



Spring 2016

every child deserves a childhood and a future

Vision Screenings Show a Bright Future

On February 9th, Spaulding celebrated a new accomplishment: nearly 100% of all of our students received a vision screening! The Franklin Area Lions Club came to our campus with a SPOT screen device to provide free vision screenings for all of our day and residential students. The nature of this SPOT screen device was a perfect fit for our student body. The student simply looked into the device (similar to a Polaroid camera) and received instant results for critical factors, such as eye alignment, focus or whether further evaluation is required. In the past, our vision screenings have been limited to residential students only due to time, resources and capabilities.



Another challenge for our students is the anxiety related to disruptive or unusual processes. Like other basic medical procedures, vision testing can be quite unsettling for many of our students. Although our staff continues to provide techniques and counseling to desensitize students to these activities, existing conditions often will mean that important but not critical health evaluations cannot be completed. In addition, a traditional eye evaluation with visual charts is not realistic for some of our students with special needs.

The vision testing provided by the Franklin Area Lions Club enabled students to stay on campus where they are comfortable and undergo a quick, easy and effective evaluation. This process was especially helpful for those students who are nonverbal. In addition, the Lions Club has offered assistance for any students who require financial support to purchase needed eye care. We are excited to see the future of this new partnership!

Visit the Spaulding Youth Center YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/autismyouthcenter for more information on the sensory challenges of our students.

A Comfort All Their Own

Almost 30 residential students were treated to some homemade comfort over the winter by the Belknap Mill Quilt Guild. After meeting a few of the grateful recipients during their first visit, this organization was inspired to make a pledge to create a custom comfort quilt for each residential student based on their preferences and interests. Each quilt requires 100+ hours to complete, which means over 5,700 hours will be donated to provide comfort and care to Spaulding students when the initiative is completed.

“The first quilt delivery created a positive wave of good will across campus and beyond with our students and staff,” shared James Clements, Spaulding Youth Center CEO & President. “Many of these students arrive at Spaulding without many personal belongings. For these students, receiving a handmade quilt that is not only their very own but also designed specifically for them can be literally life changing. The Belknap Mill Quilt Guild has earned the nickname of ‘our quilt angels’ on campus.” In fact, the students who have received comfort quilts could not contain their gratitude! To view their personal notes of thanks, please visit spauldingyouthcenter.org/thank-you-quilt-angels



Shirley Mento and Diane Orłowski from Belknap Mill Quilt Guild present handmade comfort quilts to residential students.

SPAULDING CAMPUS EVENTS

- April 15th** Annual Science Fair
- May 7th** National Foster Care Month Celebration
- May 25th** Celebrating our 30th Annual Arts Festival!
- June 23rd** Field Day Sponsored by EChO
- June 24th** Spaulding School Awards Ceremony

Our Mission: To leverage our professional expertise to help young people with autism or other developmental and/or behavioral challenges learn the academic and life skills needed to be successful in their homes, schools & communities. spauldingyouthcenter.org

