

## **The Hope Institute for Children and Families Overview**

The Hope Institute for Children and Families is a nonprofit center providing education, residential and health services to children ages 5-21 with multiple developmental and physical disabilities, including mental retardation, autism, cerebral palsy, neurological disorders, visual or auditory impairments, ambulatory difficulties and psychiatric or behavior disorders.

There are many programs, initiatives and services offered under the umbrella of The Hope Institute for Children and Families including:

- The Hope School Learning Center:
  - *All students have an individualized education plan which includes goals such as self-help skills and daily living activities. Ultimately, able students participate in the Vocational Program which prepares them for employment in the real world following their graduation, including paid and unpaid positions in partnership with community businesses.*
- The Hope Center for Residential Services:
  - *Includes both on-campus residential services and 10 community-based homes. For some of the students, the Community Reintegration Program prepares and gives them the skills and knowledge to return to their family homes and home school districts.*
- The Hope Health and Wellness Center:
  - *In 2007, there were more than 300,000 patient visits to receive services of full range of health care needs including neurobehavioral, psychiatric, family practice and oral health.*
- The Autism Program of Illinois (TAP):
  - *TAP is collaborating with 27 community agencies and universities across the state to create The Autism Program Service Network, which is the largest statewide network in the nation for diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Funding from the Illinois General Assembly will allow the network to reach more than 16,000 Illinois children with autism each year.*
- Noll Medical Pavilion:
  - *When officially open in June 2008, the facility will serve as a medical home for children with developmental disabilities and/or mental illness. At Noll these children will be able to coordinate visits to top-quality health care services like primary care, psychiatric, behavioral health, rehabilitative, dental and optometric care. All of these services will be available in one place and will be offered regardless of a family's ability to pay.*
- Hope Institute Learning Academy (Chicago campus):
  - *Scheduled to open in Fall 2009 with Kindergarten-Third Grade classes, this facility will be a cooperative effort between The Hope Institute and the Chicago Public Schools' Office of New Schools. The school will be a place where typical learners can attend school*

*side-by-side with their siblings who have autism spectrum disorders and related developmental disabilities.*

### **History of The Hope Institute for Children and Families**

For more than half a century Hope has been a voice for children with developmental disabilities. From a modest house in Springfield, Illinois to the 26-acre campus and 50,000 ft Noll Medical Pavilion, The Hope Institute for Children and Families has flourished like the kids it aims to help.

Hope School was founded by Dr. and Mrs. Charles E. Jordan, parents who were desperate to find a place to educate their daughter Judith Ann, who had multiple developmental disabilities. There was no school within the United States which could help Judith to reach her full potential, and so the Jordans started their own school in 1957.

The Hope School provided a successful and long-term solution for children with developmental disabilities, so successful, in fact, that President John F. Kennedy appointed Dr. Jordan to various political councils on disabilities. Dr. Jordan helped to gain attention and provide a voice and a new reality for those children and adults living with disabilities.

As a leader in educational and residential services for the developmentally disabled, the Hope School added more services and specialties to help children reach their potential, and became what is now known as The Hope Institute for Children and Families. One of these additions is The Autism Program (TAP) of Illinois, owned and operated by The Hope Institute, which is a statewide network that trains educators, healthcare providers and parents how to understand, communicate with and support children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

There are many more programs and services offered by The Hope Institute for Children and Families which have recently been added, or expanded upon. But what remains the same is that Hope has always been about providing children with the means and opportunities to achieve their maximum potential, regardless of disability.