



# EVERY CHILD COUNTS

<http://www.everychildcountsabaco.org>

July, 2006

## CLAY, FLUFF, AND CLOTH!



Sister Adrian McLean, teaching Rahim the basics of working with clay.

The December 2005 trip was phenomenal. We were blessed to have Sister Mary Adrian from the Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, Alabama and Stacy Koehler from the Children & Adult Disability Services in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania join us this time around. Sr. Adrian brought not only her experience in special education, but her love of pottery as well. It was a perfect match for our special kids. They had a blast making Christmas Tree ornaments in the shape of hearts and stars. They didn't realize they were learning a little math along the way ("divide that piece in half, two equal

parts"). Each class she taught wanted her back for a second visit!

In addition to her OT skills, Stacy Koehler brought along a very special gift for the school — a much needed **sewing machine!** Not only did she bring along a box full of adaptive equipment and software, but the sewing machine and a bunch of material for the kids to practice on. One of her many gifts is quilting & we hope to have her help the kids start a project this fall with their new skills.

With "hands-on" learning as the theme this time, Janet rounded out



In addition to bringing her OT skills, Stacy Koehler donated a sewing machine and started teaching basic sewing!



Cardina (L) and Jeremy (C) learn the basics of spinning.

the team by bringing along her spinning wheel and teaching a few of the students the basics of how to turn fluff (sheep's wool) into yarn. Jeremy was the first to raise his hand when we asked "who wants to learn?" He picked it up quickly!

## UPCOMING TRIP OCTOBER 21-29, 2006

As you're reading this, we're in the final stages of planning the next Abaco trip slated for October 21-29.

Both Sr. Adrian and Stacy will be joining us again. We've recently had a spinning wheel donated to us by a member of the Chattanooga spinning guild and we are hoping to raise enough money to purchase a potter's wheel to ship down there. The addition of these tools will help facilitate the plan to add "electives" to the students academic schedules. These, along with other life skills classes will enable the students to learn some

marketable skills.

Meanwhile, an angel from Pennsylvania, Roger Brock, has managed to facilitate the donation of a dozen used laptop computers from the company he works for, Siemens Medical Solutions, US. These computers couldn't have come at a better time—and combined with the adaptive software that Stacy brought in December, they will be a great tool for the teachers to facilitate learning.

# IMAGES OF SUCCESS

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Treneil clowning around during a Physical Therapy session



Jarvin shows off his newly made star ornament



Eric (L) and Riveanna working on ornaments under Sr. Adrian's guidance



Playing in the mud is fun!



Jeremy, practicing spinning. I think he's got it!



The annual visit from the Disney characters—always a good photo op!

## THE WISH LIST

Last year's wish list included a pie in the sky wish for some laptops. They materialized. A sewing machine has been on the wish list for two years. It materialized. Miracles do happen!

The campus of Every Child Counts is growing and this year the dream of a new building to accommodate the increasing enrollment (we're up to 70!) is being realized. This has come about

because of generous donations of time, talent and money.

The dream of seeing some of our students graduate was also realized this year when the first three students completed their life skills and academic education at ECC. This couldn't have occurred without the dedicated work of the teachers and students, or the generosity of the many who donate.

Thank you all for what you do to help ECC!

Please visit the Every Child Counts website at <http://www.everychildcountsabaco.org> and look at their wish list. Perhaps you can be part of a miracle in the making. Donations directly to the school can be made through their website.

Wish us luck in October, I'll update you when we return.

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 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



Are you ladies sure you want to do this again? Absolutely! We may look tired but we're happy!