



Help children with disabilities access the therapy they need.

Act4Me

Together, we are committed to improve the lives of children with neurological disorders, supporting their families with financial resources for therapy, thus enabling them to reach their highest potential.

act4me
a chance for therapy

About Pediatric Neurological Disorders

Pediatric neurological disorders are health conditions involving the nervous system, including the brain, nerves and spinal cord in children. Neurological disorders are diseases or injuries of the central nervous system that cause paralysis of any part of the body, and that affect children differently than they do adults. They are many different pediatric neurological disorders, some with names, many without. Some of the most common pediatric neurological disorders are epilepsy as well as muscular dystrophies. **Regardless of the exact cause, some congenital, some unknown, all these disorders result in damage to the brain neurons. Neurological disorders are quite diverse, chronic, challenging to treat, and often disabling.** They can be caused by many different factors, including (but not limited to): inherited genetic abnormalities, problems in the immune system, injury to the brain or nervous system, or diabetes. **Millions of children worldwide are affected by neurological disorders, resulting in major developmental delays in one, or unfortunately most often, more than one area.**

Treating Developmental Delays

Developmental milestones are determined during childhood by the average at which children achieve certain skills. Developmental delays occur when children do not reach their milestones at the expected time. Delays are a common result of many neurological disorders and can occur in one or more areas, which may include motor, speech and language, as well as social and thinking skills. **Therapy has proven to not only be effective in the treatment of developmental delay, but a necessity for a child with special needs, to perform his daily activities, and assist with his self-esteem.** Though many kinds of therapy are available, the three main categories our program is involved with at this time are physical, occupational and speech/language therapies.

A Lifetime Journey

Where therapy is not available to all...

Dealing with developmental delays is a **lifetime journey** for children with neurological disorders. Many families do not have medical insurance. For those who fortunately do, most insurances are not willing to cover the extensive cost of endless hours of therapy. Although early intervention programs are available to some, covering the initial costs from birth to age 3, immediately thereafter, **a family's average income cannot face these lifetime costs, and the child starts regressing, losing the little progress he was able to achieve.**

Our Mission

Together, we are committed to improve the lives of children with neurological disorders, supporting their families with resources for Therapy, thus enabling them to reach their highest potential.

Our Vision

Not to allow financial constraints limit a disabled child's future.



YOUR CHOICE TO GIVE IS THEIR CHANCE TO ACHIEVE

WHO IS **Act4Me**

Act4Me, a Chance for Therapy, is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization (a tax deductible public charity) established in Miami-Dade County, Florida. We are proud to be an all-volunteer organization, committed to improve the lives of children with neurological disorders and developmental delays in our community. Through our private grant programs, we support families with additional resources to access therapy, enabling their child to reach their highest potential.

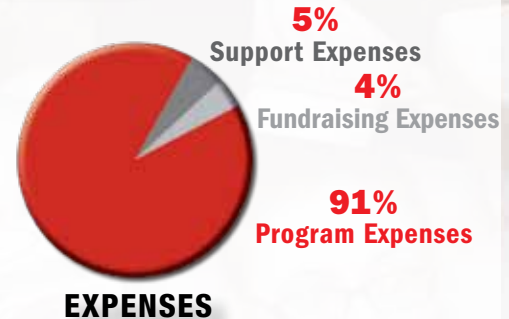
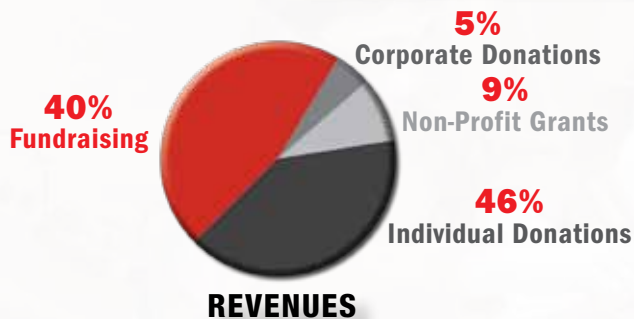
Some of us are parents of children with neurological disorders, and know first hand, what a struggle a child with developmental delay must face, as his very own lifetime journey.

Our mission is to improve the life of these families ready to do anything and everything for their child, living through the agony of be-

ing unable to provide their loved one with all of the necessary care. Through many yearly fundraising activities and with the support of generous corporations, other foundations, and our many individual donors, families in Miami-Dade County of these special need children are now able to seek assistance by applying for grants for Physical, Occupational or Speech Therapy.

Through these yearly grants paying a portion of, or supplementing their current care, **Act4Me** wishes to help as many families as possible, to overcome the hurdles of battling with the high cost of therapy.

2009/2010 FINANCIAL SUMMARY



Our Values

ACTION
COMMITMENT
TEAMWORK
4
MOTIVATION
EMPATHY

Our Aspiration

To allow special needs children to show their abilities, not to be limited by their disabilities.

**Thanks to your continued support,
we can help more lives.**

YOUR CHOICE TO GIVE IS THEIR CHANCE TO ACHIEVE

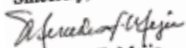
PRISCILLA'S STORY

Dear Act4me:

I was referred by the CCDH program to contact you and apply for a speech therapy grand. I am a single mother; my daughter's name is Priscilla Gonzalez. She is 10 years old, and she is a special child who still needs speech therapy. Through the years, it has been very difficult for me to get the therapies that my daughter needs because the medical insurance does not cover that type of therapy. I cannot afford to pay for them myself. Usually, after a session of therapy, there is a one year waiting period, and after that year is necessary to go on a waiting list, which could take from one, two or more years to get another opportunity. Now with the financial crisis, the local government has cut on many programs that used to offer therapy for special children. I greatly appreciate that I was able to get speech therapy for my daughter through the act4me program.

I would like to thank you and your staff for helping my daughter through the program to have a better opportunity in life.

Sincerely,


Mercedes F. Mejia

CECILIA'S STORY

On March 30, 1999 our little Angel was born, extremely premature, to change the lives of many humans that have helped her be who she is today and who she will become in the future. She had to learn to fight before she even took her first breath; Her battle through multiple sicknesses and never ending surgeries started, and hasn't stopped since... At first, she met the requirements for the Early Intervention Program and was able to receive all she needed. When she turned 3 and the program came to an end, our health insurance did not cover Speech Therapy, the most needed for Cecilia. We started to self-pay because we could see the progress she was making but could no longer afford it after a few sessions. Cecilia's progress, developmental milestones and possibilities of becoming independent had been hindered by the health insurance industry that does not understand our needs. How do we expect children that are Trainable Mentally Handicap to be able to function, at least partially, without the help of therapy, in today's complicated world?

Today, Cecilia is 11 years old, with a desire to conquer the world. Please open your hearts, open your eyes, and help us fight to help these children have the rights they deserve to have a better life tomorrow.

Miriam Santana

DAVID'S STORY

Dear Act4me,

Act4me assisted us during a time that I was going through a sudden near devastating illness. We wanted to thank you for the support given to us for our son David.

Since early in life he always faced challenges. In elementary, David was slower than his peers and had difficulty learning. His peers isolated and ridiculed him, as a result. He continued to struggle and became very reserved, experiencing difficulty expressing himself to others. He is humble and loving, never complaining about anything. He always sees the good in others and deserves a chance to learn how to express himself socially, to better his ability developing relationships.

My dream is to spread the word to many individuals that Act4me is a noteworthy cause.....because I sincerely believe improving the quality of life for children with incurable diseases through a chance for therapy would make the difference in many lives.

Thank you act4mefor making a difference in ours!

Miriam Collada-Myers



SHARING REAL

More than 3 million people in the US have some form of epilepsy.
One out of every 110 children are currently diagnosed with autism.
About 2 to 3 out of every 1000 newborns will develop cerebral palsy.

Sources: Epilepsy Foundation, Autism Speaks Foundation, UCP Foundation.


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YOUR CHOICE TO GIVE IS THEIR CHANCE TO ACHIEVE

JACK'S STORY

Our son Jack was diagnosed with autism when he turned two years old. At about a year and a half, we noticed he had absolutely no type of communication whatsoever with the family and brought him to a center to have him tested. Because of his early age, he was able to qualify through our insurance plan, for what is called "early intervention services", in other words, all kinds of therapy services until a child reaches three years of age. Unfortunately, by the time Jack turned 3, just about a year and a half into therapy, he was just beginning to learn how to deal and make progress with his numerous issues, such as feeding, developmental, speech, and communication. I think it is unbelievable that parents need to make a choice between their child developing like any other human being or being able to pay for the needs of their family. It is really a hardship on us, to have to mortgage our credit cards, get into whatever debt we need to get into, in order to be able to pay for thousands of dollars a year for therapy. In our economic climate, we need a lot of help, as these special need kids truly benefit and make obvious progress with therapy. They are regressing and losing the skills they had worked so hard to reach.

This is not right, this is not human. We need the help of everyone and hope this reaches as many people as we can.

Arlene Weissberg

LEONARDO'S STORY

Dear Act4Me:

My son Leonardo was diagnosed with Autism when he was 3 years old. Till then, our financial situation and lack of medical insurance never allowed us to provide him with the necessary treatment. Since he started to receive his therapies, we are very happy to see the progress he has made. He is beginning to communicate with short phrases, follows simple instructions and has been able to start going to the bathroom and dress by himself. He also has been able to interact a little bit more with his friends. Although we see his progress, we are very conscious we need to work everyday to maintain it or he will regress again. Leonardo still needs to work very hard with his therapy in order to improve his concentration, increase his development, attain milestones and also manage his frustrations. He is a very happy boy who loves music and likes to paint and play with sand or creams.

Thank you Act4Me for giving my son a chance, and for all the help you are giving to my little angel.

Sincerely,



Catalina Paredes

ANDRES' STORY

Our fourth son Andres had a stroke at 7 months old, and lost the whole left side of his brain. He was later diagnosed with West Syndrome, a type of epilepsy. At the time, we felt devastated because doctors told us they were unsure if Andres would ever be able to walk or even talk but told us that through therapy, we could try to teach the other side of the brain to compensate for the lost one. From that day on, we saw some hope, and focused on giving him all we could, 5 hours a day of therapy. Today, we know therapy was the right approach, and although still struggling in his daily life, at 7 years old, Andres can eat, talk, socialize, go to school and run around. Our story is what inspired me to be part of the wonderful mission that act4me has started, because not everyone is able financially to give to their kids what they so truly need. Let's give kids with special needs a chance to develop, and make a difference in many lives by having that opportunity to progress.

The best satisfaction you can ever have, is seeing a smile on one of these special kids face, always remembering what they would tell us in return: "YOUR CHOICE TO GIVE, IS MY CHANCE TO ACHIEVE"

Martha Poulat

LIFE STORIES

The Cost of Therapy

- Therapy not covered by insurance costs an average of \$70.00 per session.
- Special needs children require anywhere between 6 to 9 sessions weekly.
- Unless below Federal poverty level and covered by Medicaid, this translates into a yearly cost of approximately \$30,000.00. The average Florida family income is about equivalent to that total cost for therapy. Not to mention the other medical bills for a child with neurological disorders.
- For those insured, most insurances will only cover 60 sessions per year, for the combined therapies required; Families of special needs children are left with an out of pocket expense easily reaching \$25,000.00 yearly.



YOUR CHOICE TO GIVE IS THEIR CHANCE TO ACHIEVE

A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDERS

It has been the most self-rewarding experience to build this program, but a project this big, could not have been carried out without tremendous support. It is with immense gratitude we want to address all our devoted volunteers, for the time, commitment, passion, dedication and generosity allowing us to reach our goal. Increasing the opportunity for special needs children to receive therapy, is our dream, and we are counting on each and every one of you, reading this message, to continue their support. You may join our family of volunteers, partners or corporate sponsors, or simply donate towards this project.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Board members and
volunteers may vary
due to time of printing.*

Act4Me is an innovative program, which does not limit their mission to a single disorder, a gender specific, or a particular social level within our community. It addresses a wide spectrum of neurological disorders, and provides financial support to families of children with disabilities of all income levels and social backgrounds. Visit us online at www.act4me.org, and help us ease a neurological condition that impacted a child's life.



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WHY HELP ACT4ME?

**YOUR CONTRIBUTION OR SPONSORSHIP IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE.
YOU ARE HELPING CHILDREN IN NEED IN YOUR COMMUNITY.
THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO USE YOUR SOCIAL MARKETING RESOURCES.**

A Chance for Therapy, invites you to join our other generous corporate donors, to help us ease the challenge for families of children with neurological disorders, overcoming the hurdles of battling with the cost of therapy. **Act4Me** offers corporate sponsorships at different levels. The following description offers examples of how varying donation amounts will serve the children:

PROGRAMS & GRANTS

TITANIUM SPONSORSHIP

A \$10,000.00 DONATION ENABLES US TO PROVIDE:

Funding for a triple grant, for three children,
One session a week of therapy for one year.

PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP

A \$7,000.00 DONATION ENABLES US TO PROVIDE:

Funding for a double grant, for two children,
One session a week of therapy for one year.

GOLD SPONSORSHIP

A \$3,500.00 DONATION ENABLES US TO PROVIDE:

Funding for a single grant, for one child,
One session a week of therapy for one year.

SILVER SPONSORSHIP

A \$1,000.00 DONATION ENABLES US TO PROVIDE:

A contribution towards a therapy grant, or therapy supplies, as needed, for use in home therapy. Supplies may include equipment such as computers, swings, mats, etc....

- 1 Child must be under 18, and be living in Miami-Dade County for the past 12 months.
- 2 Child must not already be receiving U.S. Governmental assistance, Medicaid or other.
- 3 Child may have medical insurance and still apply for grant, should insurance coverage be insufficient to properly cover the expenses of the child's therapy.
- 4 Child's medical diagnosis and developmental delay must be a result of a neurological disorder.
- 5 Child's medical diagnosis and therapy needs must be confirmed by letters and latest evaluation from the child's physician, as well as current therapist.
- 6 Grant request shall be based on verifiable financial need.
- 7 Therapy grant shall be solely used for child's therapy.
- 8 If therapy grant is awarded, it will be paid directly to the service provider, and may not be used for any other purposes than therapy for the child.
- 9 If grant is awarded for Home Therapy Supplies, supplies cannot be sold or exchanged, as they will be on loan, and must be returned to Act4Me.
- 10 Only one of our two grant options may be awarded per child.
- 11 Grants are a one time only, one per child.
- 12 Grant awards and application deadlines occur twice a year, on April 1 and October 1.

As parents of children with severe disabilities, therapists, physicians or simply parents, we at **Act4Me**, understand first hand the importance of early neurological intervention upon diagnosis. Prognosis without therapies is not good for advancement, and regression is most likely to happen. Basic functions or tasks such as swallowing may not be performed. **No financial availability... No therapies... No chance for improvement.**



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OUR SPONSORS

PROGRAM SPONSORS

**IN-KIND SPONSORS
EVENT SPONSORS**

TITANIUM - \$ 10,000.00

Serko & Vilma Berberian

PLATINUM - \$ 7,000.00

Jimena Milanese

GOLD - \$ 3,500.00

H&H Jewels

Roxana Fernandez

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Lulu Restaurant

MCA Academy

Miami Conservatory of Music

Enrique & Carmen Mondragón

Prana Yoga Miami

Enrique & Mari Carmen Vila

Fernando & Cristina Peñafiel

GreenStreet Cafe
Outdoor Lounge and Restaurant



PRANA YOGA



YOUR CHOICE TO GIVE WAS THEIR CHANCE TO ACHIEVE

Donors and Sponsors may vary due to time of printing. We unfortunately cannot list every donor, but are thankful for every one of your gifts.

Act4Me would like to thank all past year sponsors, foundations and individual donors who helped accomplish our mission. We promise to continue our passion and commitment and are looking forward to many more on our Team!

For additional information
please visit our website

www.act4me.org



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