In times of need, there is no shortage of worthy organizations seeking support. Since 2009, Andy and Lynne Redleaf of Minneapolis have chosen to offer their time, talent, and resources to PACER Center.

“PACER is a quality organization that fills a very definite need,” says Andy. “PACER touches many, many people.”

“PACER is a Minnesota-based organization, but it has a national reach,” says Lynne. “It helps children and young adults with all sorts of disabilities, and the bullying prevention program is amazing! It is important to me that PACER does a lot of great work in so many different areas so you are not just targeting one specific need.”

Like many PACER volunteers, the Redleafs’ belief in PACER’s mission has caused them to become involved with the organization in many different ways. Since being introduced to PACER by a friend, Lynne has been an active, energetic leader. She is co-chair of the PACER Advisory Board as well as co-chair of the Annual Benefit Committee. Lynne has also invested substantial time and energy recruiting others to participate as PACER volunteers.

“Lynne is a very dedicated volunteer,” says Paula Goldberg, PACER’s executive director and co-founder. “She has wonderful ideas, she is very good at building relationships, and she is very bright. She is terrific!”

Volunteer Spotlight continued on page 2
Lynne says everyone she introduces to PACER is impressed by the quality of the organization and the scope of its efforts. For Lynne, it is the caliber of the staff and her fellow volunteers that sets PACER apart.

“PACER volunteers are interesting, intelligent, and non-judgmental, and they really do want to give,” she says. “At the end of the day, we all have a child or a family member or someone else in our lives who has a disability, and we have this common connection.”

Lynne tells potential volunteers that PACER is a place where they can be involved as much or as little as they want. “It doesn’t have to be a big time commitment,” she says.

When she’s not lending her energy to PACER, Lynne is involved in many different activities with her two children, Eliana, age 13, and Jared, 12. An attorney by profession, Lynne has been in real estate for the past several years.

Andy has two adult children — Nate and Ben. His 17-year-old daughter Isabel has been an active volunteer at PACER’s Annual Benefit and has served on the Youth Advisory Board.

Perhaps due in part to his mother’s work as an early childhood educator, Andy has long supported causes related to education and literacy. “When Andy and I first met,” Lynne recalls, “he told me that he wanted to focus his philanthropy on at-risk children and children with special needs, which is exactly how I wanted to spend my time. PACER has enabled us to do that.”

The Redleafs’ involvement with PACER now extends beyond their personal commitment. Andy’s company, Whitebox Mutual Funds, has been a major corporate supporter of PACER and was the Presenting Sponsor of the 30th Annual Benefit this past spring. Whitebox will once again be the Presenting Sponsor at the 31st Annual PACER Benefit on May 11, 2013.

“We have certainly gained personal satisfaction from our involvement with PACER, but that’s not the most important thing,” Andy says. “We hope our participation has enabled families to receive the help they need.”

Lynne says the couple believes strongly that it is their responsibility to give generously, sharing their time and resources with others. “Besides, one of the most fun things I have ever been able to do is to give in such a way that it can actually make an impact,” she says. “Working with PACER has been very gratifying.”
As a school bus driver, Barb Jensen knows how important it is to provide students with positive messages and good role models. She recently demonstrated her commitment to the children on her route by donating $100 so that PACER’s Kids Against Bullying puppet program could be presented at their school.

Barb was there in May when second- and third-graders at Washburn Elementary School in Bloomington, Minn., took part in the creative, interactive puppet presentation. “I was amazed by the appropriateness of the puppet show and by how it engaged the children,” she says.

A donation of $100 enables 50 children to participate in the puppet program. In addition to her personal gift, Barb obtained matching funds from the school and the Service Employees International Union Local 284, which represents bus drivers, so that 150 students could take part. The students learned what they can do if they are bullied, and how they can help if they see someone else being bullied. They learned the difference between ‘telling’ and ‘tattling,’ and that no one ever deserves to be bullied.

“Behavior on the bus has improved, and there has been a noticeable spike in the reporting of questionable behaviors to me,” Barb says. “There is no doubt that the kids are more aware.”

Barb was inspired to act following the death of her nephew, who took his own life in 2011 after being bullied by his college resident assistant. In her nephew’s memory, Barb has named PACER as the beneficiary of her life insurance policy at the end of her life.

Barb is one of countless unsung heroes who make it possible for PACER to help children. To explore how you can join them, contact Marcia Yanz, Major Gifts Coordinator, at (952) 838-9000 or marcia.yanz@PACER.org.

Contributors who support a pair of important PACER initiatives — the National Bullying Prevention Center and PACER’s Housing Project — will have their gifts generously matched dollar-for-dollar for a limited time by two Minnesota foundations.

The Katherine B. Andersen Fund of the St. Paul Foundation will match new or increased gifts for bullying prevention from donors in St. Paul and the East Metro area, to a maximum of $20,000. Gifts will support a new peer intervention program for teens, the Kids Against Bullying puppet program for young children, and new resources for parents and educators.

The Beverly Foundation is matching donations to PACER’s Housing Project up to $20,000. Gifts will help young adults with disabilities find the resources and options they need to achieve maximum independence in the community of their choice.

Donations may be sent to PACER Center, 8161 Normandale Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55437, or made online at PACER.org. All gifts are tax deductible.
For many people, constantly changing technology can be a major source of irritation, but for 19-year-old Sam Graves, the latest innovations have been a home run.

Sam, who has cerebral palsy, is a self-professed Minnesota Twins fan, co-author of the baseball blog “Two Men On,” and a freshman at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. He is thriving at school, at home, and in the community thanks, in part, to new assistive technology.

“I am always looking for the latest and coolest piece of technology,” he says. “When I’m looking for new technology I usually go online to find out about it or I read about it in the news.”

Sam was 3 years old when his parents, Kathy and Hazen Graves, first brought their son to PACER’s Simon Technology Center (STC). That visit was the beginning of a fruitful relationship with PACER that has provided Sam access to new technology as it becomes available. It also led the family to become enthusiastic PACER volunteers.

“For a kid like Sam, technology has really leveled the playing field,” says Kathy. “The iPad, for example, has made such a huge difference in his life. He also has his own website, he writes a blog, and he had a summer job editing copy via technology. He is a very good writer.”

“Sam doesn’t just use technology, he embraces it,” says Jonathan Campbell, an assistive technology specialist with the STC who has provided consultations for Sam at PACER. “When he first showed me how he uses his iPad, the conversation wasn’t about what the iPad could do for him, it was about how cool the iPad was. That’s when I knew we would get along very well!”

PACER Wins at St. Paul Charity Golf Tournament

PACER thanks Jay and Betty Kay Carothers for hosting the 4th annual Jayhawk Mechanical Golf Classic to benefit PACER Center. Because of their hard work, and the support of many sponsors and participants, children with disabilities and their families will continue to benefit from important PACER programs.

Jay and Betty Kay have consistently demonstrated their commitment to supporting nonprofit organizations, including PACER Center. More than 100 golfers participated in the tournament Aug. 11 at Phalen Golf Course in St. Paul, and another 40 people came for dinner.

If your organization would like to hold a golf tournament, bowling party, or other fun event to benefit PACER, please call Mary Schrock at (952) 838-9000.
One of Sam’s favorite iPad apps is AudioNote, which he uses to record lectures, type notes, and record homework assignments. He also likes the iPad and Kindle for reading books. “It’s a lot easier for me to handle and carry around than a regular book,” he says.

Access to the appropriate technology — and the declining cost of acquiring it — has enabled Sam and his family to gain a sense of freedom and independence. Kathy and Hazen no longer spend their evenings helping Sam with his assignments. “It’s his homework and he’s the one who needs to be doing it,” Kathy says with a laugh. “We already went to college.”

High expectations and a positive attitude are considered important assets for people with disabilities and their families, and the Graves seem to model these qualities. Sam is always willing to try something new. “He doesn’t think about what he can and can’t do,” Campbell says. “Instead, he decides what he wants to do and then finds the tools he needs to make it happen.”

Hazen and Kathy have seen how assistive technology has opened new doors for Sam and helped him to demonstrate his vast potential to college professors and classmates. They are optimistic about his future.

“When I see him using all of these tools, organizing his notes, planning his work, and writing his papers,” says Kathy, “I see him building the foundation for a career and that’s what he needs — a career just like the rest of us.”

*The Simon Technology Center has a lending library that offers education software, communication devices, computer access equipment, and more. There are more than 2,000 items available for loan. For more information about assistive technology and the Center, call (952) 838-9000 or visit PACER.org/stc.*

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**Mark Your Calendars for the Party of the Year!**

**PACER Rocks the ‘80s Feb. 2 in Minneapolis**

Dust off the spandex, squeeze into your best acid washed jeans, and join us for PACER Rocks, an evening of ’80s music, dancing, and fun Saturday, Feb. 2 at the Fine Line Music Café in downtown Minneapolis. The band Brat Pack Radio will once again provide the entertainment for this Friends of PACER event which supports two important PACER programs: the National Bullying Prevention Center and the Simon Technology Center.

Last year more than 300 people partied at PACER Rocks. Want to make the event even more successful in 2013? Save the date and make plans to bring friends, family, and neighbors together for a fun night and a great cause.
More than 2,700 loyal supporters enjoyed a night to remember May 5 at PACER's 30th Annual Benefit. Music legends Earth, Wind & Fire put on an energetic performance that had the audience dancing in the aisles at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Following the excitement of the Twin Cities’ largest silent auction, WCCO-TV anchors Frank Vascellaro and Amelia Santaniello joined auctioneer Karen Sorbo on stage for a spirited live auction. It featured a number of rare and exciting opportunities, including the chance to sing and dance on stage with the band. That went to Margaret Kelberer and George Leiter, who stole the show with their rendition of “Got to Get You into My Life.”

“We are so grateful to all of the volunteers, corporate sponsors, and loyal supporters who make the Benefit possible,” says Mary Schrock, PACER’s chief operating and development officer. “Their commitment enables so many children to reach their full potential.”

The Benefit raises approximately 15 percent of PACER’s annual budget and enables PACER to provide services to families at no charge.

“It was a wonderful evening,” says Paula Goldberg, PACER’s executive director and co-founder. “We are very excited about 2013, and we look forward to seeing everyone again at PACER’s 31st Annual Benefit on May 11.”

PACER Center was the beneficiary June 21 of the Nordstrom 2012 Fall Designer Preview at Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn. This wonderful event featured an in-store designer boutique and runway fashion show that included designs from Chanel, Gucci, Prada, Valentino, and more. Guests enjoyed a strolling cocktail reception, hors d’oeuvres, desserts, and an elegant gift to cap off a breathtaking evening.

PACER thanks Nordstrom for the opportunity to benefit from this special event. It was a tremendous success thanks to the dedication of event committee co-chairs Anastasia Hoeft and Mary Holmes, along with committee members Melanie Barry, Gwen Hopper, Muffy MacMillan, Leslye Phillips, Rebecca Pohlad, Lynne Redleaf, Christine Smalley, Tiki Spell, and Nicole Woodhouse. Funds were raised to support PACER’s important programs for children.

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The Mary Holmes Family

Thank you to more than 150 other sponsors who helped make the Benefit a huge success!

Save the Date for PACER’s 31st Annual Benefit: May 11, 2013!

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Thank you to more than 150 other sponsors who helped make the Benefit a huge success!

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**Nordstrom Hosts Fashionable Fundraiser**

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**Top:** Models walk the runway at Nordstrom.
**Above:** (L to R) Marissa Ploen, Amanda Abrahamson, Arlette Ploen, and Mary Holmes, co-chair of the event.
**Left:** PACER Board members Gwen and Ginny Hopper.
**Right:** Diane McCary (L) and Gayle Brehm (R).
PACER’s seventh annual National Bullying Prevention Month was bigger than ever as millions joined together to say, “The End of Bullying Begins With Me!” That was the theme throughout October when communities nationwide took action to raise awareness of bullying prevention through activities, events, outreach, and education.

“When PACER started National Bullying Prevention Month in 2006, we could not have imagined it would make such an impact,” says Julie Hertzog, director of PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center. “This year we have received messages of support and photos of activities from all over the world.”

America Wears Orange on Unity Day

Television personality Anderson Cooper closed his program Oct. 10 on Unity Day by holding up the official Unite Against Bullying T-shirt and reminding millions of viewers to “Make it Orange, Make it End!”

Thousands of students raised awareness by wearing orange, holding rallies, organizing marches, and distributing “Unity” ribbons. Celebrities, such as singer Rebecca Black and TV hosts Ellen DeGeneres and Katie Couric, shared the Unity Day message via social media.

PACER thanks the sponsors of the third annual Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying for their wonderful support:

Presenting sponsor: American Dairy Queen
Premier sponsor: IBM
Major sponsor: CenturyLink
Contributing sponsors: Hilton Bloomington Hotel Sears Imported Autos Coordinated Business Systems FarmLaw

PACER thanks the many corporate partners who supported our efforts during National Bullying Prevention Month including:

CenturyLink CustomInk CRAVE Disney’s Friends for Change Facebook Mall of America Marketing Werks Rachel Roy Random House TheSwanx.com and many more
Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying

People are passionate about bullying prevention and more than 200 PACER supporters didn’t let a little cold weather keep them from participating in the Friends of PACER Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying Oct. 6 in Bloomington, Minn. Presented by American Dairy Queen, the 4-mile run and 1.5 mile walk/roll was followed by entertainment, speeches, and family fun at Mt. Normandale Lake Park. The event featured emcees Jamie Yuccas and Matt Brickman from WCCO-TV, hip hop artist Lil’ Crazed, the cast of the Youth Performance Company musical “MEAN,” Ms. Wheelchair Minnesota Pauline Gleisberg, and a special message from U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar.

Disney and PACER at Mall of America

Disney’s Friends for Change, an initiative that inspires kids and families to take action, combined efforts with PACER to host a high-profile bullying prevention rally Oct. 27 at Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn. This exciting event included inspirational live performances by Radio Disney’s “N.B.T.” (Next BIG Thing) season five artists. Before the rally concluded, Disney presented a check to PACER for bullying prevention.

PACER is now an international leader in the bullying prevention movement. Visit PACER.org/Bullying for more information.
MANN SYMPOSIUM

More than 1,100 teachers, administrators, and parents of children and young adults with mental health and learning disabilities took part Aug. 6 at the Seventh Annual National Ted & Dr. Roberta Mann Foundation Symposium in Minneapolis. Participants left feeling inspired, enlightened, and well-equipped with practical strategies.

Symposium reviews were excellent. “As a parent of a child who has struggled with both addiction and mental health, I cannot tell you what a wonderful hope-filled gift it was to hear and learn from so many outstanding experts in the area,” one participant wrote. “The format allows professionals and parents to obtain tremendous insights as to how we can all work together to best serve our children.”

PACER would like to thank the Ted and Dr. Roberta Mann Foundation for sponsoring this symposium for the past six years, as well as the Blythe Brenden-Mann Foundation for this year’s support. Roberta was passionate about helping children and adults with mental health challenges and learning disabilities, and the symposium has been an extraordinary gift to Minnesota parents and educators.

The symposium included three national keynote speakers and an array of outstanding breakout presenters.

Emmy-nominated filmmaker Dan Habib shared his latest film, “Who Cares About Kelsey?” and spoke about how students with complex emotional or behavioral challenges are being successfully included in general education.

Bryce Mackie, a mental health counselor at a psychiatric hospital for children, showed “Eternal High,” an award-winning film he produced at age 17. He talked about the struggles of teens dealing with mental health issues.

Michael Maddaus, M.D., professor of thoracic surgery at the University of Minnesota, told the story of his transformation from high school dropout to successful surgeon.

PACER is currently seeking financial support to ensure that there is a symposium in 2013. Please contact Mary Schrock at (952) 838-9000 for information on corporate sponsorship or to make a donation to support this important event.
Nearly 300 people were on hand as PACER's Simon Technology Center celebrated 25 years of making a difference with assistive technology at its Family Fun Day Sept. 29. The event showcased the evolution of assistive technology from 1987 to 2012. “It’s amazing to reflect on how far technology has come in 25 years,” says Bridget Gilormini, STC director.

Parents toured the Center, discovered the latest technology — communications devices, speech to text, word prediction, and iPad apps — and visited with 16 assistive technology vendors. Children enjoyed hands-on play, including accessible video games, accessible bicycles, a bounce house, foam art, tie-dyeing, and more.

PACER thanks all of the companies that provided raffle prizes and support for the event. One lucky child with a disability won a new iPad. A special thank you is extended to Thyme to Entertain Catering for serving amazing wood-fired pizza for everyone from their antique fire truck.

“It was great to welcome so many first-time visitors to the STC,” Gilormini says. “They will be part of our next 25 years of providing the latest assistive technology to those who need it.”

Special thanks to Judy Norback who urged Paula Goldberg, PACER's executive director and co-founder, 27 years ago to develop a technology center for children with disabilities.

PACER is so fortunate to have special friends in the business community, as well as loyal volunteers and committee members, who are dedicated to helping children be all that they can be. If your company would like to provide an in-kind contribution, donate an auction item, or become a corporate sponsor, please call Mary Schrock at (952) 838-9000.

Thank You!

There are many different ways that companies support PACER's Annual Benefit beyond corporate sponsorships and donations to the Live and Silent Auctions. Many businesses provide products and services on an in-kind basis. This greatly reduces PACER's out-of-pocket expenses and helps the bottom line. We would like to recognize two companies in particular that went above and beyond in 2012 when we asked for help.

Todd Anderson and Carey Limousine provided ground transportation for Earth, Wind & Fire’s entourage. Thank you Todd!

Nate Lane and Thyme to Entertain catered dinner for the entire Earth, Wind & Fire troupe and donated a dinner for 10 and a pizza truck party to the Silent Auction. Thank you Nate!

PACER Rocks the ‘80s, Feb. 2, 2013
Don’t miss the party of the year at the Fine Line Music Café in Minneapolis. Details on page 5.

PACER's 31st Annual Benefit, May 11, 2013
Save the date: Comedian Jay Leno will perform live at PACER's 31st Annual Benefit on Saturday, May 11, 2013 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Don’t miss it!
2012 EX.I.T.E Camp

This summer 26 middle school girls with disabilities discovered just how much fun science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) can be during EX.I.T.E. Camp at PACER Center. EX.I.T.E. (EXploring Interests in Technology and Engineering) was developed 10 years ago through an IBM initiative. This free five-day camp enables girls to learn hands-on in a supportive environment, and boost their skills and confidence. Each day featured a guest speaker and a different theme as the girls learned about rocket science, computer programming, project management, quality control, and more. PACER thanks 3M, Accenture, IBM, Medtronic, and Target for their leadership and volunteers. More than 50 technology experts, scientists, and engineers (many with disabilities) inspired campers with their talents, insights, and enthusiasm. PACER also thanks IBM, 3M, the Medtronic Foundation, and the Donaldson Company for their financial support.