



# Kentuckiana: Celebrating 50 years of Service to Special Children and Their Families

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October 18, 2007 marks an important anniversary in chiropractic history. In the 1950's, chiropractic visionary and pioneer, Dr. Lorraine M. Golden captured the hearts and talents of fellow chiropractors and practitioners of the healing arts, as well as leaders in the local community, churches and trade unions to build and operate a multi-disciplinary facility based on chiropractic's philosophy, science and art. Her dream was to provide chiropractic care in an integrated healthcare setting to thousands of physically and mentally challenged children. Now celebrating 50 years of service to children and their families, Kentuckiana Children's Center, in Louisville, Ky., continues to provide chiropractic care to a special pediatric population.

In the 1950's the standard of care was to place children with physical and mental challenges in an institution. Dr. Golden and colleagues challenged this standard. It was her compassionate vision that chiropractic should play a vital role in the lives of special needs children, despite the family's ability to afford such services. They employed a unique team approach combining chiropractic care with other medical and allied health services for children who fell through the cracks of conventional programs. Their objectives were:

1. To provide corrective Chiropractic care to every handicapped child whose parents were unable to pay for services.
2. To co-operate with all public, private and religious agencies; federal, international, state and local institutions and departments of health and education.
3. To advise and aid parents in solutions of their problems and coordinate support services.
4. To gather research data regarding the chiropractic care of the handicapped and thus contribute to the body of knowledge to help this special population.

Selflessly wearing many different hats, Dr. Golden spent an average of 40 hours a week at the Center, in addition to maintaining her own practice. Her role at the Center ranged from clinical to administrative to maintenance, as she could often be found in work clothes scrubbing and painting alongside the many dedicated volunteers.

## Foundation

"SERVICE", said Dr. Golden, "is the best public relations that the chiropractic profession can ever have...if the project is begun and carried out with the idea of serving the public... then it cannot help but succeed when is pursued with the firm belief that it WILL succeed... When the foundation of a program is simply that of service, then individual differences are submerged in the sea of common interest. What better unity can be hoped for than the binding force of accomplishing together some project that seeks only to benefit persons outside the profession?"

As the numbers of children entering the Center's doors increased, Dr. Golden and her colleagues conducted their care with high

professional standards and following stringent criteria. Every treatment plan was based on chiropractic care and regular staff meetings were held to discuss the progress of each child.

Dr. Joan E. Partridge joined the staff of the Center in 1961. Dr. Partridge brought her skills as a chiropractor as well as her experience as a hospital x-ray technician. Dr.

Partridge, established a special education program whose criteria for admission was explicit. The child must suffer from a disability, must be unable to benefit from existing programs in other private or public facilities and the child had to undergo a complete health and psychological evaluation in the clinic. The program offered special education in an academic environment with



Dr. Lorraine Golden in 1961 with one of her precious children.



Dr. Joan Partridge who headed the KCC Clinic for nearly 30 years (died 1996), started as an intern in 1960.



Kentuckiana's home for 42 years was actually a converted Veteran's Hospital situated in a depressed area of the city. In time this old abandoned building would become a center for love and miracles.



Members of the community pitched in and helped spruce up the facility



Volunteers went out on the street to raise funds for Kentuckiana.

Partridge was the first chiropractic intern and later became the Director of Health Services of the clinic. During its 50 years of operation, over 30 interns have given of themselves at Kentuckiana Children's Center spending months to years in selfless service to the children, many under the tutelage of Dr. Partridge.

In 1964, Dr. Golden, assisted by the Director of Special Education and her educa-

arts and crafts, music and physical education integrated with chiropractic health care and supportive modalities such as visual, occupational or speech therapy. Good nutrition was also incorporated by providing a healthy breakfast, snacks and lunch on a daily basis.

## Meeting the challenges

Expansion of the services provided by

CARING FOR SPECIAL CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

CHIROPRACTIC PEDIATRICS