A Message From the President

Dear Families and Friends,

I am often asked the question, “What is The Melmark Difference?” There are so many ways to answer this, as there are so many unique aspects of care at Melmark. At the root of every answer, we always find that The Melmark Difference is the promise we make to each family we serve. It is our mission to keep our promise to provide excellent programs and services coupled with a warm and home-like environment to the children and adults entrusted to our care.

At Melmark, we promise to help those we serve achieve their fullest potential. Our professional and highly qualified staff provide individualized behavior support plans and care through the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis. This evidence-based approach is implemented in a 24/7, 365 day a year learning model, for the children we serve residentially and through our day programs. Our team’s goal is always to reduce challenging behaviors to promote success and independence. Success may involve moving into a less restrictive environment, from Melmark’s Residential Treatment Facility (RTF) to a children’s residence on campus and eventually back home. Our ultimate goal is for the children we serve in both Pennsylvania and Massachusetts to go back to their home school districts, attending classes with typically developing boys and girls.

For the adults we serve, The Melmark Difference may involve a more independent lifestyle such as living in an apartment in the community. Many adults we serve enjoy vocational opportunities, working at well-known companies throughout the Greater Philadelphia and New England regions. For others with complex needs, the difference is our customized medical, nursing and rehabilitative services. The Melmark Difference is the care and dignity delivered by our experienced staff.

You will also read about the many other aspects of The Melmark Difference throughout the pages of this magazine - from a sibling who’s making an impact on every non-ambulatory child and adult we serve through a donation to our Physical Therapy program, to a family who volunteers together to support Melmark students in New England, to the success stories of Connor and Jake.

You will also meet parents, organizations and corporations who have made a donation to The Promises to Keep Campaign. These generous donors have made a commitment to help Melmark continue making a difference in the lives of those we serve, as well as for their families, well into the future.

We hope you, too, will consider supporting this campaign so that you can be part of The Melmark Difference.

Joanne Gillis-Donovan, Ph.D.
President and CEO
Lesley joined the Melmark community when her son, Matthew, was enrolled in The Melmark School in 2008. Since Matthew’s arrival, Lesley has been involved and supportive in a number of ways. She has been a member of the Hubert J. P. Schoemaker Advisory Board since 2009. This group of dedicated volunteers has worked tirelessly to make the Schoemaker Classic one of the premiere charity golf tournaments in the Philadelphia region. The event has raised over $3 million in net proceeds throughout its history and has supported a wide variety of projects and programs at Melmark.

Lesley also serves on the Melmark Charitable Foundation Board of Directors. This board supports and participates in Melmark’s fundraising initiatives and provides guidance and oversight of Melmark’s investments.

Not only is Lesley involved in a number of Melmark initiatives, the rest of her family provides help and support as well. Her husband Chris regularly participates in and supports the Schoemaker Classic, and Chris and Lesley are generous supporters of Promises to Keep — The Campaign for Melmark. Their son, Jeremy, has given his time and talent as a summer volunteer, lending a hand in the Aquatics and Therapeutic Riding Programs. Jeremy, now a sophomore in college, is studying psychology and has devoted some of his time to volunteering alongside Melmark clinical and educational staff. The commitment to Melmark and the individuals we serve is truly a family affair.

Professionally, Lesley joined Tetralogic Pharmaceuticals as the Chief Operating Officer in August of 2013. TetraLogic Pharmaceuticals is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on discovering, acquiring and developing novel product candidates to treat cancer and infectious diseases. Prior to joining Tetralogic, Lesley was a consultant to a number of pharmaceutical companies and served as the Chief Medical Officer at Cephalon for more than five years.

Lesley received a M.B.Ch.B. from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, U.K. and obtained her post-graduate qualification, MRCP, as a Member of the Royal College of Physicians.

Lesley is not only devoted to her son’s care and needs, she is committed to serving Melmark and lending her support for all the individuals we serve and their families.

“Melmark is the only place that gave our family hope. We are honored to support this wonderful organization that has given our family so much.”

-Lesley Russell, MB.Ch.B., MRCP
Melmark Parent and Board Member
Phase I in Motion

The Campaign continues to make progress with the help and support of our dedicated Campaign Cabinet led by Co-Chairs, Richard Phillips and Denny Willson. Words cannot fully express our gratitude for the Cabinet's leadership, tireless work and commitments to this unprecedented $20 million campaign, one of the most important endeavors in Melmark's history.

We are very happy to report that $10,000,000 has been secured in gifts and pledges from 89 donors. This group of generous contributors represents Melmark families, foundation grants and corporate partners.

As we continue to move forward, we need the help and support of the entire Melmark community to be successful in reaching our goal. The Campaign will help complete the vital projects that will improve the infrastructure of our campus in Pennsylvania and create the Center for Integrated Services, the heart and pulse of the organization. It will also enable land acquisition and building of new residences for children in Melmark New England (MNE) as well as create a full-service cafeteria and staff development center in the MNE School.

Phase I of the capital projects is underway at Melmark Pennsylvania. This phase includes a comprehensive upgrade and expansion of campus-wide infrastructure, which is expected to be completed in fall of 2015.

In addition to our many capital needs, the Campaign will also strengthen our endowment. As Melmark approaches its 50th Anniversary, it is most important that we build the endowment to help ensure our future.

During Phase I, the following will be significantly enhanced:

- Roadways
- Sidewalks
- Outdoor Lighting Systems
- Parking
- Electrical, Security and Communication Systems
- Storm Water Management

![Campaign Update](image)

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Phase I improvements (in purple) to Melmark’s community in Berwyn, PA are well under way. This work will enhance campus lighting, roadways, sidewalks and parking areas. Work will also improve Melmark’s electrical, security and communications systems, as well as storm water management.
Promises to Keep

Campaign Highlights

We have been most fortunate to be the beneficiary of a number of Leadership Gifts. These commitments have moved the Campaign forward and inspired others to join in this effort. Many thanks to our generous contributors and for their investment in the growth and well-being of all those entrusted to our care.

The Phillips Family Leads the Way

Campaign Co-Chair, Richard Phillips and his family made a very generous pledge of $1,000,000 to kick off the Leadership Phase of the Promises to Keep Campaign. They have been longtime supporters of Melmark and care deeply about the individuals served, their families and the success of the organization. Their family member, Tony, is currently served in Melmark’s adult program and has been a beloved member of the Melmark community for many years.

Melmark Grandparent Helps Keep the Promise

An extraordinary gift of $500,000 was made by a loving grandparent of a Melmark student. The donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, expressed how deeply grateful the entire family is for what Melmark has done for them and, most important, for the life-changing programs and opportunities Melmark has provided for their loved one.

Foundation Partner Awards Generous Grant

The Connelly Foundation, a Melmark partner and champion, has awarded a grant of $300,000 to the Campaign. The partnership between Melmark and the Connelly Foundation dates back to 1970. Since then, the Foundation has been a regular supporter in many areas of our programs and services in Melmark Pennsylvania including: expansion of the Melmark School and Medical Suite, purchase of equipment for physical and occupational therapy services, and the implementation of advanced technology for clinical, medical and program data collection.

The most recent grant will help fund Phase I of the Campaign projects, which will bolster our current campus infrastructure and lay the foundation for future projects that will be realized through the Campaign and beyond.

Jamie and Karyn Stahle

Set the Pace in New England

Karyn and Jamie have pledged $150,000 to support initiatives in Melmark New England. They have not only lent their financial support; they are also active members of the Campaign Cabinet, helping to build awareness of our programs in Massachusetts and building relations with potential donors. Jamie and Karyn, whose son, James, is a student at Melmark New England, have been committed to helping us provide excellent services and programs to the children we serve in Melmark New England for many years.
Bob and Lisa Marie Crane have been a part of the Melmark community for almost 40 years - since their sister, Karen, came to live here at the age of 12. Known for her bright smile in spite of her physical limitations, Karen always has a cheerful disposition. She will turn 50 in April, a celebration Bob and Lisa Crane plan to be a part of.

“Mom and Dad prayed for years for a place that would care for Karen,” Bob said. “They found that place, a wonderful place, at Melmark.” Bob recounted Karen’s involvement in the Joybells and the Melmark Players over the years. “She took her roles very seriously and practiced for the bells as often as she could,” he said. “It brought tears to our eyes when the Bell Choir played at my dad’s funeral. Melmark is truly the home that love built.”

Since her arrival at Melmark, the Crane family, especially Bob and Karen’s mother, Theresa, played an integral role in Karen’s life, as well as in the life of the organization. Sadly, Bob’s mother, Theresa, passed away in May 2013. Not long after this, Bob approached John Schlesinger in the Advancement Office requesting help in fulfilling a long-time wish of his late mother.

“Melmark has meant so much to our whole family over the years,” Bob said, “and my mother always wanted to leave something significant to the organization after her death. For a number of reasons this was not possible, so Lisa and I wanted to make this gift as a memorial to her legacy and to show her appreciation for the life Karen is able to have here.”

In order to make a substantial gift, the Cranes decided to convert a low-yielding CD into a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA). Annuities are guaranteed contracts with fixed payments that can provide donors with an immediate tax deduction and income for life. While the Cranes appreciate the tax deduction and additional income, the main reason for the donation is to benefit Melmark, the organization that has made such a difference in providing a quality life for Karen, and also for their family.

A Charitable Gift Annuity allows almost anyone to make a substantial gift to support Melmark, while assuring income for life. For more information, please contact John Schlesinger in Melmark’s Office of Advancement at (610) 325-4792.
As a not-for-profit organization, Melmark relies on the generous support of our families, friends, corporate partners, foundations and volunteers. The partnerships formed have allowed Melmark to offer an ever-expanding range of programs, services and resources in support of the children and adults we serve. Melmark is grateful for this support.

“Our family donates its time and money to Melmark because Melmark is more than a school for our son. Melmark is a home, filled with family. From the administrators who are dedicated to bettering the lives of the children and adults they serve, to the classroom staff who love, teach and protect the children in the classrooms day after day, to the residents who live on Melmark’s campus and cannot speak but whose faces light up when they see you or you give them a hug - they are all family. Our hearts are at Melmark, so there will our time and treasures be as well.”

–John and Stacey Cummings, Parents

“Partnering with the team at Melmark to raise our daughter has been a blessing. Our support of Melmark is one way for us to raise visibility of the school, the needs of the population served and to sustain and expand services provided to the children and families in need.”

–John and Mary Gene Clavin, Parents

“SAP is proud to partner with an organization that provides opportunities to children and adults with autism and other intellectual disabilities. Our work with Melmark is an important part of SAP’s commitment to the community and provides our employees a rewarding opportunity to both serve and be served.”

–David J. Hutchison, SAP Americas Senior Vice President, Marketing
Enacted by the Pennsylvania legislature in May 2001, the EITC Program provides Pennsylvania companies with a tax credit up to 75% for a one year commitment and 90% for a two year commitment for contributions to non-profit educational improvement organizations (EIO). Melmark is a registered EIO.

Companies may apply the credit against the following Pennsylvania state taxes:

- Capital Stock/Franchise Tax
- Corporate Net Income Tax
- Bank Shares Tax
- Title Insurance & Trust Company Shares Tax
- Insurance Premiums Tax
- Gross Receipts Tax
- Tax under the Insurance Company Law of 1921
- Personal Income Tax

Contributions to Melmark through this program support the purchase and implementation of technology in the Melmark School. This includes Smart Boards and iPads in classrooms, which support specialized curriculum to advance academic and communications skills.

Applications for tax credits for program fiscal year 2015 will be accepted beginning July 1, 2015. All applications for the EITC program must be completed and submitted online using Department of Community and Economic Development’s Single Application for Assistance, which can be accessed at newPA.com or www.esa.dced.state.pa.us. For assistance, please contact Ellen Donohoe, Melmark’s V.P. for Advancement, at 610-325-4996.

One Family’s Commitment

It’s not every day you meet a family as dedicated as the Hubbard Family. Bob and Rosemarie Hubbard not only volunteer their time at special events throughout the year, they also raise money from family and friends and promote public awareness of Melmark and the challenges of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

They attend every school event, from family picnics to school dances, and they haven’t missed a single parent advisory committee meeting. The Hubbard Family always keeps Melmark New England (MNE) at the forefront of their daily networking and outreach.

Bob and Rosemarie’s son, Robert, has been in the MNE Day School Program for 14 years. In that time, the Hubbards, along with their daughter and Robert’s twin, Jackie, have raised over $48,000 for MNE through an annual trivia night event they plan and host. Last summer they even held a “paint and sip” night that raised additional support and garnered new friends for the school. Rosemarie recently received a volunteerism award from her employer and donated the monetary portion to Melmark.

Jackie completed a college internship at MNE to help her decide between teaching or pursuing legal services for the ASD population. We are certain she’ll make an impact on the future of ASD services, as her parents long have.
Volunteers are an integral part of the work we do at Melmark. We are always moved by the overwhelming support we receive from our individual, community and corporate partners. When volunteers visit, we are also touched by the relationships created and strengthened, both between volunteer and client and among the volunteers themselves. Below are photos from some of the magical moments created by our volunteers.

Volunteers from SAP work side by side with Melmark individuals

Lansdale Catholic Students help Joy carve a jack-o’-lantern

Tiara and Breanna from Sacred Heart School

Team Janssen along the road to Tower House

Elaine works with a Vanguard volunteer

To volunteer at Melmark, please contact:

Cyndie Martin,
Director of Corporate and Community Affairs

610-325-4976
CyndieMartin@Melmark.org
Connor came to Melmark’s Residential Treatment Facility (RTF) after a long history of intense and frequent self-injury and aggression. Among many challenging behaviors, Melmark’s clinical team was most concerned about Connor’s tendency to hit his head against hard surfaces and to bite. These reactions resulted in injury, not only to himself, but also to his family members and staff. Connor’s outbursts often caused significant property damage such as broken windows and holes in walls.

Before admission to Melmark’s RTF, Connor had received intensive behavioral support in his family’s home. His parents even made extensive modifications to their house in an attempt to keep Connor safe. Still, they needed more support, so they turned to Melmark.

Upon admission, Melmark’s team performed a functional analysis (FA). This analysis revealed that Connor exhibits self-injury in order to escape from demands. It also found that he exhibits aggression to avoid completing tasks and to access preferred items and activities. Once the team knew why Connor was reacting in such an intense way, they developed an individualized behavior support plan for him.

Melmark’s RTF team taught Connor how to ask for a break through functional communication training. He also expanded his ability to request preferred items and activities through a picture communication system. As Connor’s ability to appropriately communicate his needs and wants improved, the Melmark team began to see an incredible change.

Melmark Behavior Analyst, Jennifer Hanson, says it was remarkable to see Connor’s true personality emerge. “Connor really grew into himself and became a young man while he resided at Melmark,” said Hanson. “He’s a student who always brings a smile to your face with one of the most contagious laughs I have ever heard. He enjoys people watching and interacting with his staff through singing and clapping. He’s really a pleasure to be around.”

Connor has been discharged from Melmark and now lives in a townhouse as part of a residential program in Pittsburgh. His new environment fits his current needs and has the potential to be a lifelong home for him.

Connor’s parents, Jeff and Michelle, say they are grateful for what Melmark has provided their family. “We want to thank everyone who was involved in Connor’s life, whether it be through a high-five, an ‘E-I-E-I-O’ or a ‘yeah baby’ during his stay at Melmark,” said Michelle Janidlo. Connor’s parents say they’re touched by the individualized support Connor received. “Everyone’s energy and effort was greatly appreciated.”
As he handed out sunflowers to the teachers and administrative staff at his graduation ceremony in October, many hearts were touched by the hand-written tag on the flower that read: “Thanks for keeping me on track!” A sincere sentiment from a young boy named Jake - a superstar and now a Melmark New England (MNE) alumnus.

Jake entered our Early Childhood program as a day student in February 2010, just before his 7th birthday. Like most young boys, he enjoyed playing video games and watching videos on the computer. Although he was able to communicate verbally, his behavioral profile included noncompliance, aggression, property destruction and crying, coupled with a history of eloping.

One of Jake’s biggest challenges was communicating his frustrations appropriately, or even at all. Shortly after his enrollment, it was evident that Jake could benefit from transitioning to the 24-hour a day residential program. This would enable staff to deliver the curriculum consistently around the clock and to monitor behavioral goals in order for Jake to develop better adaptive living skills and behavioral patterns, as well as to address his academic needs.

Over the last four years, Jake has worked diligently alongside his MNE teachers and other staff to improve his interpersonal relationship skills and to enhance his home and community behavior. Together, they have worked to develop self-awareness skills which allow him to moderate his own behavior and initiate a series of cool down activities, when needed, helping him to relax and ready himself. His academic skills have advanced so much that he was able to make a presentation at the MNE Student Science Fair in 2012 and even received an award for his work.

Jake recently made a successful transition to a collaborative educational program that will build upon the milestones he achieved at MNE. We will miss Jake but feel confident that he has the skills, abilities and confidence to successfully navigate a happy and productive life.

Jake’s journey at MNE is one that demonstrates the power of the partnership between a child who wants to learn and the Melmark service delivery model based on Applied Behavior Analysis.

“Thanks for keeping me on track.”
-Jake’s graduation note to his teachers
Melmark’s mission is to bring out and showcase the abilities of each individual we serve. On May 3, 2014, Melmark New England sibling, Marissa Kearney, had the opportunity to raise awareness of that mission when she was invited to sing the national anthem in front of tens of thousands of people at Fenway Park.

Nearly 37,000 Major League Baseball fans stood silently, eyes fixed on the 8th grader, as she beautifully sang *The Star Spangled Banner* before the Red Sox took on the Oakland Athletics. Marissa was selected to represent New England children and families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder at the Red Sox’s annual Autism Awareness Day. Her brother, Ryan, has been a student at Melmark New England since 2007.

Melmark is grateful to have the dedication and support of siblings like Marissa, who work to teach others about compassion and acceptance, traits brothers, sisters and all family members affected by autism know so well. We are also grateful for our community partners, the 2013 World Series Champion Boston Red Sox, for the many opportunities they provide the children and adults we serve throughout the year.

**School Dance Raises Awareness**

The sixth-grade class at Ayer-Shirley Regional Middle School has a lot to be proud of. Led by Riley Murphy, whose sister attends Melmark New England, the class raised over $650 for the school.

“We wanted to raise money for autism, and we decided a dance would be a good event for us to do that,” said Murphy. They spread the word throughout school, hanging posters and selling bracelets for $1 that offered students a discount on admission. Held at the Middle School, the dance featured fun music mixes from eighth-grade DJ Michael Kelly and a raffle of donated prizes. Students were encouraged to wear blue, the color for autism awareness.

Ayer-Shirley’s entire sixth grade participates in the United Way Youth Venture program which encourages young students to help their communities in different ways. “Kids are just interested in making changes in the world,” said Catherine Lyon, Youth Venture program coordinator and library media coordinator at the school. “We promote the idea that everyone is a change-maker, and they really run with it.”

“When you see children helping other children, kids who have to work harder than others can even imagine in life, it just warms your heart. We are thankful for these students’ work.”

-Rita Gardner
Melmark New England Executive Director
Many young men and women ask for donations to charitable causes to celebrate their Bar or Bat Mitzvahs, but few of those gifts are as personal as one recently received by Melmark. On Thursday, September 11, 2014, a group gathered in Melmark’s Physical Therapy Department to celebrate Remy Peskin’s generous and thoughtful donation, a top-of-the-line lift for clients with mobility challenges – clients like her brother, Corey, who attends The Melmark School.

Corey has a sparkling personality and an enthusiasm for life that is contagious. He’s also a huge fan of his sister, and it’s obvious the feeling is mutual. Even more heartwarming than the connection shared by these siblings is the fact that Remy immediately knew she would support her brother’s school when she began planning her Bat Mitzvah Project.

Remy wanted to make a donation that would directly impact the Physical Therapy staff who work with her brother to foster increased mobility and who support hundreds more children and adults with a wide range of needs. When she discovered there was a need for a new lift, Remy launched a letter writing campaign in which she wrote, “As a way to help others, I have decided to become an ambassador for The Melmark School, where my brother, Corey, is a student.” Remy raised $4,000. The lift supplier donated $2,000 to help Remy reach her goal of purchasing the new lift.

“When I made the donation, I felt that it wouldn’t only help Corey, but every child who attends Melmark,” said Remy. She added, “And that made me feel good, because when I talked to Corey about it, all I saw was his smile.”

Melmark President and CEO, Joanne Gillis-Donovan, Ph.D., praised Remy for her thoughtful donation. “This gift puts you in a category of human beings who will lead the world to a better place,” Gillis-Donovan added, “We are grateful and inspired.”

Cindy Peskin says she is proud of her daughter’s decision to raise funds to benefit Melmark. “Remy adores and loves all four of her brothers and has a special bond with Corey. She wanted to do something for his school. I am just so very proud of her.”

The lift purchased with Remy’s donation provides extra lifting range and a wider, adjustable base for assisting children and adults during transitions from wheelchairs to standers, tables and high beds. Members of Melmark’s physical therapy team are very touched by the donation and will use the lift on a daily basis to provide safe transfers for many clients.
Those inspirational words follow a first of its kind collaboration for both the Chamber Orchestra and The Joybells. Twelve adults with intellectual disabilities performed alongside some of the best known musicians in the world in a CD recording and concert titled, *Music that Matters*.

Chamber Orchestra Music Director, Dirk Brossé, arranged holiday music exclusively for this project, made possible through the charitable gifts from Melmark friends, family and corporate sponsors. In September, Maestro Brossé led Chamber Orchestra musicians and The Joybells during a CD recording and intimate concert. On December 7, The Joybells joined the Chamber Orchestra again, as they performed two free holiday concerts at The Kimmel Center in Philadelphia and released the CD titled, *Music that Matters*. More than 2,000 guests attended the concerts.

Each member of The Joybells has an intellectual disability and cannot read music. Instead, they play beautifully by watching hand cues from Joybells Co-Directors, Sue Graves and Catherine Parker. The group has been performing since 1970, with appearances at The White House, the Pennsylvania Governor’s Mansion, Citizens Bank Ballpark, schools, churches and other venues.

Janelle McCoy, Executive Director of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, says this collaboration provides a positive experience, not only for The Joybells, but for Chamber Orchestra musicians as well. “Our musicians came away incredibly inspired and deeply moved by the recording sessions and performances,” said McCoy.

Melmark President and CEO, Joanne Gillis-Donovan, Ph.D. says this project provided an extraordinary opportunity for the Joybells. “This performance with world class musicians, says so much about the talents of each member of The Joybells,” said Gillis-Donovan.

To purchase a copy of the Music that Matters CD, or to support the project, contact:

Ellen Donohoe  
Melmark VP for Advancement  
EllenDonohoe@melmark.org  
(610) 325-4996

“*The collaboration between The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia and The Joybells of Melmark brought me to tears, made me humble, modest and happy.*”

– Dirk Brossé,  
Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia Music Director

“The Joybells are deeply grateful to Dirk Brossé and the Chamber Orchestra for this rare opportunity to record and perform with them, as we bring two completely different musical worlds together to create something distinctive and extraordinary. We thank these musicians for placing value on the men and women in the Joybells and on their musical achievements.”

– Sue Graves  
Joybells Co-Director

See The Joybells of Melmark on NBC’s *The Today Show* with Kathie Lee and Hoda on Christmas Eve at 10:00 a.m.
Over the past several years, Melmark has been developing an enterprise database that will automate and encompass its clinical systems, behavior and education plan development, health care best practices, and many other aspects of Melmark’s services. The program, created with input from executive leadership and clinical team members from both the Berwyn and New England sites, is designed to provide a more team-oriented approach for all areas of Melmark’s operations.

The first phase of the electronic educational database has been rolled out to staff and has proven to be a unique and valuable data-collection and analysis system. When completed, the database will also include an advanced curriculum module where students can interact directly with the program, submitting assignments in which their work is monitored and measured. With built-in algorithms that use logic to provide feedback to staff, this system will give clinicians the tools they need to build and implement behavior and health care plans that fully meet the unique needs of each individual.

The application automates the collection of data from any secure, web-enabled device or computer, stores that data across classes, residences, program areas and campuses in a single database, and provides analysis of the data in the form of graphs, charts, reports, statistical analysis, data-mining reports and additional features.

The program will help Melmark in its move toward an electronic records system and will reach far beyond the clinical aspects of client care. This database will provide a central location for all data, ranging from admissions records, clinical reports and curriculum to visitor logs, insurance records and medical progress notes.

Some of the benefits of this program include reducing paperwork and transcription, providing a unique ability to analyze data across classrooms, programs and locations for continuous improvement across settings and providing our researchers and research partners with an unprecedented data set for the industry.

This database embraces the clinical systems that have evolved over the years and the combined experience of seasoned professionals from both Melmark and Melmark New England. Senior leaders have worked collectively to bring together the research-based best practices in the treatment and care for children and adults with challenging behaviors.

When fully implemented, this powerful tool will be of great assistance to our staff and students, and will further enhance Melmark’s position in this field.

“This database will give clinicians the tools they need to build and implement behavior and education plans that fully meet the unique needs of each individual.”

-George P. Linke, Jr., Psy.D.
Melmark Executive VP and Chief Operating Officer
On Monday, October 6, the Philadelphia life sciences and business community gathered for the Ninth Annual Hubert J.P. Schoemaker Classic to benefit Melmark. Once again, the tournament’s Title Sponsor was Accenture. In its nine years, the Classic has raised more than $3M for children and adults with special needs served by Melmark. The tournament was founded in memory of the late Hubert J.P. Schoemaker, a leader and advocate in the region’s life sciences community. Schoemaker's eldest daughter, Maureen, lived at Melmark for 28 years.

The event included 264 golfers who enjoyed playing 18 holes on one of three premier golf courses: Waynesborough Country Club, The ACE Club and Gulph Mills Golf Club. Golf was followed by a cocktail reception, silent auction and dinner, with a live auction, all at Waynesborough.

Founded in 2006, by Lee Ahrensdorf, President of Ahrensdorf and Associates, the Schoemaker Classic has become the major charity event for the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries in the Philadelphia region. Classic Advisory Board Co-chairs, Shawn P. O’Brien, CEO of Cipher Pharmaceuticals, Denny Willson, President and CEO of Hsiri Therapeutics, LLC and Jim Eaton, Senior VP of NAI Geis Realty, work with an incredibly talented and dedicated network of professionals to organize this event.

Mark your calendars for the 10th Annual Hubert J.P. Schoemaker Classic on October 5, 2015.
Gray skies and torrential rain may have started and ended the day, but they didn't dampen spirits at the Ninth Annual fore Melmark New England Golf Benefit for Children with Autism on Monday, July 28. 144 golfers teed off on the lush Andover Country Club course in their quest for the 1st place prize and to support the children and adults served by Melmark New England.

Golfers and guests were treated to a photo opportunity with the three Boston Red Sox World Series trophies and were entertained by the Boston Bruins’ own Rene Rancourt, whose rendition of the national anthem inspired everyone.

Ladies enjoyed a new addition to this special event's schedule – Martinis, Manis and More. The afternoon of pampering featured signature refreshments, manicures, makeovers, gift bags, raffle prizes and more.

With the scorecards turned in and the makeovers complete, dinner and the auction commenced. Longtime emcee and auctioneer, Mark Menery, led eager bidders through six amazing live auction packages. Record bids were placed on several items, and when Menery passionately reminded everyone of the evening’s cause, he inspired the sponsorship of sixteen classrooms. This year’s event raised over $205,000 for Melmark New England.

We look forward to celebrating the 10th anniversary of the fore Melmark New England Golf Event on July 27, 2015.
Making a Difference in the Community

Melmark in the News

From The Joybells’ performance with The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia to a sister’s gift to her brother’s school, Melmark has been the focus of several positive media reports this year. This coverage, featured on television, radio, print and online, highlights the abilities of the people we serve and raises awareness of Melmark’s mission.

Sibling’s donation to Melmark featured in Main Line Times and City Suburban News

Melmark athletes in Special Olympic US Games featured in local papers

Main Line Non-Profit CEO of 2014 article from InCommunity Magazine

Melmark’s 2014 Graduation Ceremonies featured on 6abc

2014 Hubert J.P. Schoemaker Classic featured on KYWNewsradio and CBS3

MNE Spartan Vermont BEAST Team featured in Andover Townsman and Burlington Union Newspapers

Joybells’ CD Recording featured on 6abc, CBS3, FOX29 and CW Philly

Melmark Mudders

A team of family members and staff from Melmark New England competed in the Spartan Vermont BEAST, a 13+ mile obstacle course, at the Spartan World Championships in Killington, VT on September 20, 2014. The Melmark Mudders participated in this grueling race to raise awareness and funds for MNE. Their efforts caught the attention of media outlets at home in Andover, MA and in Burlington, VT, with coverage by the Andover Townsman and Burlington Union newspapers, among others. The Vermont BEAST was aired on NBC, giving those of us not brave enough to attempt it a glimpse at what it’s all about.

Congratulations to the Melmark Mudders - all of whom completed the race in an average of 7.5 hours and raised $4,445 for Melmark New England.

Melmark New England Director of Business Operations, Bill Ahearn, jumping over fire

Jerry Hegarty carrying a log alongside other participants in the Spartan Vermont BEAST
Melmark offers continuing education programs for parents, staff and professionals in the communities we serve. Below is a look at our upcoming Expert Speaker Series events:

**After Language Training: Teaching Persons with Severe Problem Behavior to Tolerate Delays and Denials**
Gregory P. Hanley, Ph.D., BCBA-D
January 14, 2015
Andover, MA

**Collaboration Between Occupational Therapists and Behavior Analysts**
Jacqueline Dobres, MS OT R/L, BCBA
February 5, 2015
Berwyn, PA

**A Comprehensive Training Program for Functional Analyses and Treatment Development**
James Chok, Ph.D., BCBA-D and Jill Harper, Ph.D., BCBA-D
February 19, 2015
Andover, MA

**Understanding Sibling Experience**
Leslie Newport, Psy.D., BCBA-D and Hailey Crecca
March 12, 2015
Berwyn, PA

**Practical and Time-Efficient Strategies for Training Staff**
Dennis H. Reid, Ph.D., BCBA-D
March 19, 2015
Andover, MA
Promises to Keep
THE CAMPAIGN FOR MELMARK