *in honor of James R. Keating*  
 Virginia E. Russell *in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Wright*  
 Judy Wheatley *in honor of Paul Murray*  
 Lee and Blake Tidwell *in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Brewer*

## “Knights of the Blind” Serving TSB Students

The motto of Lions Clubs is “We Serve”. That motto is certainly exemplified through the many services provided by Tennessee Lions at Tennessee School for the Blind.



Records indicate that Lions Clubs of Tennessee were actively involved in assisting students at the Tennessee School for the Blind shortly after Helen Keller challenged the Lions to be her “Knights of the Blind” in 1925.

Since then, the Lions have assisted countless students at the Tennessee School for the Blind to have a better quality of life by sponsoring five programs at the school:

- The Christmas Gift Program
- The Student Work Program
- A Low Vision Assistance Program
- A Student Enrichment Program
- The Boy and Girl Scout Programs

We want to say a special “Thank You” to the Lions of Tennessee for their invaluable support to the students at TSB, not only this year, but through all the years. Without their financial assistance, many of the valuable programs that benefit our students would not be available. 🌟

## TSB Team Competes in DI Global Tournament



Members of the DI Team were: Taylor Grenier, Marcus Johnson, Alisha Whithead, Elizabeth Harden, and Corgan Waters

After winning first place in Destination Imagination’s (DI) regional tournament in March, TSB students earned an opportunity to send a team to the DI Global Tournament in Knoxville, Tennessee in May.

Through the generosity of donors to Friends of TSB, expenses for meals, lodging, registration and events were granted to the TSB team.

The TSB team of 5 participated with 16,000 students from 45 states and 16 countries.

Though a series of presentations and challenges, the TSB chose to find ways to teach other teenagers about blindness and the stereotypes that can be associated.

*“This competition has taught us how to be creative and innovative with the flare, independence and fun that is Destination Imagination. I cannot begin to express my appreciation for all the assistance that was given...”*

*TSB student, Corgan Waters* 🌟

### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS Friends of Tennessee School for the Blind

Jim Oldham, President  
John Harris, Vice President  
Sue Glore, Treasurer  
Donna Richmond, Secretary  
Ralph Brewer  
Bobby Bass  
Judy Buckman  
Dee Gee Lester  
Martin Monson  
Carla Caraway  
Debbie Propst  
Susan Brennan  
Pat Galvin  
Jody Baker  
Sharon Langford

The Board of Directors of Friends of Tennessee School for the Blind, Inc. would like to thank all persons and organizations that have assisted in the efforts to enrich the lives of students at Tennessee School for the Blind.



If you would like to make a donation to Friends of TSB, or desire more information, contact us, or visit our website at [www.friendsoftsb.org](http://www.friendsoftsb.org)

Friends of Tennessee School for the Blind, Inc.

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(615)231-7307

Find us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/FriendsoftSB](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsoftSB)

Friends of TSB is eligible for designations through the United Way of Metropolitan Nashville (UWMN) campaign, designation code 1038.

**Important:** Your gift may be doubled if your employer has a matching gift program. Please contact your Human Resources Department.

### Schedule of Upcoming Events

**The Big Payback**  
May 5, 2015

Please support us during this 24-hour online giving event sponsored by the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.  
[www.thebigpayback.org](http://www.thebigpayback.org)

**2015 Blindness Awareness  
Golf Tournament**

Date: April 22, 2015  
Sponsored by the Murfreesboro  
Breakfast Rotary Club

*Follow us on Facebook for  
more information!*