

Spring/Summer 2013

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President's Message from Robin Henson



Last April at the national NAPNAP Convention in Orlando, I had the privilege to make a presentation about our chapter at the annual Chapter President's meeting.

I was extremely proud as I presented the following list of the Greater Texas Chapter's accomplishments over the past year:

- We are the second largest chapter in the nation with over 330 members;
- We supported the local Toy Drive for the Dallas Low Birth Weight clinic;
- We provided free swimming lessons, goggles, snacks, and PNP information for the Make a Splash annual initiative in Arlington;
- We supported CNAP this year with a substantial financial pledge (as well as individual donations from our membership);
- We provided political representation in Austin and Washington DC;
- We made successful bi-law revisions;
- We maintained a balanced budget;
- We added a FaceBook page;
- We published three electronic newsletters for our members;
- We offered free bi-monthly dinner meetings, and
- We coordinated and planned our pharmacology conference, "Pharmville 2013," to be held this coming September.

After the presentation, I was inundated with questions and requests to help other chapters become as "successful" and "productive" as our chapter.

This wonderfully productive year of action and service would not have been possible without the work of many people. I would like to thank each and every member for their contribution this year to our Greater Texas Chapter. Without you, we would not have had the finances or the "man-power" to make these great strides. You are the heartbeat of this organization, and without you, we cannot exist. Thank you!

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our board members for their support and efforts during my term as president in 2012-2013. Your countless hours of work behind the scenes has been inspirational. Thank you!

(President's message continued)

Volunteers Sought for NAPNAP Conference

The Greater Texas chapter is seeking members and student members who can help with the Pharmville conference. The chapter needs help with the following: marketing, suggestions for vendors, on-site registration, and day of conference.

Please contact Robin Henson at robinhenson@gmail.com if you can volunteer for any of the activities.

As I pass the torch on to Erica Flores, I encourage each of you to become (or stay) involved with this worthwhile organization. Whether you would like to help with our upcoming conference, dinner meetings, community events, become a liaison with the community, or even serve as a board member, we need you.

Thank you, once again, for the privilege of serving as your president this year. It has truly been an honor.

Sincerely
Robin Henson

Chapter provides 18 swim lessons at Make A Splash

Eighteen children received free swim lessons at the annual Make A Splash event as the result of donations made by the Greater Texas Chapter.

The chapter helped sponsor Make A Splash, an annual event presented by the Mid-Cities Arlington Swimming Foundation (MARS), the city of Arlington and the MARS Swim Team on April 20 at the Hugh Smith Recreation Center in Arlington.

The Greater Texas chapter has a booth each year at the event. Chapter members educated the children on a variety of health-related topics. Members also handed out healthy snacks such as fruit and encouraged children to eat healthier.

Representatives from the Arlington Library and Arlington Fire Department were also at the event. Event attendees also participated in Zumba demonstrations and signed up for library cards for the Arlington Library.

Clinical Site of the Year: PediPlace

PediPlace, a nonprofit pediatric clinic in Lewisville, received the Clinical Site of the Year Award by the Greater Texas Chapter this year. The award marked the second time that the clinic has earned the honor.

Cassandra Singleton, the director of clinical operations for PediPlace, said the organization's staff members were pleased to learn that they were being recognized because it makes what PediPlace does even more important.

"The first time, of course, was very special and this time, it's even more significant to receive the honor," Cassandra said. "We enjoy having the students with us and we hear a lot from students because we allow them to do things. A lot of sites just let them observe. We get them in there and they do everything what a provider does and, of course, with a provider there."

Register for the Pharmville 2013 conference

The 2013 Pharmville conference will provide the most current updates in pediatric clinical pharmacology. The conference will be held on Sept. 7, 2013 at the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas.

The conference registration fees through Aug. 14 are: \$125 for NAPNAP members; \$150 for non-NAPNAP members; \$100 for students; and \$100 for registered nurses. Late registration is Aug. 15 to Sept. 7. Add \$50 to the registration fees for late registration.

To register, visit <http://community.napnap.org/TXGREATER/Conference>.

Chapter Treasurer's Report

Cash on Hand: \$26,295.79

July 2012-April 2013

Income: \$6,095.74

Expenses: \$5,265.00

Budget balance: \$830.74

Lockwood family receives NAPNAP Appreciation Award



Colleen Lockwood broke into tears when she read the letter notifying her that she and her family would receive the NAPNAP Appreciation Award earlier this year.

The honor touched Colleen, who has a special needs child. Her son, David, was diagnosed with CDKL5 when he was seven years old. The diagnosis came after years of seeing specialists and no one being able to shed light as to why he had suffered thousands of seizures since birth.

This rare X-linked genetic disorder causes seizures and severe neuro-developmental impairment, according to the International Foundation for CDL5 Research.

In addition to David, Colleen and her husband, Trey, have two daughters Abigail and Isabelle, and Connor, who is David's twin brother.

Greater Texas chapter member, Mindy Mashburn, nominated Colleen and her family for the honor. Mindy sees the family regularly when they visit Grapevine Pediatrics Clinic for their check-ups, where she works.

"Being a special needs family, you kind of live in bubble," Colleen said. "It's just that we only see them (Grapevine Pediatrics) for usual checkups or a sick visit. And the fact that she (Mindy) realized what we went through as a family and that she admired how we were, it really touched me. I called my mom and we were both crying together. It was really sweet that somebody really noticed us."

Mindy says it's amazing to see how David's siblings dote on him and interact with him when they're at Grapevine Pediatrics Clinic.

"The family comes in - every single one of them and every time they have a smile on their face," Mindy said. "David is dressed to the nines, his hair slicked back. They talk to him like he's right there with him. He goes on vacation with them."

Colleen said she and her husband, Trey, both feel that David deserves the same life as the rest of their children. They took David on a boat ride when they visited Niagara Falls. And Trey also strapped David on his back and hiked with him through Carlsbad Caverns and the Grand Canyon.

"He deserves to have as rich a life as everybody else," Colleen said. "Even though it will be a modified life, we still want him to do those things."

While helping to raise a family and parenting a special needs child, Colleen has battled cancer twice. She has had cancer of the salivary glands as well as thyroid cancer. She has made a full recovery.

(Story continued)

“I want my kids to know that no matter what the issue is with me or David or with themselves, let’s get it taken care of and we keep on with our lives,” she said. “Don’t be afraid. Just tackle it. Sometimes it’s hard to see the bigger picture, but it’s happening for a reason. You just keep going.”

Colleen says she and her family have a good process in place to help David. She said even though David cannot crawl, walk or talk, she can tell by the way that he looks at his family members that he is aware of his surroundings and the love from his family

“You have to stop and realize that a smile, a giggle, and any development milestone is truly a gift from God,” she said.

Ways to Help Special Needs Families

Kenna’s Kids - a nonprofit organization that reaches out to individual families with children experiencing life’s medical challenges at a young age. To learn how to help, visit <http://www.kennaskids.org/default.html>

Morgan’s Wonderland – Located in San Antonio, Morgan’s Wonderland is the first park of its kind in the world specifically designed for the recreation and enjoyment of individuals with special needs. To learn more and how to help, visit <https://www.morganswonderland.com/>

Preceptor of the Year: Valerie Ward



Ashlyn Coenraad was extremely nervous when she did her first clinical rotation with her preceptor, Valerie Ward, who is a pediatric nurse practitioner at MyChildren's Pediatric Practice in Grapevine.

But Valerie soon put her at ease, which Ashlyn noted in her letter nominating Valerie as Preceptor of the Year. Ashlyn is in the NP program at the University of Texas at Arlington.

(Pictured are Ashlyn Coenraad, Valerie Ward, & Ashlee House)

“She reassured me each and every day that I wasn’t expected to know everything, but encouraged me to do things on my own in order to learn,” Ashlyn wrote. “I have had a lot of trouble finding preceptors in the Metroplex area, and she was so welcoming and inviting, allowing me to come back for a second semester. I don’t think I could have made it this far in clinicals or learned so much without having had her as a preceptor.”

This year, the Greater Texas chapter awarded the Preceptor of the Year honor to Valerie.

Valerie said she was surprised and flattered when she learned she was being recognized. She called her husband immediately to tell him the good news.
(*Story continued*)

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"It was just fulfilling that you can try and make a difference for them," Valerie said of the students she precepts.

Valerie said MyChildren's specializes in pediatric primary care. She said the practice tries to give students a good knowledge base. She said they get students to recognize common diagnosis and quickly determine how to proceed. She said students learn what avenues to take to find the proper resources to figure out issues on their own.

"It's nice to see them get more and more comfortable in their role and nice to see they can feel they can do it on their own when they graduate," she said. "It's definitely an inspiring thing to see them grow and see them learn."

PNP of the Year: Robin Luffy



For the past three summers, Robin Luffy has served as the nurse practitioner in the medical hut at Camp Broncho of North Texas, which provides children with asthma the opportunity to participate in a camp held in a medically safe and supportive environment.

Robin's connection to the camp is also personal. She first visited the camp with her son, Brian, who has asthma about 20 years ago.

When they returned from their first visit, Brian made a comment to Robin that taught her the importance of seeing someone else at the same place in life as they are.

"Mom, there's somebody out there on as many meds as I have," Brian told his mom.

His comments left an indelible impression on Robin.

"I've always remembered that," Robin said of her son's comments. "For a lot of these kids, it's a time for them to see they're not alone and they're just like everybody."

The Greater Texas chapter of NAPNAP has recognized Robin, who is also a pediatric nurse practitioner at Children's Medical Center, as PNP of the Year. She is certified in asthma education. Robin has been a NAPNAP member since 1996.

Over the past 10 years, has volunteered at Camp Broncho in different capacities. She says Camp Broncho is an incredible experience for children with asthma because they get to participate in activities that they could not otherwise in a non-medically supervised camp.

(Story continued on next page)

Contact us

E-mails for board members are at:

<http://community.napnap.org/TX>

Greater/Home

“There are children with severe asthma riding horses, building campfires, participating in athletics games outside and doing it all safely while someone is governing their meds and supervising them closely,” she said. “It’s amazing how well their asthma is controlled at camp and it’s really great to see how excited they become when they realize they can do.”

In addition to helping out at Camp Broncho, Robin is on the Board of Directors for the North Texas Asthma Consortium. She also serves as the program coordinator for the Consortium’s ozone flag awareness program, which provides a set of flags for each school to fly daily alerting students, faculty and community members to the air quality as well as written educational materials.

Visit the Camp Broncho website to learn more about the organization and how to help, <http://www.campbroncho.com/Pages/default.aspx>.