



Hart Walker Newsletter



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Hi Everyone!...

If this is your first Newsletter, Welcome! Our purpose of this Newsletter is to show off our "Hart Walkers", update you on certain issues, share thoughts, post the Clinic Dates and hopefully make you sit down for just a few moments and relax. We send this out to the kids, parents, guardians, P.T.'s, O.T.'s, Dr.'s, Nurses, those who are involved with your child and the Hart Walker. If you know someone who would like one, send me their contact information.

If there are any ideas, thoughts, stories or photos any of you would like to share, please send them along! As **you** all know how amazing your child is, the rest of us want to hear about it! So brag a little or a lot about **anything!**

So let's see what's going on...

NEWBIES!

Things are becoming VERY busy as others are seeing your children in the MKII Hart Walker. We are now seeing children from Rhode Island as well as Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York (including way upstate), New Jersey and possibly Pennsylvania. So welcome to these children and their families...

Kelly Bratton, Andrew Burbank, Christian Dorie, Samantha Estes, Isaac Fairman, Mari Johnson, Dayquan King, Frank Mercado and Katy Strong. We are delighted to know you and honored to be helping your children move!! See page 2 for more on Andrew and page 4 for more on Mari.

Evan Sussman at a recent baseball game... **BATTER UP!**



Way to
Go Evan!!!



Andrew Burbank... Ambassador ?!

One of our newest “Hart Walker’s” is an amazing boy named Andrew. When we saw Andrew at one of his appointments, I regrettably had to pull myself away from him. Our conversation was so enjoyable, enthusiastic and informative, I forgot I was speaking with a 10 year old boy.

Andrew received his walker early in September and has been working very hard. His Mom, Kris, said one day he came home from school and chose walking over his after school snack!

Andrew is our newest photo on our web-site

www.greatstridesforcp.com and you can learn more about this inspirational boy by going to: www.stamfordadvocate.com – type in Andrew Burbank in the search box. The article is named, *Determined Young Man*, and **that** he is. As the article reads, he has been named **Youth Ambassador** for the Easter Seals Conn.-Rhode Island “Walk With Me Event,” at the Stamford Museum & Nature Center, proceeds going toward services for children and adults with disabilities or special needs in the Fairfield County area. This is a wonderful article that moved me to tears.

It is because of you, the parents, guardians, wonderful P.T.’s, physicians and all of your child’s support system that have changed the way our society now views children (people) with special needs. It becomes more apparent that your children have become our teachers in so many ways.

The best thing about meeting Andrew? You always leave with a smile, hoping to see him again soon.



Appointments

I wanted to take a moment to thank those of you who have been so very patient and accommodating when it comes to appointments. As most of you know, John is a full time Orthotist at Next Step Technologies in Bethel, Ct and can only see your children on Friday afternoons and 2 Saturday's a month.

Ethically, we **must** keep these 2 businesses separate, so thank you for your understanding. With that said, if you think your child might be ready for an adjustment within the next month, try to schedule that soon as there are only 2 appointments left for the November 18th Clinic.

My thought for the future is to post Clinic Dates on our website and possibly try to send out post cards to you every 4 months or so as a reminder to check your child for growth and ask your PT to do the same. If you have any suggestions as to how we can make this process easier for you, please feel free to pass on your ideas.

John and I appreciate your busy schedules as our schedules are also crazy, but it is our goal to see your children as soon as they need an adjustment so our "Hart Walkers" can keep on moving!!!

Clinic Dates for November 2006 through March 2007

November:

Saturday, November 18th is the only Clinic in November due to a Hart Walker Clinic in Rhode Island on November 4th the CPTA Conference on November 10th & 11th and November 25th is the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

There are possibly 2 afternoon appointments available for November 18th.

December:

Saturday, December 2nd

Saturday, December 16th

January 2007:

Saturday, January 6th

Saturday, January 20th

February 2007:

Saturday, February 3rd

Saturday, February 17th

March 2007:

Saturday, March 3rd

Saturday, March 17th

(Possibly Sat. March 31st)

Clinic's are held at our Cheshire location, go to our web site for directions or call us.

www.greatstridesforcp.com

Phone #: 203-272-7862



JARED CONNOLLY



Here comes another strike!

Welcome to Mari Johnson and her family. Mari received her walker this August thanks to her Mom not taking “No” as an answer from their Insurance Company. A special Thank You to Wease Cares Children’s Fund in Rochester New York. (Check out www.weasecares.com). This beautiful, sweet angel can melt your heart with a smile and if you look up the word “determined” in the dictionary, part of the definition should say “Tammy Johnson”! We hope Mari is making *great strides* in her MKII Hart Walker.

JOEY TOCE



Uh Oh... They caught me! But aren't I CUTE?



Michael & Joey Huhn sharing a “brotherly” moment.



Hmmm... “I’m wondering how this all played out...”



BOOTS...UUGGHHH!!!



We feel your pain, yes we do!

I know that the boots we supply aren't the best looking and the easiest to go on. I often look for a boot that you might prefer whether it be in the stores or on-line. Christine Huhn found a boot at Bob's Stores call Magnum that work great. Timberline and Skechers boots are fine. I contacted a guy in New Jersey that could get us those boots but he has to order them from California, thus it takes 3-4 weeks to get them to us. Because of the impending weather, NOW is the time to keep your eye out for these boots, they are in all the shoe stores in the Malls.

There are many reasons we are particular about the boot...

The sole has to be hard enough so the screw doesn't rip out and wide enough to accommodate the screw. The heel has to be high enough to accommodate the caliper.

The boot we supply to you is the Markell boot. We use this boot because it does fit all the requirements I explained AND we can get this boot in 1-2 days.

The BEST boot? The Pedro. Unfortunately there are issues there too. This boot is MUCH more expensive (\$200.00 includes shipping). The only distributor is in Canada. If you are interested in checking out the Pedro boot, here is their web-site. Personally, we think this boot is a really well made boot, yes expensive, but worth it if you really want to try something better.

Go to the web-site: www.aodmobility.com
(Advanced Orthotic Designs)

On the home page (this is in English) you will see a photo of a boot on the right.

Click on the Boot, scroll down to:

Click here for a direct link to the Pedro On -Line Catalog.

There are a number of styles that will work,

Starting with the 11th boot #2470-20 and the next 5 boots. Also are:

#'s 2547-56, 2566-98, 2568-56, 2579-20, skip to

#'s 2587-56, 2587-78, 2587-98, 2590-88 & 2591-56.

If you notice, these boots have eye hooks and lace down to the toe and come in many different colors (like purple!)

If there is a boot you would like to order, go back to the home page where there is a Gray Box that has Ordering & Sizing options. The sizing is European.

If you do order from them, (just a suggestion) don't mention they are for the Hart Walker.

A few of our children do wear the Pedro Boots and their parents remark that it is easy to order from them.

I wish I had other options for you, I promise I will keep searching!

Our next Newsletter will feature Lauren Stevens !!

Lauren is "our" first child with Rhett's Syndrome to be considered for the MKII Hart Walker. Not ALL were convinced, but Lauren is blessed to have some amazing people in her life!!! We can't wait for you to learn about this remarkable little girl, her loving family & support team.

Until April 2007, stay well, call if you need us and/or if you want to share anything with us and our growing Hart Walker family.