

EMPOWER

A newsletter for family & friends



Turnstone

SPRING 2013

The power of sports

Zac Kieser

Zac Kieser has found an outlet for his competitive nature, team spirit, and a welcoming community as a member of one of Turnstone's nationally ranked power soccer teams.

Zac Kieser turned 14 in January, but he's an "old pro" among Turnstone's power soccer players.

Zac was 2 years old when doctors diagnosed muscular dystrophy, a progressive disease that weakens a person's muscles. Although Zac could walk, his parents, Jodi and David, began bringing him to Turnstone for sessions with pediatric physical therapist Deb Guebard when he was 5.

The therapy paid off. Despite the progressive nature of muscular dystrophy, Zac continued to walk until he was 10. Nonetheless, he was only 8 when the staff at Turnstone and Zac's parents decided to prepare him for a time when he might need to use a power wheelchair. The

timing was perfect. Just as Zac was learning to use a power wheelchair, Turnstone added power soccer to its adaptive sports offerings, and Zac became one of the original Turnstone Flyers.

"We're so thankful for Turnstone—it's such a wonderful facility with wonderful people," Jodi says. "Teaching Zac how to use a power wheelchair before he really needed one was great foresight. Power soccer has provided Zac with the chance to play a sport at a competitive level, and he loves it. He wouldn't have had that opportunity without Turnstone and power soccer.

"But there's more to it," Jodi adds. "As a member of the power soccer team, Zac feels

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2





Zac Kieser gets the honor of holding the second-place trophy the Flyers earned during the Champions Cup at IPFW in July 2012. Ten of the best teams from around the country competed in the tournament. From the left, back row: coaches Jim Labas, Mark Berron, and Sam Labas; front row: Julie Meyers, Tiffany Shoda, Danil Vorndran, Zac, and Luke Labas.

like he's a member of a community of people he has a lot in common with. He feels like he belongs."

Turnstone currently fields three power soccer teams: the Flyers, Furious Flyers, and Fierce Flyers. Zac's team, the Flyers, and the Furious Flyers are nationally ranked.

"Turnstone has done a lot to promote power soccer," Zac says. "Many teams aren't as fortunate as we are to have an organization that provides the facilities and support that Turnstone does. When I started playing power soccer at Turnstone, I really hadn't played organized sports before. I like being part of a team and the team spirit that goes with it. I also like the travel. We've been to a lot of cool places."

Power soccer also satisfies Zac's competitive nature. "I play goalie a lot, and when I have a goal scored against me, I get angry, and I want to get out of the goal and score myself. Sometimes we rotate positions, and I get a chance to do that."

Zac has his own fan club in the form of his sisters Hayli, 12, and Katie, 6, and brothers Luke, 9, and Seth, 3. "Zac's power soccer

matches are fun for all his brothers and sisters," Jodi says. "Zac's the oldest and the first to be involved in sports."

Zac also hopes to be one of the first at Turnstone to use a new Strikeforce power soccer chair. Turnstone is seeking donations and sponsorships to buy an additional seven chairs. Two have already been donated by Steel Dynamics and Ambassador Enterprises. Zac recently had the opportunity to take a Strikeforce for a test drive, and he's excited by what they can do. "They're pretty amazing," Zac says. "You have to spin your chair to kick the ball, and these new chairs spin a lot faster."

Power soccer is the only sport designed specifically for power wheelchair users, many of whom have muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injuries, or other disabilities. Because they have limited use of their limbs, power soccer players can't participate in adaptive sports for manual-wheelchair users. Power soccer is played around the globe and there's a World Cup every four years. Here in the United States, competition is at the regional and national levels. Turnstone teams have won three national championships in six years. 🌟

BE A GAME CHANGER

Power soccer is one of the many adaptive sports through which our athletes have brought Turnstone into the limelight. Two of our three teams are currently nationally ranked, and we've won three national championships since we began offering power soccer six years ago.

Played around the world, power soccer is for children and adults—our players currently range in age from 10 to 38—who use wheelchairs for mobility and have limited use of their limbs. It's a wonderful competitive outlet. Since the beginning, our athletes have managed to compete at the highest levels with old power wheelchairs we've adapted for power soccer. By "adapted," I mean cobbled together.

Last summer, however, we witnessed the future of power soccer when Turnstone played the team from the Courage Center in Minnesota and saw their new Strikeforce chairs. Designed specifically for power soccer, these state-of-the-art chairs are faster and have a sharper turning radius.

It's a whole new ballgame. Just ask Luke Labas, a senior at Homestead High School and a member of the Turnstone Flyers. "There's no comparison," Luke says.

"It's a definite game changer—like going from youth soccer to the pros. Without these chairs, I simply don't think we can compete. The speed of the turns and ability to kick the ball is so much faster. It's incredible."



Nancy Louraine

We want to remain competitive. But these chairs cost \$7,500 each, insurance won't pay for them, and most of our players don't have the resources to purchase their own. So, we need sponsors. We now have two of these new chairs—purchased by Steel Dynamics and Ambassador Enterprises—and our goal is to buy seven more. The name of each sponsor will be prominently displayed on the donated chair, which will be seen in competition here and around the country. The chairs have a minimum longevity of 15 years and will remain the property of Turnstone for future players. Your donation is also tax-deductible.

Be a game changer. Put your company's name on one of these chairs. Contact me at (260) 483-2100 or nancy@turnstone.org.

Nancy J. Louraine

Help our players remain competitive by donating one of these state-of-the-art Strikeforce power soccer chairs.



THANKS TO ...

The **Allen County Christmas Bureau, St. Louis Academy, Home Instead, St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Rescare, Turnstone staff**, and the many agency friends for helping make the holidays bright for several Turnstone families.

...

The **Council on Senior Services** for its support of Turnstone's annual Caregiver's Retreat as well as its budding-artist program.

...

The **Fort Wayne Street Rod Association** for its donation of proceeds from the annual Muddy River Run. The gift of \$5,000 will ensure Turnstone's programs and services continue to be available to people with disabilities.

...

The **AWS Foundation, Weaver Popcorn Foundation, Exelis, Mary C. & Perry F. Spencer Foundation, Maximus Foundation, Northeastern REMC, William and Bonnie Hefner Foundation, Walmart Foundation**, and the **employees of CBRE Sturges** for their support of Turnstone's adaptive-sports and recreation program.

...

The **United States Olympic Committee** for awarding Turnstone an Olympic Opportunity Fund grant to continue to grow its Healthy Minds Healthy Bodies program. This program provides veterans and members of the armed forces with disabilities access to health, wellness, adaptive-sports and recreation programming. Also thank you to **Beacon Credit Union** for its support of this program.

...

The Community Service Fund of **B.A.E. Systems**, the **Mary Margaret Stucky Foundation**, and the **Prophet Sisters Foundation** for supporting Turnstone's Dr. Robert Kimbrough Early Learning Center.

...

The membership of **Indiana Psi Iota Xi** for approving an award of \$1,500 to support the agency's augmentative- and alternative-communication program.

...

The employees of **Lincoln Financial Group** for their casual-Friday donation, made in support of Turnstone's ramp program.

...

The **Valiant Foundation, Crown Battery Systems, Summit Power Systems, Paul & Virginia Yergens Rogers Foundation, Mary Cross Tippmann Foundation, Jack Ewing Charitable Trust, MEBAC, Huser Charitable Foundation, Kiwanis Club of Northeast Fort Wayne, Matilda Jane**, and the **Magee-O'Connor Foundation** for their support of Turnstone's core programs and services.

...

Culver's on Dupont Road for hosting its Day of Caring. Ten percent of that day's sales was donated in support of the agency's programs.

...

Canterbury Lower School for donating holiday party supplies, gifts, and wish-list items to the Dr. Robert Kimbrough Early Learning Center.

...

The **volunteer Santas, Prairie Farms Dairy**, and **Vera Bradley** for the donations made to the children's annual holiday party.

...

The **Rehabilitation Hospital of Fort Wayne** employees for collecting and delivering a bounty of items from the wish list.

...

The **Parkview Hospital Community Health Improvement Program, PNC Bank Charitable Trusts**, and the **McMillen Foundation** for their gifts made in support of the agency's health and wellness and therapy programs.

...

Steel Dynamics and **Ambassador Enterprises** for their donations to purchase two new power wheelchairs for power soccer athletes.



"LIKE" US — ON FACEBOOK

You can now become a fan of Turnstone on Facebook. Like us at www.facebook.com/TurnstoneCenter

NEWS NOTES

Lap Club success

More than 70 people gathered at Spiece Fieldhouse on December 18 to cheer for the 14 children participating in a swim meet, the culmination of an eight-week Lap Club swim session. The children competed in four events: the one-lap freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, and the two-lap freestyle.

The Lap Club challenges children with disabilities to use adaptive swimming to foster independence, fitness, sportsmanship, and team spirit. The next session begins in March. For more information, call Deb Guebard at (260) 483-2100.



We need your generous foresight

More than 10 years ago, Turnstone established its Legacy Society to recognize and remember those individuals who chose to continue their investment and support of Turnstone's work after their deaths. To date, more than 50 people have informed us that they're leaving charitable bequests for Turnstone in their estate plans. These members recognize that investing in Turnstone yields dividends far beyond measure.

Gifts to Turnstone—whether in the form of a bequest, trust, or appreciated assets—will help us enable children and adults with disabilities to create and enjoy fuller lives. They're counting on us. And we're counting on you. Please consider making a lasting gift to Turnstone. Learn how you can make a legacy gift by contacting Turnstone Executive Director Nancy Louraine at (260) 483-2100 or nancy@turnstone.org.

Classic Corvette Raffle

Introducing Turnstone's 10th Annual Classic Corvette Raffle. This year's prize is a 1965 Corvette Stingray with a beautiful tuxedo black exterior and red interior, black soft top, original big-block V8 engine, roaring side pipes, and manual transmission. Tickets are \$10 each, three for \$25, seven for \$50, 15 for \$100, or 40 for \$250. The winning ticket will be drawn on October 10 at 6 p.m. Indiana license #129886.



WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Sandy Holland Adult Day Services Program Manager	Dave Springmann Chief Financial Officer
Roxy Rockwell Physical Therapist	Beth Stein Chief Development Officer
Megan Russ CFY SLP	Emilee Stemmler Fitness Specialist
Tim Ryan Physical Therapy Assistant	



MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

Thanks to all who gave honoraria and memorials to Turnstone between September 28 and December 31, 2012.

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Play-Doh

Construction paper

Sentence strips

Birdseed

Masking tape

Divided foam plates

8-ounce foam cups

Paper towels

Disposable wipes

Air fresheners

Plastic spoons

and forks

Food-service gloves

Tempera paint

New bath towels

and pillow cases

Facial tissues

Ziploc bags —

snack size

SAVE THE DATE



CASINO NIGHT

On **Saturday, March 9, from 7 to 11 p.m.**, Turnstone will host its 38th Annual Casino Night. The evening includes blackjack, Texas hold'em, crab races, bingo, a basket raffle, silent auction, snacks, beverages, and much more. Tickets are \$30 each, or four for \$100, if purchased in advance; \$40 each, if purchased the night of the event. Contact Erin for tickets and volunteering at (260) 483-2100. You must be 21 to attend. Indiana license #129884.

17TH ANNUAL PIZZA HUT BUFFET NIGHT

On **Wednesday, March 20 from 5 to 8 p.m.**, \$1 from every adult buffet and 50 cents from every child's buffet purchased will be donated to Turnstone. Participating Pizza Hut of Fort Wayne locations include Angola, Auburn, Berne, Bluffton, Columbia City, Coventry, Decatur, East State, Huntington,

Kendallville, New Haven, North Manchester, Northcrest, Northwood, Pine Valley, Portland, Southgate, Time Corners, Van Wert, Wabash, Waynedale, and West State.

FOURTH ANNUAL CULVER'S DAY OF CARING

On **Wednesday, May 15, and Wednesday, October 16, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.**, Culver's of Fort Wayne will donate 10 percent of its sales to Turnstone. Participating locations include 3510 East Dupont Road and 1425 West Washington Center Road. Contact Erin for volunteer opportunities at (260) 483-2100.

13TH ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS GALA

The 13th Annual Board of Directors Gala is set for **Thursday, June 13**, at the Fort Wayne Country Club. Turnstone's most anticipated fundraiser is an inspiring evening, unlike any other gala you've attended. Contact Erin for more information at (260) 483-2100.

Turnstone Center for
Children and Adults with Disabilities
3320 North Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805
(260) 483-2100



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33RD ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Turnstone will host its annual Golf Outing on **Thursday, September 12**, at Autumn Ridge Golf Club. This afternoon on the links includes lunch, evening cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres. Register early and receive an early-bird discount. Contact Erin for tickets and volunteer opportunities at (260) 483-2100.



▶ Scan our QR code to visit the Turnstone website.