



Spring Newsletter 2018



Volume 10, Issue 1

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

CFCE's 10 Year Anniversary	1
Honoring Supporters	2 & 3
Golf Tournament	3
Then And Now...CFCE Students	4 - 8
Summer Camp	9
Staff Training Day/ Support CFCE	10
Sponsors	4, 7
Important Dates!	11

CFCE's 10 Year Anniversary!



Colorado Foundation for
Conductive Education
PO Box 746297
Arvada, CO 80006
Phone: 970-667-0348

E-mail:
admin@conductiveed.com

Website:
www.conductiveed.com

Editors:

Jennifer Doyle
Jalys Zapfletts
Roxanne Waechter

Board of Directors:

Roxanne Waechter
Jim Waechter
Shaun Shahmardian
Jennifer Doyle
Peter Doyle
Warren Baker
Nathan Charlan

The Colorado Foundation for
Conductive Education is a 501(c)(3)
public charity committed to providing
opportunities for individuals
with motor challenges to achieve
optimal physical, cognitive
and social independence
through the application
and promotion of
Conductive Education principles.

Many of you know how hard it can be to set up a new business, especially a non-profit. Now throw in the fact that the specially trained staff you need in order to start this business are all foreign-trained Conductors from Europe and you have yet another challenge on your hand, visas. Then add in that you are providing a therapy that is not covered by insurance because it does not fit into the traditional therapy category and we now have an impossible task on our hands. But this is where the founders, Roxanne and Jim Waechter and many of you, our loyal supporters, got to work to make this happen. As a result we have been open for 10 years! We were not sure we were going to make it, but thankfully we have incredibly generous supporters, friends and families at CFCE who have worked so hard to keep the doors open, and more importantly never given up on the dream. I think we can safely say that we have reached our initial goal and even surpassed it by reaching 10 years of service. We have grown from serving 7-8 children in Loveland in 2008, to serving over 40 children in Loveland and Arvada, in 2018. We could not be happier with the progress of our growth, but obviously we would still love to see the steady growth continue for the next 10 years!

So how did we make it to 10 years? It was because of YOU...our readers, donors, supporters and families. The only way we could keep our tuition rates low for families to afford is through our fundraising efforts, where time and time again, you have stepped up and supported us financially so that we could continue our mission. So we would like to invite you all to celebrate with us this year. 10 years is quite the achievement for a non-profit that receives zero government funding. We will have several ways you can get involved this year. First up, we have our golf tournament on June 7th, which will be a fun way to celebrate on the beautiful Arrowhead Golf Course. (See pg 3 for more details). We then hope to have a 10 year celebration at the end of our summer camps for all of our supporters and families to get together for a fun family event. Stay tuned for more information on this.

Finally, we would like to ask for your continued support. We still need your donations in order to keep our doors open and we hope that you can see that we use our funds wisely for the sole purpose of serving in our community. Ask any of the families we work with and they will tell you how important CFCE is to them. This is the impact your dollars are having in these special children's lives.

So thank you so much for your generosity over the past 10 years! We would not be here without you and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts that you have stuck by us all this time.

Thank you for supporting us!

Supporters Who Have Made A Difference

Below are three important members of our support network at CFCE who have been with us since the very beginning. We asked them to tell us who they are, why they support CFCE and what capacity they have served us over the past 10 years.



Shaun Shahmardian

I am currently an incredibly happy realtor in Fort Collins who spent many years being an immigration lawyer. Then, finally in my fifties, I figured out what I wanted to do when I grew up and been blessed with working in real estate since.

I was born in Iran where my late father worked for the United States Embassy in Tehran and my mother was an InterPol agent. I came to the U.S. in my early teens and grew up in California and Colorado. My wife and I both attended law school at the same time. My son, currently 28, was about 9 months old when we began and my daughter, currently 25, was 1 month old when we graduated. So, as you can see, timing and planning has never been a strong suit for either one of us.

The first time I met Jim and Roxanne in my office, it was instant chemistry as far as I was concerned. Their love and passion for what they had started with CFCE was so contagious that I couldn't help but to want to be somehow involved. The initial steps

and hoops that they were forced to jump through seemed so ridiculously and unnecessarily involved and complicated, that it even amazed someone like me who was used to dealing with red-tape complexities of the Federal bureaucracy on a daily basis. I can't claim that I was anything but moral support for them during those days, but the level of their absolute commitment to this cause was awe inspiring. At times, it seemed like they were performing miracles, despite being hindered by "friend and foe" alike.

Having watched the Waechters' unrelenting dedication, and also having met their lovely grandchildren shortly thereafter, I was only honored when they asked me to serve on their board of directors. I shouldn't call it "serving" per se, since that would suggest that I actually perform a service or add some value to the process. All of that is done by the wonderful staff and other board members, but I feel blessed to be involved in any capacity with CFCE for as long as I possibly can.

Warren Baker

I grew up in Denver and attended Mullen for high school and the University of Colorado at Boulder for my undergraduate degree. I then attended the University of Denver for my graduate degree. I work for Wells Fargo's Private Bank as a Senior Investment Strategist for high net worth clients. My wife Caroline and I have two daughters, Ava 14 and Chloe 9.

I have had the pleasure of knowing the founders, Jim & Roxanne for the last 10 years. Watching Jim and Roxanne get the organization up and running to what it is today has been very inspiring to me. I have been a supporter of CFCE ever since the first golf tournament. Taking part in the tournament has introduced me to the community of wonderful people involved with CFCE. When I had an opportunity to join the board I did. CFCE was already up and running when I joined the board, but I have been on the board for three years now. I am honored to be part of the board. Caroline, Ava and Chloe have also enjoyed volunteering for the golf tournament for these last few years. They are looking forward to this year's tournament as well.

I advocate for CFCE by helping bring awareness of the organization through the annual golf tournament by getting friends and family to sign up and donate. And by donating to CFCE through direct donations and the ski days for the kids.

CFCE is my favorite organization and it has special meaning for me. Just meeting the amazing children and their amazing families had me hooked from the first tournament. Then you begin to understand how important the conductive education programs CFCE offers have become to the families and you just want to support all of their efforts.



Supporters Who Have Made A Difference...(contd.)



Tyler Olson

I am a Wealth Manager at Wells Fargo Advisors. Marce is my wife of 19 years and we have two girls ages 14 and 11.

When I first met Jim and Roxanne, they talked about the struggles their grandkids were facing with conventional treatment programs. They talked about Conductive Education and how impactful it can be. They educated me on the resources and the fact that there was nothing in Colorado for the kids. Over months of continued discussions they decided it was time to step up and bring a program to Colorado.

I got involved due to the knowledge I gained in the brainstorming and setup process. I've stayed involved due to the impact I've seen the program have on the kids.

At this point I'm primarily involved as a Donor. I've been able to keep CFCE in front of Wells Fargo and they've been a consistent donor over the years as well.

I'm really proud of what CFCE has become and what it does for the kids. It's been really fun to see a vision become reality and to hear the impactful stories at the golf tournament every year. I'm looking forward to the next 10 years and the impact CFCE will have on the kids and their families' lives.

Come Celebrate 10 Years With CFCE At Our Annual Golf Tournament!

Morning tournament this year – 8am shotgun start!



We would like to officially invite you all to our 9th Annual CFCE Golf Tournament! It is a fun event that you can bring friends and work colleagues to while supporting our program and summer camps. We are holding a morning tournament this year at the Arrowhead Golf Course in Littleton CO. Your registration will include a delicious breakfast before our **shotgun start at 8am**. You will then get to play an 18 hole round of golf on the beautiful golf course surrounded by the Colorado red rock formations. Following golf, there will be a short lunch and raffle where we will celebrate 10 years of serving families in Colorado. We would love to see many of you there, but if you can't make it, then maybe you would consider being a sponsor for our tournament. Go to our website: www.conductiveed.com/support/golf to register or sponsor our event.

June 7th, 2018
Arrowhead Golf Course
Shotgun Start 8am
Register Today!



Then And Now...CFCE Students

10 years ago when CFCE first opened its doors in Colorado, we had about 8 children attending regular classes. 7 of those 8 children still come to CFCE today. We decided to catch up with a few of them to show you how they are doing today and how CFCE has played an important role in their lives.

James and Libby Waechter

Written by their mother, Katie

**How old were James and Libby when they began Conductive Education? What were some of the skills they were working on? James and Libby at the same time underwent the bilateral hip surgery at 6 years old. Their recovery was extremely difficult. Roxanne and myself attended a small demonstration on Conductive Education and we knew that we had to learn more. In April 2008, James, Libby and 8-month old Max traveled to Arizona where we stayed at a Ronald McDonald House for a month. After seeing the progress the twins had made, Roxanne decided that we needed a program close to home for the twins and other families.*



James and Libby in 2008

In Arizona, we were wanting to get the twins over their stall in recovery. By the time we had finished the 4-week camp, Libby was weight-bearing, sitting tall and had more overall strength. James was holding on with both hands and activating his right arm.

**What first convinced you to try CE? Our family was intrigued by the thought of an intense program of therapy that worked on the whole body and was not just the standard 45-minute treatment session once a week. The idea of taking the twins to a place that would be able to move slower and work longer was appealing. We knew we needed to try a treatment that was going to challenge the twins and push them to do more. When we sign up for summer camps we know that we are going to see results and it's a great way to kick off our summers. Summer camp for us provides a good push into more physical activity - it increases stamina and flexibility.*

**What impact has CFCE had on James and Libby and your family? Just because James and Libby both have the same diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy, their personal needs are completely different. James still loves meeting up with old friends every summer. Because the CE program is so adaptable, James is able to fall back into the class rhythm. I know that by the end of camp he will overall be stronger and more flexible. As Libby is pursuing her independence with goals of college and independent living, we are excited for the new opportunity CFCE is offering this summer. Our family is looking forward to the new evolution of CFCE in transitioning our kids to see what life outside of the home will look like.*



James and Libby in 2018

**What was/is their favorite thing about CE? James has always loved the group setting, there is nothing more fun for anyone than hanging out with good friends that you can relate to. Libby is really excited to be a part of the first teen camp where they will put the skills of Conductive Education into action for independence.*

A Huge Thank You To Our Gold Sponsors!



Then And Now...CFCE Students (cont.)



Brenna in 2008



Brenna

Written by her mother, Maureen

*How old was Brenna when she began Conductive Education? What were some of the skills she was working on? *Brenna was just 3 when she began CE. We were worried to leave her that first week, but she was so ready for the challenge. Brenna quickly found a new confidence in herself and began moving independently. Even though the work was*

hard, she enjoyed the routine and the challenge, and her positive response was immediate. Brenna was initially working on using her walker, fine motor, core strength, and communication skills.

Over time she has also had goals of self-care, making transitions, improving strength and flexibility, and using her canes, which is a goal she is currently working on.

*What first convinced you to try CE? *We first heard about it from her PT at hippotherapy. When Brenna was young, her doctors told us that she should be on her feet as much as possible to ensure healthy joint development and avoid interventions as much as possible, so CE was perfect at the time. Also, around this time we came to realize the extent of Brenna's communication challenges and how important it was for her to be mobile to interact with the world as much as possible.*

*Why do you continue? *Brenna continues to make strides and looks forward to summer camp every year. We think Brenna has unlimited potential and it is encouraging that the conductors feel the same. Brenna enjoys the challenge and has a clear desire to push herself; CE is an important part of her education. Each year, after the first day, Brenna attempts more independent activities. CE sets the bar high for her and she works hard to reach for it.*

*What impact has CFCE had on Brenna and your family? *From summer camp to ski trips, CE is a central part of our lives as an extension of our family. Not only do the conductors help Brenna work towards her goals, they offer direction and advice on working at home and her medical needs—and are there as strong support families need in addressing challenges.*

*What is Brenna's favorite thing about CE? *Brenna loves the social aspect and seeing everyone each year,—conductors, aides and children. Even though she's getting older, Brenna still enjoys the songs and games that go along with the routine. We appreciate that the conductors know her so well and respect her abilities while always reconsidering and modifying their approach as she grows and her needs change. Brenna loves you all.*



Brenna in 2018



Carlyn in 2008

Carlyn

Written by her mother, Tiffany

*How old was Carlyn when she began Conductive Education? What were some of the skills she was working on? *Carlyn started Conductive Ed when she was 3 years old. Sitting independently, communicating her needs through speech, walking, using a two-handled cup independently, and eating with a fork or spoon.*

*What first convinced you to try CE? *Carlyn was very frustrated with her weekly therapies and was not cooperating. We heard about CE and knew we had to try it.*

*Why do you continue? *Conductive Ed continues to boost Carlyn's independence in daily tasks and the attention to her personal physical needs makes her body feel better and function better.*

*What impact has CFCE had on Carlyn and your family? *Carlyn is very proud of what she can accomplish and CE helped her to realize her abilities through hard work that she is proud of. CE made her see the purpose in her therapy and CE made it enjoyable...exactly what a kid needs. This makes Carlyn happy which makes her family very happy.*

*What is Carlyn's favorite thing about CE? *Carlyn enjoys being social with her peers, encouraging and being encouraged. The activities created just for her really brighten her day.*



Carlyn in 2018

Then And Now...CFCE Students (cont.)



Emma in 2008

Emma

Written by her mother, Julie

*How old was Emma when she began Conductive Education? What were some of the skills she was working on? *Emma was 3 years old when she first did CE. The program included stretching, sitting at the plinth, feeding herself, sitting on the potty. Those were the highlights I can remember.*

*What first convinced you to try CE? *We were first introduced to CE by my aunt who saw the 60 minutes special on Conductive Education in 2004 and bought us a copy on VHS. That is what made us want to have Emma try it. We went up to Canada for our first camp experience.*

*Why do you continue? *When Emma came back from Canada she was a completely different kid. She had achieved so much in such a short*

time. As soon as I found out about a Conductive Education program in Colorado, close to home, I jumped on it.

*What impact has CFCE had on Emma and your family? *Emma loves to work! She loves CFCE and has made some really good friends there, so have we as parents!*

*What is Emma's favorite thing about CE? *I know Emma loves working hard and being challenged, but she loves the attention too. Her biggest motivation is feeling like she CAN do something.*



Emma in 2018



Jonah in 2008

Jonah

Written by his mother, Charlene

*How old was Jonah when he began Conductive Education? What were some of the skills he was working on? *3 years old. He would work on rolling, sitting with little assistance, and feeding with assistance.*

*What first convinced you to try CE? *Watched a video and talked to a mom at typical PT*

*Why do you continue? *Jonah likes it, he works hard because he has learned things and he feels more in control of his body.*

*What impact has CFCE had on Jonah and your family? *Conductive Therapy has helped us all see what Jonah is capable of. We let him try to do things*

before just doing it for him. I feel like it has helped all of us to not to be so frustrated with therapy. We actually see results and see him trying so hard.

*What is Jonah's favorite thing about CE?

He loves the group setting, especially camp. The fun activities and not routine of the activities gets him motivated as well.



Jonah in 2018

**Donate today and help us reach more
kids for another 10 years!**

Go to www.conductiveed.com



Zak in 2008

Zak

Written by his parents, Nathan and Renee

**How old was Zak when he began Conductive Education? What were some of the skills he was working on? Zak started at CFCE when he was two-years-old. Since then, Conductive Education has been part of his life. The program instills confidence, independence and strength into Zak and he takes that with him in everyday life. He always gets excited to work with Ms. Jen, Ms. Jalyss and all the helpers and loves to do the best he can with any task presented. Through CFCE, Zak walks short distances (and is excited to show off that he can do it!), stand independently (while holding a grasp bar), sit independently, and has learned to be more independent with a growing confidence in his abilities. This attitude and lifestyle is carried with him into his integrated school*

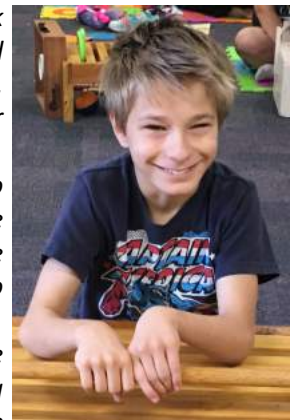
setting where he exhibits great social interaction, focused attention, and a positive attitude ready to learn and do his very best.

**What first convinced you to try CE? As parents, we tried the gamut of traditional western therapies and even some alternatives to help Zak in any way we could to give him the tools for a successful, independent life. Whether it was PT, OT or Speech, each discipline got to a point where the therapists said, "OK, that's all I can do for him." And that answer just wasn't good enough for us. We started searching for alternative therapies and discovered Conductive Education. CE has been the one amazing therapy-lifestyle that absolutely works for Zak. It gives him the tools he needs to continue his life-long fight.*

**Why do you continue? We continue with CE because it is the most effective program for Zak to continue progressing in reaching new milestones in physical, occupational, social, and independent skills. CE does not place a subjective ceiling on what an individual can achieve. Instead, CE works to find the ways an individual can accomplish a new skill through their own, personal means.*

**What impact has CFCE had on Zak and your family? We are very blessed to have CFCE so accessible for us and Zak in Colorado. CFCE is a life-altering resource that has immeasurable benefits in his life. Every parent desires the best for their child, and we are grateful to have the best therapy through CFCE for strengthening Zak's abilities, training our little fighter to take on life's challenges and kick their butt.*

**What is Zak's favorite thing about CE? Zachary loves interacting socially with the conductors, helpers and fellow peers. He always tells us that he enjoys the stretching program to loosen his muscles. And he's very proud when he reaches new achievements like standing on his own, unsupported; or walking through an obstacle course in his walker.*



Zak in 2018

A Huge Thank You To Our Silver Sponsors!

**Henry & Debbie
Allhoff**

**Lonnie & Mary
Brock**

**Warren and Caroline
Baker**

**TWIN PETROLEUM
Jim & Roxanne Waechter**



Hirsh Precision Products, Inc.



A few more pictures of the CFCE kids 10 years ago! Aren't they so cute?



Summer Brings New Camps And New Kids!

“By the time camp ended, our problem went from “I wonder if Madison will ever walk?” to “Has anyone seen Madison?” (Julie, CFCE Parent)

Summer camp is a childhood staple. Unfortunately, for children with disabilities, there is usually a choice to be made: camps that involve doing fun activities with their peers or camps that teach them new skills through therapeutic intervention. At Conductive Summer Camps kids don't have to make that choice! Children are given the opportunity to work hard on learning skills that will enable them to be more independent in a dynamic group environment. Our camps make therapy fun. During our camps children get to spend time with their peers who are also working on skills like sitting, walking, and independent eating. Learning to put on a T-shirt might turn into a competition and walking practice into a race. Fine manipulation development often takes the form of crafts and baking and singing usually accompanies stretching. Summer Camp at CFCE combines the best of both worlds: fun group activities and intensive therapeutic input.



**“CFCE provides a safe, fun and caring environment for Rowan. The variety of physical activity, crafts, songs, and games is very enjoyable for Rowan. He legitimately enjoys CFCE, and that's not always the case in therapy programs.”
(Stephanie, CFCE Parent)**



This is an exciting year for CFCE. We are expecting 6 full camps, 2 in Loveland and 4 in Arvada, CO. We have many new kids already signed up, several from out of state! In order to accommodate more children, we are bringing in an additional conductor, Eniko, for the duration of the summer. Eniko was trained in Hungary, but is currently living in Washington state. She has a wide range of experience and we are looking forward to working alongside her, as we are sure she will bring great ideas to the program. Jennifer (who has been on maternity leave for the past couple of months) will also be returning part-time for camp, much to the excitement of our year-round kids who have very much missed her. We are also introducing a new style of camp for teenagers, which is called a transition camp. It will not be a traditional CE camp, but rather teach children about opportunities for living a more independent life, such as accommodation & college options, how to go to the grocery store, plan meals, arrange outings, and teach friends how to help them when they need an extra pair of hands to get in and out of a car, for example. We will also hit the gym a few times and teach them exercises they can do by themselves to keep active and healthy. All of us at CFCE are looking forward to a fun, full summer 2018. Thank you for helping us make this opportunity possible for so many children.

If you would like to sign your child up for camp, visit our summer camp page www.conductiveed.com/programs/summercamp and download the application form, or call (970)667-0348 for more information.

Staff Training Day

In March, we held our first official staff training day. In the past, we often trained new staff individually during class time. They would shadow a staff member and learn through practical hands on experience. However, it has always been our vision to hold a full day of training where staff can learn specific techniques, theory about the origin and principles of conductive education and have an engaging atmosphere to try out new skills and ask questions. We had 7 staff members attend this session from both our Loveland and Arvada locations. We have fantastic staff members who are so committed to CFCE and love to learn how they can better facilitate the children during our sessions. We are so grateful to our team and we can't wait for our new staff members joining us this summer. We plan to hold our next staff training day in May for our new summer camp.



Support CFCE Through AmazonSmiles

Don't forget, you can support CFCE effortlessly when shopping on Amazon through AmazonSmiles. We are a charity choice on AmazonSmiles, which means that for every dollar you spend on eligible Amazon products, they will donate 0.5% of the purchase price directly to CFCE at no extra cost to you. This is an easy way to support CFCE while shopping through hundreds of items you may buy as gifts or regularly for your home.

It is easy to sign up. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and search for 'Colorado Foundation for Conductive Education'. When you select our charity, it will automatically keep us as your chosen charity every time you log in to AmazonSmiles in the future. This means that all Amazon purchases throughout the year will continue to support CFCE providing you go the AmazonSmiles website to make your purchase.

For any questions regarding using AmazonSmiles to support CFCE, please contact us at 970-667-0348 or at admin@conductiveed.com and we can walk you through how to set up us as your charity.



Do You Have Appreciated Stock That You Would Like To Donate To CFCE?



Have you considered donating stock to CFCE? This is a great way to support CFCE through a donation of appreciated stock to our brokerage account. It is a fantastic way to donate to CFCE and avoid capital gains tax!

If you are interested in reducing your capital gains tax burden, please consider donating stock to CFCE through our brokerage account. Contact us at accounts@conductiveed.com and we will pass on the account information in order to gift your stock to us.

COLORADO FOUNDATION



FOR CONDUCTIVE EDUCATION

... Achieving independence through active learning

Colorado Foundation for
Conductive Education
PO Box 746297
Arvada, CO 80006
Phone: 970-667-0348
www.conductiveed.com

Donate today!

Go to:
www.conductiveed.com
Your donations help
change lives!

IMPORTANT DATES:

**June 7th, 2018 - 9th Annual CFCE Golf Tournament
Shotgun Start – 8am**

**May 28th to June 22nd & July 23rd to Aug 10th
– Arvada Camp**

June 25th – July 20th - Loveland Camp

July 30th – Aug 10th – Transition Camp



I'll do my part to help CFCE....

Yes, I would like to donate to CFCE and help individuals with motor disabilities. I want to do my part to help them achieve their goal of independence. I've enclosed my **tax-deductible** gift of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other \$ _____



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ (please print legibly)

Help us to be eco-friendly! Give us your email address so we can send your donation confirmation by email.

Thank you!



Colorado Foundation for Conductive Education
PO Box 746297
Arvada, CO 80006
Phone: 970-667-0348
www.conductiveed.com