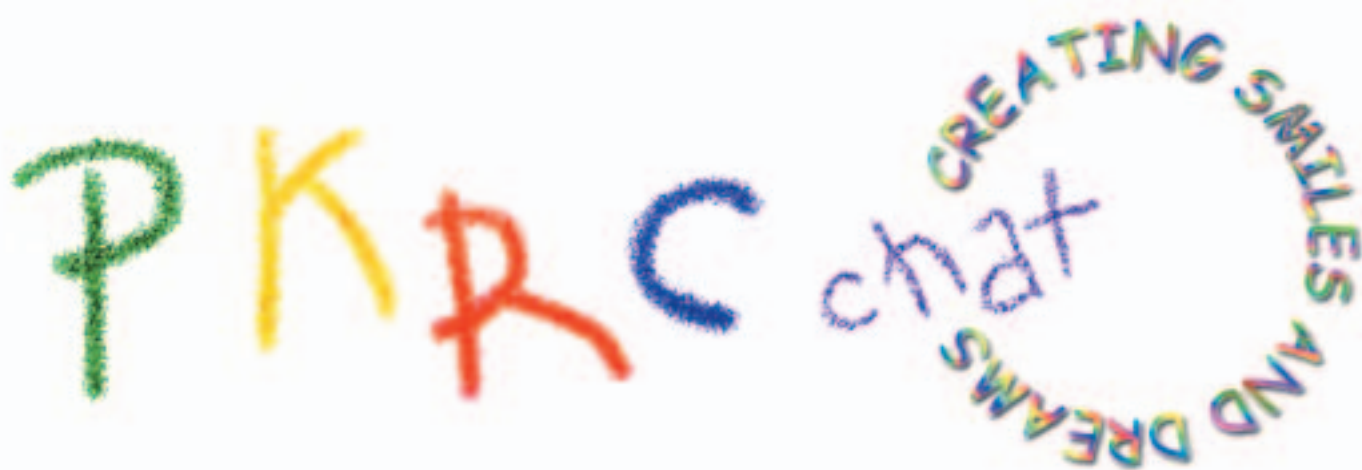




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The Peaceable Kingdom Retreat for Children, Inc.

Spring 2006

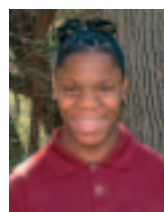
... A place where children with special needs and chronic illnesses can celebrate the health-giving benefits of nature...

The poet Edna St. Vincent Millay once wrote: "Childhood is the kingdom where nobody dies." In the same spirit, there is a little kingdom near Killeen, Texas, embraced in the crooked arms of the Lampasas River and nestled in the bosom of the Hill Country. It is a place where children celebrate living.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

I often receive emails or letters from individuals who are members of the PKRC family and/or past participants in PKRC programs over the last 21 years. I smile each time I hear from one of them knowing their experiences at PKRC helped mold them into the successful adults they are today!

What Does Peaceable Kingdom Mean To ME?



Lakendria Davis, KISD

"I think it means to me that a good place to be and I like the outdoors and I like going out there and it has a lot of stuff. It is where the children go out to play and they might everyday and I wish I would live and I love like Peaceable Kingdom mean and I going there all the time and I could love over there and I think it is a nice place where everyone can that make the self at home or like it is home and that went to Peaceable Kingdom mean to me and that the end of my storee!"

Dear Scott, How are you doing? Did you have fun at Pieskmge (Peaceable) Kingdom? I'm going to a talent show. I am going home. I want to say thank you! Marbridge people are going to Pieskmge Kingdom. I would like to go to Pieskmge Kingdom in summer. My mom is fun and I would like to go for lunch and a movie. My sister is fine. My mom, my nephew, and my sister are going to the talent show I will write you soon.

Love,
Drew Gray

Former PKRC Outdoor Education Program Student & Summer Session Participant - Successful resident at Marbridge in Austin, Texas



Drew in Scott's Jeep - 2002

Drew: We are very proud of you and all that you are doing at Marbridge. Thank you for always being an ambassador for PKRC! Come see us soon!
Scott Simmonds



Drew excited the crowd at the Marbridge Talent Show.



A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I have found that the most accurate predictions often do not prepare us for the storms in our lives. No one will ever forget the devastation caused by hurricanes Rita and Katrina just months ago. Although predictions lead to precise planning, full preparation was an impossible defense against the weather that destroyed communities, dreams and human lives. After horrific storms settle, unpredictable showers of blessings often follow and seem to pour out of the hearts of mankind. Much like the aftermath of September 11th, the great citizens of our nation can be found on street corners throughout the country united by their willingness to look through the devastation to a place where the hope springs. This is the place where the sun dries tears and opens new doors to a brighter future.

I am often reminded of the day my family and friends gathered as we celebrated the life of my grandmother, Daurice "Mur" Bowmer and laid her body to rest. As the service drew to an end and the rain subsided an incredible message of hope stretched across the brilliant Texas sky.

Many charitable organizations struggle, even dissolve following a national tragedy. Your gifts and generosity have sustained programs at Peaceable Kingdom during these times, allowing the doors to stay open for children with chronic illnesses and special needs. I am continually overwhelmed by the outpouring of support received from each of you - providing a shelter of refuge and safe haven from life's storms for children. Peaceable Kingdom is not a place that is free from rain, however on any given day messages of

hope stretch across the faces of children, messages that tell them the sun also rises.

On October 4th, 2005 forecasted rain did not keep our staff and guests from carrying out plans to dedicated the William C. Ward Kid's Clinic at Peaceable Kingdom and again just as the scheduled program began, rays of hope beamed through the smiles of all who gathered. A celebration of life sprung from a family that encountered a tragedy. The Ward family experienced a storm when they lost their loved one, "Will" and life was interrupted and I am sure predictions of pain were once again more devastating than ever imagined for their family. Had the Ward family and others not been willing to open their hearts to shower of blessings after the darkest storms doors of opportunity may still be undiscovered today.

My hope is that we will take the time to prepare ourselves for showers of blessings even in the midst of life's storms. Even natural disasters can bring growth and life and opportunity. Thank you for looking beyond life's storms to a place of opportunity . . . to a place where kids can be kids . . . a place called Peaceable Kingdom.

Scott Simmonds, Executive Director

Rain! whose soft architectural hands have power to cut stones, and chisel to shapes of grandeur the very mountains.

— Henry Ward Beecher

Please keep Peaceable Kingdom in mind when you choose to honor a loved one with an honorarium or memorial.

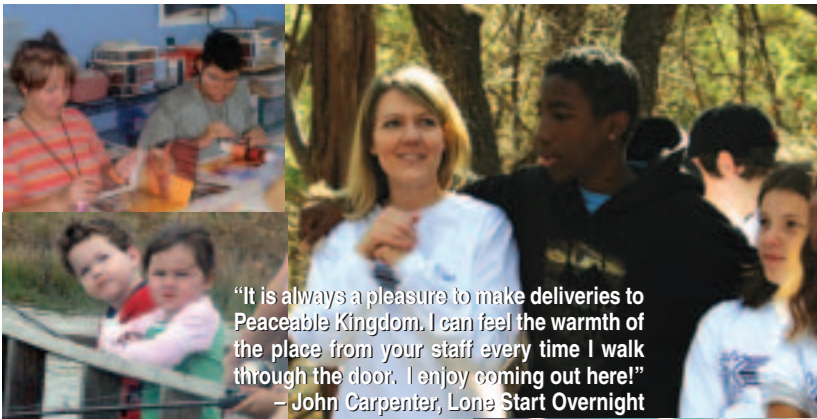
Children's dreams CAN come true . . . with friends like you



Ramping Up The PKRC Swimming Pool

PKRC has added a ramp entry to the swimming pool. This project came about from a suggestion of a child, who was bound to a wheel chair, that had difficulty entering and exiting the pool. The ramp entry will provide children easier access in and out of the pool area. The bridge was reconstructed to allow swimmers access into the main pool from the kid's pool area. The 2005 Ted C. Connell Community Commitment Award Dinner income provided the funds to make this improvement a reality. Many thanks to all who gave for this project and thank you to Ramirez Swimming Pools for a job well done.

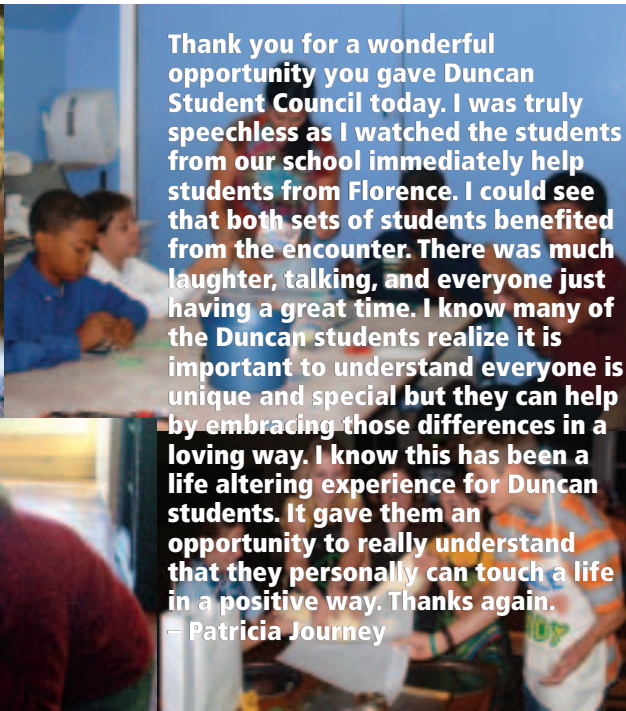




"It is always a pleasure to make deliveries to Peaceable Kingdom. I can feel the warmth of the place from your staff every time I walk through the door. I enjoy coming out here!"
 – John Carpenter, Lone Start Overnight



"What you and your staff do out at Peaceable Kingdom is amazing work. It definitely makes our community a better place to live. Thanks for all you do."
 Constable Edd Melton, III



Thank you for a wonderful opportunity you gave Duncan Student Council today. I was truly speechless as I watched the students from our school immediately help students from Florence. I could see that both sets of students benefited from the encounter. There was much laughter, talking, and everyone just having a great time. I know many of the Duncan students realize it is important to understand everyone is unique and special but they can help by embracing those differences in a loving way. I know this has been a life altering experience for Duncan students. It gave them an opportunity to really understand that they personally can touch a life in a positive way. Thanks again.
 – Patricia Journey

MIRACLE MAKERS

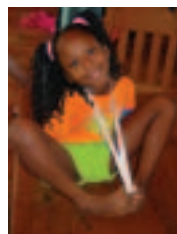
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"A PERSON I WILL NEVER FORGET"

By: Abby Simmonds



"Kash", I screamed, I couldn't wait to see her. I met Kash at camp last summer. She was a camper and I live at the camp and my parents work there. Kash came to *Out on a Limb Camp*, a camp for kids that are missing more than one of their arms or legs. Kash came up and said, "Hi may name is Kash, can I sit with you?" I said she could and then I told her my name. Then I asked her if she wanted to go to the pool with me and she said "no thanks". I asked why she did not want to go to the pool and she told me she did not know how to swim. I told her I would teach her how to swim. I wasn't sure how to teach her how to swim without using her arms but I knew I had to figure it out. I used a life-vest strap and tied my arms behind my back to see how she felt and then we talked about how to swim. It is really hard but by the end of the day she knew how to swim. Kash has one little sister that is two years old and a set of baby twins. She has beautiful black hair. She is African American

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