



Good Shepherd School For Children

1170 Timber Run Drive St. Louis, MO 63146
314.469.0606 www.goodss.org

FACT SHEET FOR THE MAC CHARITABLE SOCIETY FOR CHILDREN

Nominator: S. Robert Trottmann, III
MAC member and Board President, Good Shepherd
School for Children
438 N. Geyer Road Kirkwood, MO 63122
Home Phone: 314.909.6779 Work: 1.573.468.1292
email: Robert.trottmann@fidelitycommunications.com

For over 40 years, the Good Shepherd School for Children has provided childcare, preschool, occupational, physical, speech-language and developmental therapies and adaptive technology services for typically developing children and for children who have disabilities. Good Shepherd School for Children was established in 1967 as a grassroots effort by parents and members of the Church of Good Shepherd in West St. Louis County. At that time, St. Louis County Special School District did not accept children less than six years of age, nor did they accept children considered “uneducable”. Good Shepherd School for Children was established to meet that need. During its history, the school separated ties from the Church of Good Shepherd and we have adapted our programs to the ever changing needs of the St. Louis community. In 1997, Good Shepherd School for Children moved into our current home, a 15,000 square foot facility built exclusively to meet the needs of our education and therapy services. We are unique in that we offer services in an inclusive environment where typically developing children and children who have disabilities learn, play and grow together. This allows children who have fairly significant limitations caused by Down Syndrome, Autism, Spina Bifida, Cerebral Palsy, learning disabilities, seizure disorders and other cognitive and genetic conditions to receive coordinated therapy services in an environment which embraces the unique differences in every child. All of our children and parents learn to celebrate the individuality that is inherent in the way we are made. Our kids who have special needs are no longer characterized by their disability or symptoms. They are, as all of our children are, individuals, friends and peers. We have the capacity for 78 students within our school and we maintain a 3:1 ratio of typically developing children to students who have special needs. We serve children ages six weeks to six years of age in our childcare and preschool programs, and up to age 18 in our therapy services and adaptive technology programs. Children may attend the Good Shepherd School for Children on a full-time or part-time basis, 2, 3 or 5 days each week, whichever best fits the needs of each child. Last year we served approximately 250 children in all of our programs. Of those served, 190 students had special needs. We are primarily funded through Missouri First Steps, Medicaid, private medical insurance, parent paid tuition, fund raising and donations. Every year, fund raising accounts for approximately \$200,000 of our \$1.4 million dollar budget. This is needed to bridge the gap between the quality services we provide and the actual cost of our programs.

This year, we are very excited because we are now serving infants, toddlers and young children who have significant medical needs such as tracheotomies, seizures and paralysis and who require one-to-one care. Many of these children come from working class families who need two incomes to make ends meet. In many cases, prior to our program, one parent stayed at home to care for their child who had multiple disabilities. The parent was unable to work because very few schools were equipped with well-trained staff and therapists to accommodate the significant needs of their child. These families were experiencing financial hardships due to loss of income and increased medical costs associated with their child’s care. Now, these children are welcomed into our school and parents have been able to return to work knowing that their child is receiving quality services in a loving and caring environment.

The staff at the Good Shepherd School for Children is wonderful. They have all learned how to suction tracheotomies, feed children through feeding tubes, put on leg and arm braces and transfer kids from wheelchairs and other mobility devices. Because of their dedication, these children, who would have been homebound because of the level of their disability, now have the same opportunity to attend preschool as their typically developing peers.

The families, students, staff and board of directors of the Good Shepherd School for Children appreciate being considered as a charity to be supported this year by the MAC Charitable Society for Children. Thank you for your consideration.