



Public Health
California Children's Services

CCS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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California Children's Services Medical Therapy Units

Manal Kassab, MA, OTR, Supervising Therapist

- Carmack MTU, (909) 880-6611, Sherylle Martin, OTR, Unit Supervisor
- Colton MTU, (909) 433-4752, Scott Medlin, PT, Unit Supervisor
- Etiwanda MTU, (909) 463-3010, Steve Danlag, PT, Unit Supervisor
- Fontana MTU, (909) 357-5900, Nivin Ghattas, OTR, Unit Supervisor
- Montclair MTU, (909) 445-1665, Angie Atkins, OTR, Unit Supervisor
- Redlands MTU, (909) 307-2441, Elaine Bauman, OTR, Unit Supervisor
- Siegrist/Barstow MTU, (760) 244-7999, Marleah Moore, PT, Unit Supervisor
- Yucca Mesa MTU, (760) 369-6315, Gus Atwell, PT, Unit Supervisor

Editor

Laura McLaughlin, MSW

Many Thanks To:

Elizabeth Barraza - You will be missed!
Nilda Yanez, Kemi Alemoh and Bonnie Deardorff

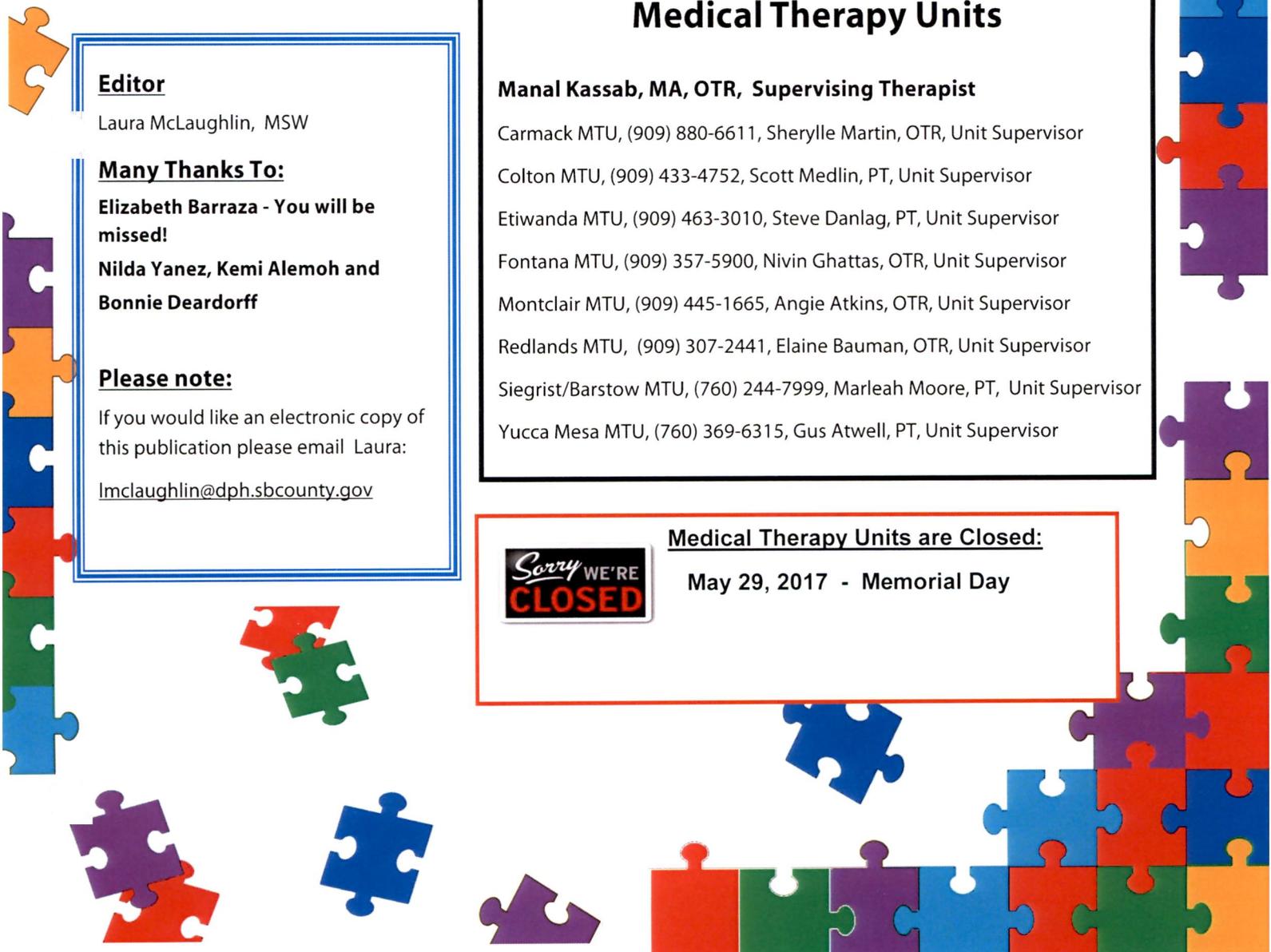
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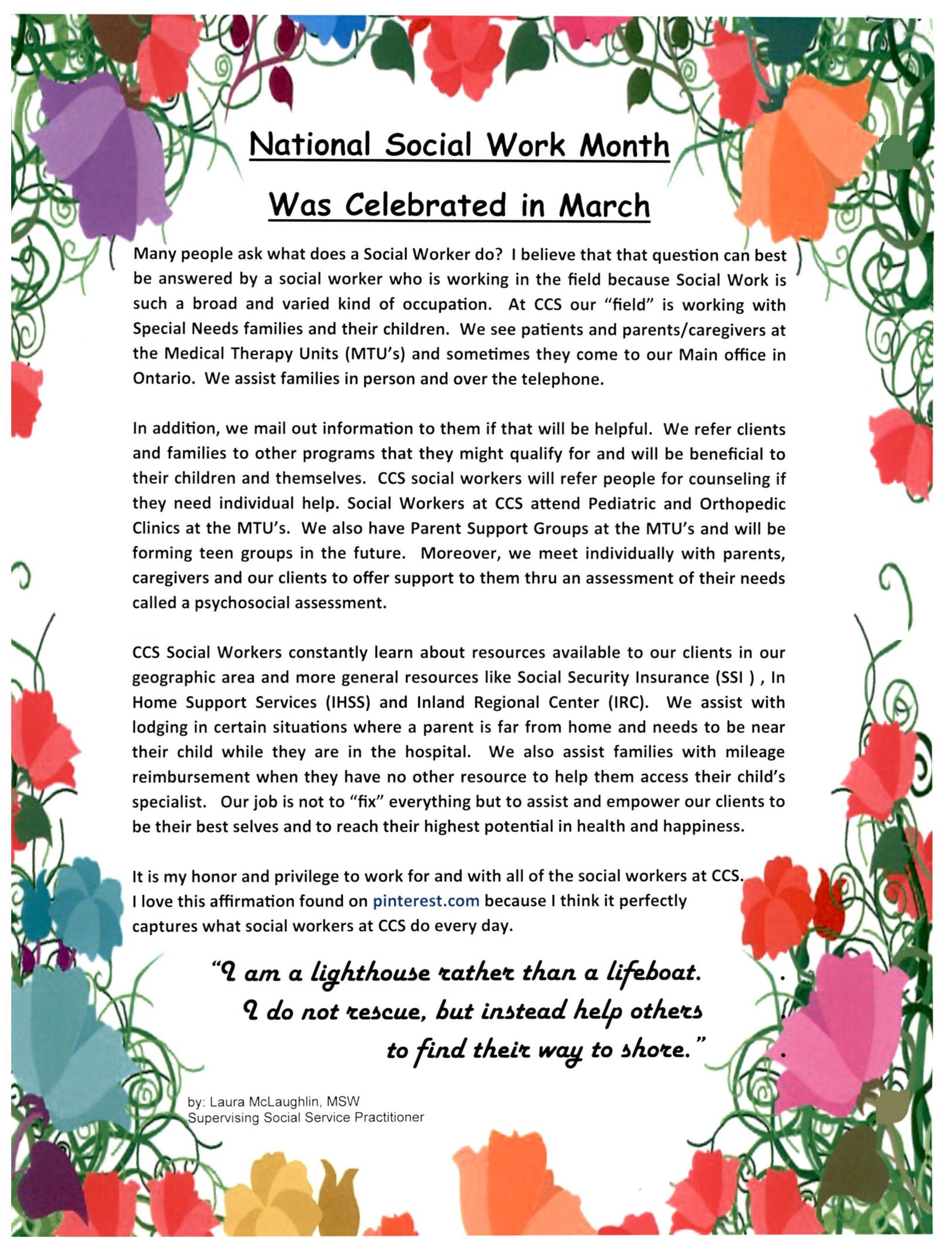
If you would like an electronic copy of this publication please email Laura:

lmclaughlin@dph.sbcounty.gov

Medical Therapy Units are Closed:

May 29, 2017 - Memorial Day





National Social Work Month Was Celebrated in March

Many people ask what does a Social Worker do? I believe that that question can best be answered by a social worker who is working in the field because Social Work is such a broad and varied kind of occupation. At CCS our “field” is working with Special Needs families and their children. We see patients and parents/caregivers at the Medical Therapy Units (MTU’s) and sometimes they come to our Main office in Ontario. We assist families in person and over the telephone.

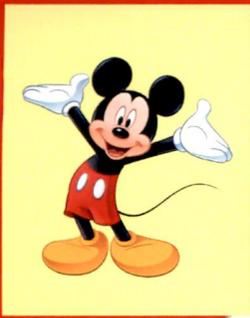
In addition, we mail out information to them if that will be helpful. We refer clients and families to other programs that they might qualify for and will be beneficial to their children and themselves. CCS social workers will refer people for counseling if they need individual help. Social Workers at CCS attend Pediatric and Orthopedic Clinics at the MTU’s. We also have Parent Support Groups at the MTU’s and will be forming teen groups in the future. Moreover, we meet individually with parents, caregivers and our clients to offer support to them thru an assessment of their needs called a psychosocial assessment.

CCS Social Workers constantly learn about resources available to our clients in our geographic area and more general resources like Social Security Insurance (SSI) , In Home Support Services (IHSS) and Inland Regional Center (IRC). We assist with lodging in certain situations where a parent is far from home and needs to be near their child while they are in the hospital. We also assist families with mileage reimbursement when they have no other resource to help them access their child’s specialist. Our job is not to “fix” everything but to assist and empower our clients to be their best selves and to reach their highest potential in health and happiness.

It is my honor and privilege to work for and with all of the social workers at CCS. I love this affirmation found on [pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com) because I think it perfectly captures what social workers at CCS do every day.

*“I am a lighthouse rather than a lifeboat.
I do not rescue, but instead help others
to find their way to shore.”*

by: Laura McLaughlin, MSW
Supervising Social Service Practitioner



Nilda Yanez, Social Worker II

interviews



Kemi Alemoh, Social Service Practitioner at CCS

I had the opportunity to sit down with Kemi Alemoh, MSW one of our newest California Children's Services (CCS) Social Service Practitioners. Kemi has been employed with the County of San Bernardino since August, 2016 at CCS in the Department of Public Health. She is currently the Social Worker for Carmack and Redlands Medical Therapy Units (MTU's). Kemi was gracious enough to share with us a little bit about herself.

Kemi grew up in Los Angeles, California. Ms. Alemoh attended Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, Pennsylvania to earn her Bachelor's degree in Sociology and graduated in 2013. In 2016, she graduated from Azusa Pacific University, with a Master's in Social Work. Kemi is the middle child in her family and her parent's only daughter.

When I asked her what inspired her to become a Social Worker, Kemi shared a motivating story. Her mother was a case manager, who would help out homeless individuals and families with placement and resources. Kemi reflected on how she would often go and shadow her mom at her office and see her helping different families. Kemi told me that from a young age she has always been involved with helping others, whether it was in the church nursery, respite or babysitting. She recalls that from a very early age she wanted to help individuals overcome barriers. She enjoys supporting and uplifting individuals who need to overcome obstacles in their lives.

Between summers in college Kemi worked at a Special Needs camp in Northern California. Here she got hands on experience working with children and adults ages five to sixty-one. She was able to bring joy to these individuals as they camped in the mountains for about a week and would partake in various social activities like cooking, arts and crafts and swimming.

What Kemi enjoys best in working with our CCS families is getting to know them on a personal level. She states that each family is unique, and loves getting to know their strengths and helping them maximize their full potential. She relishes the thought of being able to advocate for each family and their child, especially when they shine despite their difficulties. Kemi shared how much she enjoys working with Children with Special Healthcare Needs and seeing the resilience that each individual demonstrates. She says it is so inspirational to her.

When Kemi is not working with our CCS families, she enjoys watching movies. Her preferences are Action movies and Comedies. She also considers herself a "TV fanatic". After a long day at work, she enjoys watching TV shows--- crime dramas, in particular. In addition, she spends most of her weekends at Disneyland. Her favorite rides are California Screamin', The Indiana Jones Ride and Thunder Mountain. She is a "roller coaster" girl. Last, but not least, she shared

me that she still works privately with families on the weekend providing respite care to special needs children. We at CCS are happy Kemi joined our family.



TRAIN



LIVE



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CONNECT



IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

Job Corps is enrolling!

Free Student Services Includes:

- High School Diploma and GED Program
- Childcare Assistance
- Drivers Training
- Paid and Non-Paid Internships
- Resume Writing and Interview Skills Training
- Career Counseling
- Residential Housing
- Basic Medical and Dental
- Job Placement

Free Career Technical Training Includes:

- Nursing
- Construction (OSHA)
- Welding
- Electrician
- Microsoft Office Certification
- Medical Office Support
- Culinary Arts
- Plumbing
- Carpentry
- Landscaping AND Many More!!!

**ATTEND A JOB CORPS
ORIENTATION FOR MORE
INFORMATION, CALL:
(909) 887-7128
ASK for LEEANN JIMENEZ**

**Ask about attending
an orientation or
center tour!**

Serves ages 16 through 24
Job Corps is 100% free. You make the commitment,
We cover the cost.



Siegrist Sports Expo and Resource Fair 2017



Providing safety information and recreational resources for our families at Siegrist Medical Therapy Unit and the community.

Special Guests:

- DM SELPA
- Camp Paivika
- Challenger Baseball
- Special Connections of the High Desert
- Do TERRA
- Darryl Lair - Extreme Sports
- CPR - Workplace Training Solutions
- CCS - Social Services
- Safe Kids - IE
- Inland Regional Center
- PossAbilities
- Kokomo Fitness
- Rolling Bears



**Wednesday
May 17, 2017
3:00 - 5:00 pm**

**Lucy Siegrist School
15922 Willow Street
Hesperia, CA 92345
760-244-7999**



Meet Adam--One of our Siegrist Super Stars!!

By Bonnie Deardorff, COTA

Fridays are always a great day – TGIF and all that. But my Fridays are made even more special by a particular patient that I treat on that day. I would like to introduce Adam Tippit to the CCS staff and families.

Adam is a nine year boy who has been coming to Siegrist MTU since he was 6 years old. He attends Lime Street Elementary and is in the 4th grade. When asked about his favorite subject in school, he quickly answered, “reading” and stated that he reads “lots of books – all kinds of books”. He also enjoys playing on his tablet and playing with his cat, Jinx. He hesitated when asked about his favorite sport, since he really doesn’t have a favorite, but he stated he likes football and likes the Broncos.

What makes Adam such an outstanding patient is his attitude. Other than being somewhat sleepy when he first gets to the unit (he comes before school), Adam is quick to agree to any activity presented to him, even when it is challenging. Adam has thoroughly enjoyed tasks that most kids would groan at, such as laundry. One of his OT goals was to learn to do his own laundry, and when I stated that I had laundry for him to do here at the unit, I would actually get a jump for joy and a “yippee”. Needless to say, Adam had many offers to come and do people’s laundry!! Something else that sets Adam apart is his dedication to his home exercise program. Adam does his own HEP while he is at the babysitters, and he even makes the challenge harder for himself. For example, Adam was given wall pushups to do, and he surprised me with increasing the reps and adding claps in between.

Adam has a diagnosis of Brachial Plexus Disorder, but he has not let this slow him down. He is very active at school and at home. Though he still has limitations, Adam has learned how to work around them and works very hard at strengthening them. He works very hard at exercises such as the Superman exercise on the exercise ball – in his opinion, the hardest part about therapy. When asked about what his favorite part about coming to Siegrist for therapy is, Adam stated “everything!!” For other young clients, Adam had some advice to share: “If you don’t go to therapy, you can’t be helped. But if go to therapy, you can fix whatever body part needs help if you go here”. Adam is a great cheerleader for our other young clients, and for us as a staff as well!