



Chiropractic and Miracles . . . The Legacy and Continued Tradition of the Kentuckiana Children's Center

By Tracy Barnes, D.C., D.I.C.C.P.

Once upon a time a little boy named Joseph was born to a family in rural Kentucky. Upon his birth, the doctors shook their heads and told the parents "He'll never walk or talk or feed himself. Put him in an institution."

Devastated, the family took Joseph home and took care of him the only way they knew — with immense love. Somewhere along the way Mom heard about this place called Kentuckiana. She thought the people there might help. So she packed up the boy, who now was eight years old, and carted him off to the big city of Louisville. Upon meeting the chiropractic doctor at Kentuckiana, Joseph's mom laid him down on her table and looked up with eyes of hope. "Can you help him?" she asked.

"I can't but maybe chiropractic can," the doctor said and she commenced to examine him.

Months later after Joseph had received dozens of chiropractic adjustments, lo and behold . . . he walked! Granted, he had some assistance from his mom, but this was the same mom who'd carried him down the long hallway the first time they visited. Now here she was supporting Joseph who squealed with delight. "It's a miracle," his mother said.

Once upon a time a little girl named Hannah had seizures so severe that her mother lost count of them each day. Hannah's doctors said, "Here are some drugs to stop those fits. Take six of them a day. It'll make her groggy but it's the best we can do." Somewhere along the way Hannah's mom heard about this place called Kentuckiana and wondered if chiropractic could help her child.

Some of Hannah's seizures would throw her to the floor and have her clamoring for endless moments, while other seizures left her staring into space oblivious to anything around her. Lo and behold, some dozen chiropractic adjustments later, Hannah's seizures stopped. Her nervous system had been restored. "It's a miracle," her mother said.

What is a miracle?

mir-a-cle (mi`r?-k?)

1. An event that appears inexplicable by the laws of nature and so is held to be supernatural in origin or an act of God: "Miracles are spontaneous, they cannot be summoned, but come of themselves" (Katherine Anne Porter).
2. One that excites admiring awe.

Miracle is a big word that ought not be tossed about. But at the Kentuckiana Children's Center, they've used this word since 1957. Rightfully so.

What I learned at Kentuckiana

My time at Kentuckiana started in August of 1993. Fresh out of chiropractic school, I arrived at the Children's Center to find 64 children on the waiting list and a mentor doctor ready to deliver her baby any day. I only thought I knew how to do an exam, I'd not yet had patients teach me the power of chiropractic care.

Thank goodness for the legacy of miracles that had already been built by the likes of



Jamie, a little boy with Down Syndrome blossomed with love and care after coming to Kentuckiana. He stole everyone's heart with his happy smile and loved to pose for the camera.

Dr. Lorraine Golden, Dr. Joan Partridge, Dr. Cranston Porter, Dr. Barb Swoboda and others.

In my years at the Center miracles were common. Sometimes it was the miracle of a child walking, sometimes it was a child communicating when told he never would or sometimes it was the miracle of headaches vanishing after years of suffering. Those miracles were and are not unexpected in the hands of a chiropractor. "It's not the technique that matters but the intent behind them that matters most," I remember Dr. Golden saying. "The intent is to touch them with love."

One of my favorite kids was a young man named Scott. When I first met Scott he was rocking in a waiting room chair, clutching a stuffed puppy and mumbling something I couldn't understand. He was wearing a blue

and white Kentucky Wildcat basketball shirt. Trying to engage him, I inquired about the puppy, about his mom (who sat next to him), about his day, about school and all manner of things but got no response. He just sat there and rocked. When I asked if he was a Wildcat fan, Scott suddenly sprang to life and for the next ten minutes I heard the scores of every University of Kentucky basketball game for the last two seasons. Then I heard the Kentucky Wildcat fight song!

Scott came to Kentuckiana as a 'last resort' as he'd been kicked out of his after school program because he couldn't control his bowels. This was a big problem for a 15-year old who stood 6 feet tall and weighed over 200 pounds. The encopresis started when he fell off his bike two years earlier and landed straight on his sacrum.

On examination, Scott's pelvis was distorted with multiple subluxations noted in his lumber and cervical spine. Literally six adjustments later, Scott showed up for his appointment, proudly sporting a YMCA shirt that proclaimed in large letters "STAFF" on the back. Once the bowel problem was fixed, Scott so impressed the staff at his after school program that they hired him to work with the younger kids.

Miracle? For Scott it was.

It may sound like a fairy tale, but it is true that the strength and power of chiropractic care has never been stronger than it is today at the Kentuckiana Children's Center. If you've not been there, get there. If you have not experienced it, experience it. You'll see for yourself the power of miracles.

TRACY BARNES, D.C., D.I.C.C.P. has always had a special place in her heart for children, especially children with special needs. She spends her summers serving as a volunteer counselor at the Sky High Hope Camp in Colorado for children with cancer. She has been doing this for many years, even before she graduated from Palmer Chiropractic College-West. Dr. Barnes served as the clinic staff doctor at KCC for seven years before starting her own private practice in Louisville. She still remains involved with the Center and sits on its Board of Directors, helping in fundraising and other activities. Dr. Barnes received her DICCP in 1998 and is now an instructor on the program. She has written several professional papers published in peer-reviewed journals.



In 1961, helping a child to walk.



In 2007, helping a child with autism.