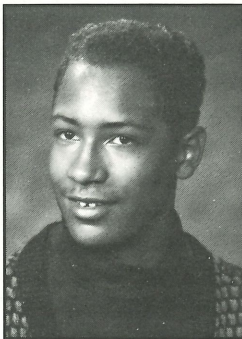


Future is bright for Rob, a successful high school student

by Cheryl Saiki
Resource Room Teacher

Rob, a senior at Walther Lutheran High School, Melrose Park, Illinois, was put on the honorable mention list for his grades. This is quite an achievement, considering he has a learning disability. Rob struggled in his classes during his freshman and sophomore years.



During his sophomore year, he was identified as having a learning disability. He was enrolled in the Lutheran Special Education Ministries study skills class for students with learning disabilities.

In this course, he learned how to study more effectively for his classes. One technique he used was the Active Thinking strategy that involves the student in what he is reading.

Rob also learned to anticipate the kinds of questions that would be on tests. He was given strategies that help him complete and turn in all his assignments. During his junior year, Rob had difficulty in Algebra II. It was then he realized that with hard work, he really could pass the course. The learned helplessness he had been experiencing was gone.

Rob stated, "The most important thing I have learned was that in order to do well, I have to *want* to get good grades."

His continued success is an indication that Rob has a new desire for learning. As

he has progressed, Rob's need for special education assistance has decreased. He no longer needs direct assistance from the learning disabilities teacher. Everyone is proud of Rob for earning all A's and B's on his last report card.

Rob's mother said, "I'm so thankful, especially for Jone Karuza, who was the special education resource teacher who first worked with Rob. I'm also thankful for Jim Krone, the director, and Lutheran Special Education Ministries for their program, their caring and their warmth. I'd like to give them all a big hug."

Rob's future looks bright. He has been accepted at Barat College in Lake Forest next year, where he will participate in the learning disabilities program.

With the understanding and desire that he has gained through the collaborative efforts of his mother, the Lutheran Special Education Ministries pro-

gram and Walther Lutheran High School, Rob should continue to succeed and make a worthwhile place for himself in society as an integral part of God's plan.

Opening the doors of opportunity

by James Pagels

I remember the warm spring day in 1978. For me, it was just another day evaluating children, a task I enjoy; but for David, it was a day of opportunity.

As nature would have it, David was born with a learning disability. Records from professionals suggested he was aphasic or had a severe brain dysfunction. These labels indicated serious concerns, especially since David had not talked until he was five years old.

In those days, parents had to fight to receive the limited services available through the public schools. This was clearly the case with David. At that time, as now, Lutheran Special Education Ministries (then called Lutheran School for the Deaf)

(Continued on Page 4.)



James Pagels, Director of Ephphatha Center at Lutheran Special Education Ministries in Detroit, has tested approximately 1,600 children during his career.

'Successful . . .'

by **Mary Ann Fellows**
Resource Room Teacher

Successful . . . is what I can call my 1 1/2 years as resource room teacher at Our Savior Lutheran School in Lansing, Michigan. Success is judged by what the students are doing now that they were not doing a year ago.

The students I serve possess a wide range of talents and abilities. One student now writes in complete sentences and spelling continues to improve. When the student does not know the exact spelling, the Franklin is used to suggest alternatives.

Reading levels have increased more than a grade level this past year. Perhaps the most important factor is that the students have a much more positive attitude toward learning. It is now fun to learn, and positive reinforcement increases with successful experience.

Adam uses a computer at home to help with his assignments. The computer helps him by providing clear, readable typed assignments; word processing helps with standard formats; and for written reports, using the spell checking function gets the correct word in the report.

The success of these students, with resource room support, encourages them to carry out the vital daily tasks of learning. The resource room makes it possible for them to learn in an environment that demonstrates Christ's caring community.

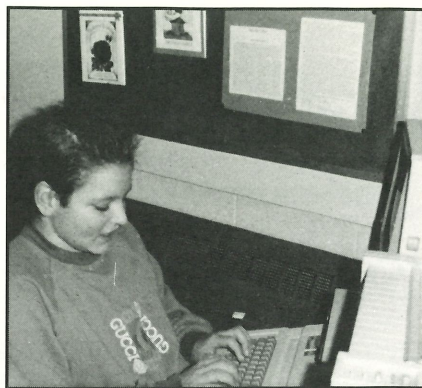
Success from a student's perspective!

by **Jackie DeMarco**
Resource Room Teacher

The success of a resource room program relies heavily on the relationship the teacher establishes between the resource room students, their parents and their other teachers. A quick and relatively easy way to measure the effectiveness of a resource room program is to ask those involved to write down a few comments expressing their feelings toward the program.

Here are some comments from resource room students:

■ "To me, the resource room has helped me in a lot of ways. It has helped me bring my grades up and makes my test



A resource room student at Our Savior Lutheran School, Lansing, Michigan.

scores higher. It also helps me understand what I'm doing." (Junior)

■ "The resource room has really helped me to understand most of my subjects. The time I have spent in the room has paid off!" (Sophomore)

■ "I feel that the resource room has helped

me to complete homework, and turn in better quality work. It just feels good to know that someone is there to help you when you are in need." (Senior)

■ "The resource room has helped me to read better, and to do my math better. I have fun in there!" (Third grade)

■ "The resource room has helped me with my math. I can understand better when I go there and am shown 'tips' on how to do it. It makes me feel better about what I am doing." (Fourth grade)

It is very uplifting to read all the positive comments. These kinds of comments reflect that the resource room program helps students fulfill their Christ-centered educational and emotional needs. The comments also reinforce to the resource room teacher that the strategies, methods and emotional support given are definitely making a difference in the students' lives to know Christ.

Thank you for all those labels!

On behalf of the 884 special needs children in Michigan, Illinois and New York that our ministry is helping to receive a Christian education, we would like to express our gratitude for all the Campbell Soup labels we received over the 1991-92 school year. We know how much work goes into saving, cutting and bundling labels, and we appreciate all your efforts to help us with our goal.

We originally intended to save one million labels to obtain a new van from the Campbell Soup Company. Unfortunately, we were recently informed that the State of Michigan will soon pass a law making it illegal to transport school children in a 15-passenger van. We were disappointed, but have been able instead to obtain many new pieces of gym equipment, audiovisual equipment and school supplies.

Thanks again for your support! We wouldn't have been able to obtain all the items listed below without your help!

Quantity	Item
1	18" paper trimmer
10	Centennial cassette players
1	Dukane Auto Sound filmstrip projector
1	5130-TI electronic calculator
10	TI-108 calculators/teacher kits
1	10-Piece Brass Mass sets
2	Panasonic TV/VCR
4	Language Master kits
5	Webster's New World Dictionary
2	Boston electronic stapler
3	Olivetti typewriters CX-450
1	Talking Speller software
2	Blank videotapes
5	Franklin Word Masters
1	Videocassette rewriter
2	Seth Thomas (710) clock
5	10" playground ball
1	Ball carrier net
1	Gym and rhythm balls—set of 12
6	Coaches' timers
2	Mechanical stopwatches
1	48" Mylec hockey set

Around the Ministry . . .

New York

by **Raula Rosen**

Lutheran Special Education Ministries is touching the lives of children here in New York. Teachers and administrators are excited about broadening their ministry to children with special needs.

Many teachers already have children with special needs in their classrooms. They are learning strategies to improve the academic environment for these children.

Workshop participation is inspiring. Teachers in our Lutheran schools are truly dedicated professionals who want to open their hearts and classrooms.

Often we have families who have sent all their children to one of our schools—except for that one special child. Both the family and school feel great loss when they're unable to continue the fine Christian education tradition for a particular child.

When schools and families hear of this ministry, there is great rejoicing. Lutheran Special Education Ministries is providing support for schools, families and children. What wonderful work to touch so many lives.

As one parent recently noted, "God makes His face shine upon New York Lutheran Special Education Ministries every day."

Illinois

by **Jim Krone**

As the 1991-92 school year comes to a close, we can reflect on the new service that was piloted: the on-site consultant. There have been many positive comments by parents, principals and teachers about services they would not have otherwise received if it weren't for this program.

Lutheran Special Education Ministries of Illinois is also working with Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois to help provide not only educational assistance for children having difficulty in school, but also by adding the extra step of counseling and behavioral intervention. Currently, Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois and Lutheran Special Education Ministries of Illinois have collaborated on cases to help service and benefit the whole child.

Our ministry here in Illinois would also

like to thank Concordia University in River Forest for providing us with the resources and the cooperation needed to service children with special learning needs.

Michigan

by **Carla Kling**

Time flies when you're having fun! Isn't that the truth! There's never a dull moment around North Detroit Lutheran, our special education day school. As a matter of fact, if you were to just pop in unannounced, you may get the impression that all we do here is goof off. Let's just say we have an enormous amount of fun learning.

We've been very busy reaching for our dreams this year. Every day each class begins with a devotion and prayer. The students gain their strength through their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. That is what keeps us all going. We end each day with a live radio broadcast (WNDL) that makes announcements and closes the day with Scripture and prayer.

This spring has been exciting. The whole campus ventured to Ann Arbor in March to the Hands-On-Science Center. Everyone came back with something new they learned. We also have been reading shelves full of books for our incentive reading program called "Accelerated Reader." This program enables individuals to work at their own pace, reading and taking a simple quiz on the book.

They can earn dollars (points) for the Incentive General Store, where they can purchase small items, like balls, pencils and dolls.

Between our religion lessons, math enrichment classes, science and social studies, we practice, practice and practice

for our spring musical. "Oh, Jonah" is a delightful, comical musical about a man named Jonah who ran away from his responsibilities.

Ephphatha

by **Kathy Krause**

Ephphatha Center has maintained an incredibly busy schedule this school year. Our staff has personally touched the lives of more than 500 different families from all over the United States.

The evaluation staff has worked with more than 200 students from both elementary and high schools. Many of these students have been placed in resource rooms or our center campus. Others have maintained their school placement while receiving consultation from members of our staff.

Twenty states are numbered among the contacts for consultations with parents, teachers and pastors regarding children with special learning needs.

The new expanded teacher's guide to accompany the religion series is reaching the final stages. Soon the completed version will be ready for distribution.

On-site consultant services were added to our ministry in both Michigan and Illinois locations.

Inservice workshops have presented information to hundreds of interested people communicating the concept that children with special learning needs still should have the opportunity to gain educational knowledge in a Christian setting.

The staff of Ephphatha Center certainly has been busy, but we are thankful for the many opportunities to spread the love of Christ to families and individuals who experience learning difficulties.

As of April 1, 1992, our ministry is opening the doors of Christian education to

884

children with special learning needs.



Help us share God's love!

Help share Christ's love through your partnership in our ministry by . . .

- your prayers for our ministry,
- your financial support,
- your participation as an advocate for the individual with special learning needs in your area or in your congregation,
- including Lutheran Special Education Ministries in your estate planning,
- saving Campbell Soup labels for us.

If you are interested in being a partner in our ministry to help children with special learning needs, contact the Development Office at Lutheran Special Education Ministries, 6861 E. Nevada, Detroit, MI 48234; (313) 368-1220.



Molly Gady

What a lady!

This phrase does not do justice to describe the Volunteer of the Year at Lutheran Special Education Ministries: Mrs. Molly Gady of Detroit.

Molly, 90, has volunteered for more than 55 years at Lutheran Special Education Ministries. She has served as a women's auxiliary member, on the Harvest Festival Committee and as part of the mail crew.

When asked to describe Molly, Roger DeMeyere, Executive Director, quickly responded: "It is impossible to estimate the number of hours Molly has served the

children, but I'm sure each hour was full of love. To know Molly is to know what it means to 'serve the Lord with gladness!'"

Molly is a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church on the west side of Detroit. She is also a member of a local Neighborhood Watch Group.

The first Volunteer of the Year award was presented in 1991 to Fred Masch.

Doors of opportunity

(Continued from Page 1.)

was on the cutting edge of educational reform in offering both programming for children with learning disabilities and a Christian education.

Both David and I recall our first meeting. He remembers playing catch in the hall and looking around the building. I remember my concern about the limited progress of this 12-year-old. I also recall the clear feeling I had that David was more intelligent than test data indicated.

Realizing his interest in science, we walked on the grounds and talked about our surroundings, the trees, insects, etc. Although David's communication skills were limited, he was a giant in his under-

standing of nature. Clearly, he was an intelligent boy.

As a student here the next fall, David recalls the circus, his teachers—Miss Lynch and Miss Pinfeld—and the marvelous playground. He also recalls Lutheran Special Education Ministries as the first school that helped him organize his life. His mother remembers the teachers' willingness to work with parents and their perspective of Christian caring.

David blossomed at Lutheran Special Education Ministries. After two years of enrichment, he was transferred to Peace Lutheran School in Detroit. There he remembers the acceptance of the teachers and students alike.

After graduating, David went to Lutheran High School East. There, in addition to being a successful student, David was a sports fan and a member of the homecoming court. David now attends college.

As I look back, I see a boy who had communication difficulties but still found the doors of Christian education open to him through the joint efforts of many people. I thank God for this opportunity and praise Him for David's success.

For me, today is just another day in evaluating children. We thank those of you who support our ministry for making this day possible. In reviewing records, I realize that I have evaluated approximately 1,600 children. Through your help, I have had the opportunity to see a lot of Davids.

James Pagels is the Director of Ephphatha Center at Lutheran Special Education Ministries. He has worked as a school psychologist at Lutheran Special Education Ministries since 1976. For more information, call the Ephphatha Center at (313) 368-1220.

The Advocate

for Students with Special Learning Needs

The ADVOCATE for Students with Special Learning Needs
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