

EMPOWER

A newsletter for family & friends



Turnstone

SUMMER 2016



Success on and off the court

Five of Turnstone's athletes are looking forward to bright futures after graduating from high school this spring. Some of them first came to us as toddlers.

At Turnstone, people of all ages with disabilities have opportunities to enhance their lives that they won't find anywhere else. Turnstone is their community: a place to grow, a place to reach their full potential, a place to dream about how their abilities and determination will lead to a bright future. This spring, Turnstone celebrated the bright futures of five wheelchair basketball athletes who graduated from high school and are off to pursue higher education and careers near and far.

Four of the five athletes have been engaged in Turnstone programs for more than five years. Three of the athletes came to our agency as toddlers, receiving vital physical and occupational therapies and early educational programming. As time went on, they joined their peers on the basketball court, and tried other sports. And then, something amazing happened; they stopped seeing themselves as different. Fast forward to age 18, and they are graduating high school seniors. Not only did

they learn to play wheelchair basketball and travel the country playing in tournaments and national championships, but they achieved their goal to graduate from high school. These young athletes have a plan for furthering their education and being independent. Turnstone therapy, early education, sports and recreation programs, staff, and volunteer coaches taught them that they can be and do anything.

Molly Welfle says, "I play wheelchair basketball because it's happiness to me. Whenever I'm playing it, whether I'm winning or losing, I always have a smile on my face. Turnstone has opened a lot of doors for me. Everything they've provided—therapy, services, good vibes—has opened my mind to a lot of things. When I was younger, I just said, 'I can't do this because I'm disabled.' But Turnstone showed me how you can do whatever you set your mind to. You just need a little bit of help." This fall Molly will attend the University of Texas at Arlington on a

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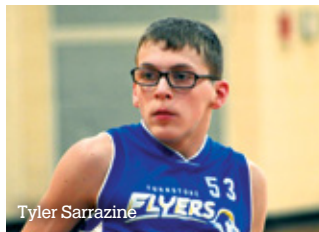




Alex Leckron



Jacob Osborn



Tyler Sarrazine



Lazero "Laz" Rodriguez



Molly Welfle

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wheelchair basketball scholarship and plans to become a teacher.

Alex Leckron plans to attend Indiana University Kokomo and has his sights set on a career in sports management. Basketball has been an important part of his life too. "Playing basketball, I was able to travel around the country and go places that I wouldn't have otherwise and meet new people," Alex says. "I'm definitely going to come back and play basketball for Turnstone."

Jacob Osborn plans to go to Huntington University and study in the fusion media program. He says Turnstone and playing basketball has made a huge difference. "Turnstone has had a major impact on my life as a disabled human being because before Turnstone, I thought I was one of the only ones in the vicinity who had a disability."

Lazero "Laz" Rodriguez is set to study computer programming at Ivy Tech. He says he found a second family at Turnstone. "The people I met when I first started playing basketball became like a family to me. Turnstone has had an impact because whenever I was out in public, I saw everyone walking around, and I was in my chair, so I always thought, 'Oh, I'm different.' Then I came here, and they taught me that I'm not different from anyone else and that I shouldn't see myself as different."

The fifth grad, **Tyler Sarrazine**, plans to play on Turnstone's competitive quad rugby next year while he looks for a career opportunity. The center has meant much to him as well.

"The opportunity to play sports has made a tremendous difference in my life so far," Tyler says. "What's even more important is that Turnstone is a community where people with disabilities are encouraged to push themselves to a higher level."

As is evident by these five graduates, Turnstone sports and recreation programs give people with disabilities the opportunity to satisfy their desire for competition and a community of like-minded friends all striving for the same team goals on the court and individual educational goals off the court.

Cheering on these graduates from courtside has been **Bob Burnsworth**, who's been a basketball coach, role model, and mentor at Turnstone for 25 years. Bob himself became a person with a disability in 1988. "It's very rewarding to be here as a mentor. Some of the kids I started out with have emailed me. It's great when they say, 'Hey, thanks for giving me that little push that let me realize I was somebody.' All the players have impacted me immensely. Watching them grow, it's just like a father with kids. They're just like my kids, every one of them."

Molly, Alex, Jacob, Laz, and Tyler came to Turnstone as kids but they leave as high school graduates who have achieved success both on and off the court. We, like Coach Bob, will miss seeing their smiling faces every day but we look forward to seeing how their bright futures develop. We're cheering for you! 🌟

A TIME FOR CELEBRATION



Mike Mushett

In this issue of Empower, we feature five young people—all Turnstone Flyer wheelchair basketball players—who graduated from high school this spring: Alex Leckron, Jake Osborn, Lazero Rodriguez, Tyler Sarrazine, and Molly Welfle. Most of them attended preschool here and worked their way through our various therapy programs. They've all meant a lot to us, and we know we've had a positive impact on their lives, too. We're very proud of them. They exemplify what we do here.

We also have a great appreciation for all the volunteer coaches who make our sports programs possible. We want to extend a special thanks to Bob Burnsworth, who's been coaching the Flyers for 25 years. Bob has played a key role in the development of our athletes—both on and off the court.

In other news, Turnstone had the pleasure of hosting Christine Agwang, a college professor from Kyambobo University in Uganda in June. Christine was a participant in the Global Sports Mentoring Program, an initiative of the U.S. Department of State. The goal of the program is to empower emerging leaders so that they can serve their local communities by increasing access to and opportunities for participation in sports. Christine is the only university-level educator in Uganda to teach and promote adaptive sports. She came to us to learn more about how we do things here and then take that knowledge back to her homeland. We're hopeful that Christine's recent visit will be the beginning of a long-term relationship joining her, Uganda, and Turnstone.

And last, but hardly least, our 16th Annual Board of Directors Gala on June 16 was another resounding success. In addition to raising money, it gave us a chance to show off our new Plassman Athletic Center. A heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone who made this event possible and donated to our therapy and wellness programs.

So we've had quite a bit to celebrate lately. But then, our clients accomplish so much every day as they strive to maximize their potential—there's always an occasion for celebration. Your compassionate generosity continues to be essential to their success. Please keep our mission in mind as you enjoy your summer.

Best

Team Turnstone is off and rolling

Join Team Turnstone for the Ninth Annual Fort4Fitness races on September 30 and October 1. Team Turnstone empowers people with disabilities to set goals, train with friends, and celebrate their success. Participants challenge themselves to do something that defies their disabilities and allows them to gain or regain confidence in themselves.

We've raised more than \$33,000 in past races through participant fundraising. In addition, if there are more than 100 people on our team, Turnstone will receive 10 percent of race proceeds. If you've already sent in your registration to Fort4Fitness, and didn't sign up with Turnstone, let us know, and you can be added to our team.

Everyone who raises a minimum of \$45 and signs up for Team Turnstone will receive a T-shirt. On race day, we hope to have hundreds of people walking, running, and rolling to show their support as part of Team Turnstone.

To join Team Turnstone:

Sign up for Fort4Fitness at fort4fitness.org. During step 2 of the registration process at item number 7 (Charity Partner), select Turnstone in the drop-down list.

Start raising money! You can raise funds using a pledge form, by sending personalized letters, or by using an online fundraising site, such as firstgiving.com. Contact [Michelle Kimpel](mailto:Michelle.Kimpel@turnstone.org) at (260) 483-2100, ext. 283, or michelle@turnstone.org if you have questions or need help.

No matter how you raise funds, you'll be creating possibilities for people with disabilities in our community.



NEWS NOTES

41st Annual Casino Night

Turnstone's 41st Annual Casino night was a record-breaker in both attendance and fun(d) raising. In fact, it was sold out a week prior to the event! Nearly 1,000 attendees experienced an expanded Casino Night in the Plassman Athletic Center at Turnstone. Two new elements of the event were a huge hit with attendees: the sampling stations that circled the field house with selections from local restaurants, wineries, breweries, and distributors, and the new high-rollers area. More than \$47,000 was raised to benefit Turnstone's therapeutic services, health and wellness, inclusive child care, adult day services, and sports and recreation programs for people with disabilities. Thank you to our sponsors, donors, guests, and volunteers for making this event a success. A complete list of sponsors will be published in the 2015-2016 annual report.

16th Annual Board of Directors' Gala

Turnstone's Board of Directors' Gala was held for the first time in the Plassman Athletic Center at Turnstone. The field house was completely transformed into a beautiful gala venue for the 260 Turnstone supporters and friends. The highlight of the evening was featuring our USA Men's National Goalball team and the five wheelchair basketball athletes who have now graduated high school and are moving on to college and new careers. Through the generosity of our guests, sponsors, and local foundations, over \$385,000 was raised. The proceeds from the Gala benefit Turnstone's therapeutic programs for children and adults.



Turnstone's 16th Annual Board of Directors' Gala at the new Plassman Athletic Center was another unqualified success, raising more than \$385,000. Thanks to all. See more Gala photos at turnstone.org/gala.



Turnstone's 13th Annual Classic Corvette Raffle

March 2016-October 2016

So much more than a car. You'll feel great riding around in this red-hot '63 'Vette. The only better feeling is the one you'll get knowing that you helped enhance the lives of people with disabilities by purchasing tickets! Tickets can be purchased at Turnstone, over the phone, at one of the car shows, at SweetCars in Fort Wayne, or at locations we attend from March through October 2016. All proceeds benefit Turnstone's programs for children and adults with disabilities. You must be 18 or older to purchase tickets. Learn more at www.turnstone.org/raffle. Indiana raffle license No. 139754.

Seventh annual JERK Invitational Golf Outing Benefitting Turnstone

Saturday, August 13 SOLD OUT

On Saturday, August 13, you can tee off to benefit Turnstone programs. The JERK League and Turnstone partner for this fun golf outing, dedicated to empowering people with disabilities. Sign up your team now to enjoy a great day on the links at Colonial Oaks. For more information on sponsorship, contact Kris Foate at (260) 483-2100 or kris@turnstone.org.

Culver's Day of Caring

Wednesday, Sept. 14, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Thanks to your generosity, \$2,777 was raised during the May 11 Culver's Day of Caring. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 14, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and dine at Culver's of Fort Wayne. Culver's will donate 20 percent of its sales to benefit Turnstone programs. Participating locations include 3510 East Dupont Road and 1435 West Washington Center Road. Contact Beth for volunteer opportunities at (260) 483-2100 or beth@turnstone.org.

Thrivent Choice

We're honored to be a valued charity partner with Thrivent Financial. Are you a Thrivent or Thrivent Financial member? Please choose to support our charity via Thrivent Choice.



PICTURE YOUR BUSINESS HERE!

Picture your business being on permanent display in the Plassman Athletic Center at Turnstone. Thank you to Indiana Tech, Parkview, Steel Dynamics, Inc., and Superior Van and Mobility for being the first to support Turnstone through the banner program. Contact Kris@turnstone.org to secure a space for your business. Space is limited.

HATS OFF AND THANKS TO ...

The IPFW Student Athlete Leadership Team for its support of Turnstone's adaptive sports and recreation program.

Pizza Hut of Fort Wayne for hosting another successful Turnstone Buffet Night. This year, more than \$2,200 was raised to support the agency and its programs.

The University of Saint Francis School of Creative Arts for once again partnering with Turnstone to create a photography exhibition of children and adults with disabilities that was displayed at the Disability Expo in May.

The Psi Iota Xi Sorority, Theta Theta Chapter, for its support of Turnstone's pediatric speech therapy program.

The Psi Iota Xi Sorority, Pi Chapter, for the funds to purchase a refrigerator for our pediatric feeding program.

The United States Association for Blind Athletes for supporting Turnstone for the National Fitness Challenge. Turnstone has been hosting a variety of goalball demonstrations and clinics to promote participation in the sport.

Grace Presbyterian Church for its gift in support of Turnstone's residential ramp-building program.

The Plymouth Congregational church for the gift to purchase supplies for Turnstone's new dementia and memory-care program.

Indiana Youth Institute for the professional development grant that enabled the director of

the Dr. Robert Kimbrough Early Learning Center to attend the Crisis Prevention and Intervention—Instructor Certification Program.

The Shank Family Foundation for supporting Turnstone's Dr. Robert Kimbrough Early Learning Center.

The Parrish Foundation and the **Charlie Tippmann Foundation** for their support of Turnstone's core programs and services.

The AWS Foundation for its gift to support pediatric therapy services.

Organized labor and their families, the United Way of Allen County, Holsum of Fort Wayne, Ferrellgas, Juggler's Anonymous, High Hopes Clowns, (DJ & BAND), IUE-CWA Local 999, Ellison Bakeries, Fort Wayne Firefighters 124, and the many **volunteers** who made this year's annual client picnic possible.

The fourth-grade class at Saint Charles Borromeo School for once again organizing its successful Read-A-Thon. This year the students raised more than \$5,100 to support our adaptive sports and recreation program.

And, thank you to **Dr. Rudy and Rhonda Kachmann** for donating the prize money for the annual wheelchair tennis tournament. 🌟

WELCOME NEW STAFF

Denise Hughes
Chief Program Officer

Sarah Miller
Adult Administrative Assistant

Laura Ramsey
Chief Financial Officer



MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

Thanks to all who gave honoraria and memorials to Turnstone between Jan. 22, 2016, and April 15, 2016.

IN MEMORY OF...

Patsy Blankenship
Scott & Kozy Hughes

Peg Bugher
Edgar & Betty-Alice Almeida
Nancy Archer
Marilyn Auriti
Kathie Bishop
Mary Lou Blinn
Virginia Bokern
Evelyn Brown
Elizabeth Carlton
Alice Chitwood
Joy Clarke
Nelson & Mary Coats
Virginia Coats
Philip Colglazier
Rosetta Curry
Tom & Shirley Deetz
Ray & Heidi Easterly
William Easterly
Christine & Peter Ford
Deborah Frank
Julian & Roseanne Franke
Joan Garman
Robert & Kate Haluska
Melissa Hartman
Frances Headings
Vivian Hernandez
Richard & Barbara Hill
Bob & June Holt
Yvonne Hunt
Barbara Kerch
Sue Kies
Ann & Lionel Kreamer
Martha Krestik
Stephen Lauterberg
Ellen Luellen
Louise Magoon
Darwin & Jan Markley
Walter & Betsy Martiny
Mary Maxwell
Baerbel McKinnon
James & Phyllis Montgomery
Barb & Kent Murphy
Barbara Naab
Arlene Nelson
Barb & Don Nord
James & Irma Pensinger
Shirley Ploughe
Dorothy Row
Isabelle Ruoff
Rita & Mark Spears
Joanne Weber
Paula Weigel
Evelyn Seeger

Neil Burd
Roger & Pam Hoepfner
Kristie Dailey
Ingrid Menger
Smallwood
Jamie Mueller
Jake Poff

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Judy King

L.J. & Kathryn Deisch
Tonia Graber

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Jerry & Linda Bailey
Theresa Bireley
Bill & Judy Causey
Rita Cohoon
Nora Disque
Tom & Karen Disque
Don & Joan Godfrey
Pat Krouse
William & Maxine Moseley
Richard & Judy Nill
Rick & Julie Nill
David Sheets
Danna Williamson

Eric J. Estill
Gene Estill

Diane Finch
Richard Beck
Barbara & Howard Cantwell
John Finch
Joan Garman
Diane & Clem Getty
Nancy & Carl Louraine
Peg Maginn
Charles Noerenberg
Northeast Indiana Veterinary
Emergency & Specialty Hospital
Richard & Chris Scherer
Pat Syndram
Tuesday Night Euchre Group
April Urban

Merle Grimm
Kaye Armstrong

Charles Hieber
Beverly Armbruster
Cathy Barva
Denise & Jeff Ehle
Jane Ehle
Eugene & Sandra Friedrich
Ken & Kathy Gerbers
Debbie Hieber
George & June Kurtz
Ronald & Cathy Steinman
Charles & Joan Wells

Alice Hike
Tom & Shirley Brandt
Rick & Babette Husted
Brian & Renee Meeks
Bill & Dee Rathgaber
Nina Ross

Thomas Hornberger
Nancy Ford

Dick Inskeep
Lee Foundation

Mark Johnson
Bill & Sara Hinckley
Angela & Roger Williams

Eugene Kelsey
Joan Garman

Carlee Klotz
Sharon Brockus
Carol Rowe

Sharon Krause
Diane Compton

John Mildred
Donny & Sharon Disque
Generex

Dolores Mitchell
Barbara Ellison

Cindy Woodman Saxton Cox
Diann Deutsch

Isaac & Louise Sayah
Samuel Sayah

Doris Schafer
Nancy & Carl Louraine
Pediatric Therapy Staff

David Syndram
April Urban

Nancy Tegtmeier
Cynthia Chemelewski
Tad & Judy Chemelewski
Cindy Gaumer
Jim & Mary Gordon
Jeff & Teresa Harris
Thomas & Sharon Howell
David & Cathy Miller
Dan & Betty Patterson
Fred Shaheen
Judi & Steve Tegtmeier

Chad Williams
Gloria & Roland Williams

Phyllis Elaine Zizelman
CBRE / Sturges

IN HONOR OF...

Hugh & Karen Littleford's 50th Anniversary
Carol Schumacher
Deb Schumacher

Emilie & Phil Reinoehl
Barbara Ellison

Rosemary Reszel
Paul Reszel

Elaine Welty
Doug & Vicki Welch

Due to rising printing costs, Turnstone will no longer list individual donations made in memory or in honor of loved ones. Instead we will include a tribute list identifying those for whom a gift was made.

GO DIGITAL

Stay informed and help us reduce expenses by receiving the newsletter electronically. Email kenna@turnstone.org to sign up.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Turnstone is looking for volunteers for several events. Please consider volunteering some of your time. You can see all of the opportunities on our website at www.turnstone.org/support/volunteer and click on the Sign Up Genius button. Contact beth@turnstone.org for more information.



The Goalball National Tournament was held at Turnstone for the first time in 2016. At the top, the 2016 USA Men's Paralympic Goalball Team was introduced at the post-tourney award ceremony. They will represent the USA at the 2016 Paralympic games in Rio. Bottom row: power soccer, wheelchair basketball, and sled hockey are just some of the other sports offered at Turnstone.

TURNSTONE SPORTS

2016 has been a great year for Turnstone sports. Our wheelchair basketball teams ended the season on a high note. The Bandits and Varsity ended the season ranked 10th in the nation, and our Prep team ended the year ranked 18th.

Sled hockey brought great success for our teams as well by finishing their season ranked 3rd in the nation.

Our power soccer teams competed in the national tournament hosted at Turnstone and it resulted in our teams being ranked 2nd and 6th in the nation.

For the first time, the Goalball National Championship was held at Turnstone. More than 130 athletes and coaches competed to determine who was the best in the nation. All the athletes who are part of the USABA Resident Program at Turnstone competed on different club teams from across the country. The tournament culminated with the medal ceremony and announcement of the Goalball athletes who will represent the USA at the Rio Paralympics in September. Turnstone is proud to be the official training site for the USA Men's Goalball Team.

Make sure to check out our Facebook page to keep up with the USA Men's National Goalball Team and their Road to Rio! And, join us on Monday, August 29 from 5–7 p.m. for a community send off for the team!



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Call Turnstone (866) 483-1278

BY MAIL

Go to turnstone.org/raffle, download the order form, and send a check or money order to Turnstone at 3320 North Clinton Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805.

For more information and a list of events you can attend to see the car and buy a ticket go to turnstone.org/raffle. See the Corvette and purchase tickets at the following Indiana locations:

Saturday August 20

Barr Street Farmers Market, Fort Wayne

Wed., August 31–Sun., September 4

Auburn Labor Day Car Show, Auburn

Saturday, September 24

James Dean Run Car Show, Fairmount

INDIANA RAFFLE LICENSE #139754

TICKETS \$15 each | \$30 for 3 | \$60 for 8 | \$100 for 15 | \$250 for 40 | **WINNER DRAWN 10/13/2016**

Contest rules available online at turnstone.org/raffle



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