

**RUNNING STRONG PROUDLY SUPPORTS:**

# EVERY CHILD COUNTS

<http://www.everychildcountsabaco.org>

December 2007

## SENSORY INTEGRATION, CLAY BOWLS & PHYSICAL REHAB



Are you sure this is exercise? It sure seems like fun! Treneil working on a therapy ball with Janet.

The rehabilitation team trip was a resounding success this year. Our trip took place November 12-19.

Stacy Koehler, Occupational Therapist from Swarthmore PA didn't hesitate for a minute to say "count me in" when asked

if she'd volunteer for the third year in a row. In addition, retired special education teacher Sister Adrian McLean joined in for the third time as well. With the experienced and dedicated team in place, we were more effective and productive than ever before.

Thanks to the completion of Sochet Hall last year, we were able to utilize one of the old classrooms in the old Convent building as a sensory/therapy room. For years, Janet has conducted physical rehab exercises on a mat placed on the front porch because there was literally no room elsewhere. This year, Stacy and Janet pulled their mats and balls and sensory



Stacy introducing Cedland to the hammock swing—a great place to work on vestibular stimulation!

integration equipment into a central location where students are brought for individual or small group work on balancing, strengthening and other therapy activities. It proved to be a hit with all the kids—they love the "games" we play as we get them to exercise and work without knowing it's work!

In addition to doing specific rehabilitation exercises, this year Janet will also be investigating the prospect of bringing Special Olympics to Abaco. There is already a vibrant Special Olympics program in the Bahamas, but not on the island of Abaco. Hopefully the students at ECC will soon be able to participate in Special Olympics programs.

As if they didn't have enough to do, the team is in the early stages of planning and constructing an "agility course" out back in the play area. Many of you may be familiar with agility courses for dogs—but they're great for people too! Using a variety of objects, students can practice body awareness and agility movements like stepping over or crawling under objects, weaving through narrow passageways, and doing foot placement drills. This improved coordination can help self-confidence and allow an outlet for the abundant energy that flows through these young bodies!

Vocational training is a major focus for ECC. In addition to vocational classroom instruction, students are mentored by volunteers or teachers in various community situations to help them learn simple tasks like shopping or job skills like stocking shelves, farming, hospitality, making jewelry, sewing hems, or carpentry.



Sr. Adrian working with some of the older kids making clay bowls.

**WATCH THE THANK-YOU VIDEO!** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RuNX7PS0HpU>



Saveion, walking tall!



Vernie, one of the teacher's aides, helps Donald on a rocker board in the new sensory/therapy room.



Stacy works on sensory integration activities with Brent while he's listening to a special therapeutic listening CD.



At the end of the day—waiting for the bus with your friends is the best!



Sochet Hall. The classes held there freed up room in the old building for a sensory/therapy room.



Making clay bowls in Ellen's class—we had to improvise a rolling pin! (the wine bottle).

## FUNDING THE 2008 REHABILITATION TEAM TRIP

Every Child Counts continues to grow and this year more than 80 children will enjoy the nurturing environment these caring teachers, aides & volunteers provide.

Housing for the rehabilitation team trips has been generously provided by Island Marine since the inception of this program in 2003. Funds donated by you helps to cover the cost of airfare and groceries for the week-long rehab team trips. Thanks to your

generous donations last year, we had enough for this year's trip.

With your generous contributions, we've been able to provide some much needed help for these students; this was our 5th trip. Stacy, Sister Adrian and I all thank you for enabling us to be a part of this miracle. We hope to continue the journey next year with your help!

Please visit the Every Child Counts website at <http://www.everychildcountsabaco.org> for more information on the school and

how you can be part of a miracle in the making.

**Donations directly to the school can be made through their website ([www.everychildcountsabaco.org](http://www.everychildcountsabaco.org)). Donations for the rehabilitation team can be made using the form below.**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP ***SPECIFICALLY WITH THE REHAB TEAM TRIPS***, PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO JANET HAMILTON; NOTE ON THE CHECK THAT YOUR DONATION IS FOR THE EVERY CHILD COUNTS SCHOOL. MAIL CHECKS TO 191 CROSSING DR. STOCKBRIDGE, GA 30281. SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS? CONTACT ME [JANET@RUNNINGSTRONG.COM](mailto:JANET@RUNNINGSTRONG.COM) OR 770-957-0986

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me a receipt

YES  No thanks

Keep me posted with your progress!

YES  No thanks



Hugs make the world go round.