

THE CENTER FOR AUTISM & NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS

Patient Testimonial, July 2017

“We are always grateful for The Center”



Judy says with an affirmative nod as she looks over to her husband, Felix and their 14-year-old son, Jonathan, who sits patient and attentive in his chair. Judy explains that Jonathan has made an immense amount of improvement in his behavior since he first came to The Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders when he was almost four. Judy explains, “Before The Center, he would have been running around the room. He could not have stayed seated like this.”

Today, you would never know that Jonathan and his parents went through challenging trials at the beginning of their journey. The family sits peaceful and calm while exuding an inner strength that shows their mutual love and support for one another.

The secret to their overall success, Judy and Felix affirm, is all “thanks to The Center.”

Before the age of three, Jonathan continually advanced in his vocabulary usage and overall cognitive skills. His parents remember that he learned to talk, recite his ABC’s and call for his family members with ease. As he got older, they recall their son’s behavior and communication patterns beginning to shift. For instance, the family remembers how Jonathan began pointing for things that he wanted instead of asking for them.

When Jonathan was about to turn four, a new diagnosis emerged: autism. Judy and her family had never heard of the disorder before.

After Jonathan’s initial diagnosis, Judy recalls, “I felt the world was crashing down around me and that I was entering into a dark tunnel that had no exit.”

Yet, soon there would be a light at the end of this tunnel for Jonathan and his family.

The family connected with The Center’s Developmental Behavioral Pediatrician and they were surprised that she was as dedicated to them as she was to Jonathan.

The Center helped Judy transition from feeling disengaged and helpless to becoming balanced, proactive and maintaining a positive outlook. At one of Jonathan’s appointments, Judy was informed that Jonathan’s progress and ultimate success were dependent upon her overall attitude and involvement. From this point, Judy and Felix began to devote more time to taking care of themselves, becoming more engaged with their children and altering their perspectives to see the positives.

Today, Jonathan’s family thinks of The Center as a blessing. In fact, the amazing support that The Center has offered Jonathan influenced Judy and Felix to not move away; they wanted to remain close to The Center.



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The adaptive P.E., socialization, speech and physical therapy Jonathan receives have made a very positive impact on his success. Through physical therapy and adaptive P.E., Jonathan is developing muscle strength. Perhaps the most invaluable services Jonathan receives are the speech and socialization services. These particular classes provide Jonathan and his family the tools they need at home to communicate and diffuse behavioral upsets.

Almost ten years since his diagnosis, Jonathan and his family have made incredible progress as a team. Jonathan loves coming to The Center for his appointments and events. As parents to a teenager, Felix and Judy deeply appreciate the amount of services that The Center offers for teens and young adults.

In the beginning of his academic career, Judy said Jonathan needed to be in a Special Education classroom most of the day. Beaming, Judy and Felix can now affirm that he spends around 90% of his time in a “mainstream classroom.”

Undoubtedly, Jonathan’s new high school chapter will present its’ own unique challenges, but the family takes comfort in knowing that they have The Center to help them through the next phase of Jonathan’s life.

With high school on the horizon, Jonathan looks forward to learning more about science and technology. Yet, Felix and Judy are eager to see Jonathan continue advancing in math, which they feel has been his strongest subject. Until school starts, Jonathan will continue to focus on and enjoy his many other passions of drawing, learning music, swimming, playing basketball, camping and most importantly, playing and building video games!

Jonathan and his family have faced and overcome many obstacles as a team. To anyone who is feeling discouraged on his or her own journey, Judy and Felix encourage them

to first, “Accept it, embrace it and get involved.” Most importantly, they want people to remember to take care of themselves, to stay positive, to communicate with their doctors and to stay focused on the light at the end of the tunnel.

When Judy reflects on her own family’s journey to success, she recalls: “Being in the dark tunnel that I was in, The Center has been the light and the hope at the end of that tunnel.”



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