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Celebrating special children.
Renewing their families.

"We are so grateful that we are part of the Jill's House family! We do not have family local and have not had the opportunity to enjoy couple time for years. It's great to have "family" now. Bless each and every one of you, staff and volunteers at Jill's House."

-Tysons Campus Family

SENSORY ROOM RENOVATION!



We are thrilled to announce plans for a new sensory playground at our Tysons campus! Staff and guests are excited to have new fun and therapeutic activities to choose from during stays at Jill's House. The sensory playground will be indoors where it can be enjoyed even during the cold winter months. This significant renovation is made possible

through the generosity of [General Dynamics](#), one of our corporate sponsors. Their continued support of our work here at Jill's House has been invaluable and we cannot thank them enough for stepping in to fill this need!

FAVORITE NIGHT TO SHINE

On Friday night, February 10th, Jill's House hosted Night to Shine Prom sponsored by the [Tim Tebow Foundation](#). We had an amazing turnout of 80 honored guests. There were so many highlights that we had to choose our top 3 to share with you.



1. As each guest entered the building on the red carpet, amazing high school volunteers from [Christ Church Vienna](#) cheered them on. It was great to see the experience remind each person how truly special they are.
2. Since every guest was royalty that night, a professional chauffeur gave limousine rides to any and all who wanted to participate.
3. The dance floor was packed as everyone danced and sang their hearts out as the DJ played Justin Bieber and the music of Frozen.

Thank you to the Tim Tebow Foundation and all the volunteers that made this night of love and celebration possible. As one family told us at the end of the night, "Jill's House is a place of welcome and love, just enveloping us as you all take such good care of our whole family! Can't help but be happy here!"



MUSIC THERAPY AT JILL'S HOUSE

Whether classical or country, everybody loves music and that's true of our friends here at Jill's House. That's why we have our Cricket Symphony room dedicated specifically to musical activities and why we partner with [Capital Music Therapy Services](#).



In addition to their individual therapy sessions, they partner with a number of organizations in the area including Jill's House. Josh Schrader, the founder, is passionate about leveraging music to assist all people in developing and reaching their full potential, especially those with disabilities.

Lauren, one of the 7 board-certified music therapists at Capital Music Therapy Services, comes to Jill's House once a month. She is a soothing presence for the kids and it is always a treat when Lauren comes for a visit. She leads engaging music-based

interventions designed to enhance social, interpersonal, and cognitive skills, to name a few. But the best part about music therapy at Jill's House? In the words of Josh, "it's fun and the kids love it!"

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: TIM HITE

Tim is a Client Care Specialist here at Jill's House, which means he is one of the people who directly care for guests, and has recently started working with the Advancement team as well. He has been part of the Jill's House family for 3 and a half years now and agreed to share some of his experiences working at Jill's House with us.

What do you like most about working at Jill's House?

I fell in love with working with children with special needs during college when I spent a summer working at a camp for kids with special needs hosted by McLean Bible Church. This is such a fun job. Although it can be physically and emotionally exhausting work, many days I just get to sit and talk to a client for an hour or bounce on the bounce house with them. In the end, this job is worthy of the exhaustions.



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What drives your work at Jill's House?

I adore this place. I love getting to know these kids - who they are and what they're capable of. When I look through a file, unless there's a safety issue, I try to forget the diagnosis and just get to know the kid in real life. I love getting to see clients be unapologetically themselves and connect with each other. I work hard to make sure the kids I work with have as much independence as possible to be themselves and exercise some autonomy.

How has your time working at Jill's House impacted you personally?

Working here has led me think about my conception of what's normal and acceptable and what types of behaviors we should roll with because it's just a client's "thing". I have one client who, when he gets passionate about something, has to tell EVERYBODY about it. He will talk about that thing for 5 hours, which you might expect to be tiring, but it's a real and true reminder of the passion and love of Christ for me as well as a reminder of how I should feel about my faith! That's just one example of how the kids have taught me so much.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JILL'S HOUSE TOUR NIGHT



Come learn more about Jill's House and the families and children we serve at our 2017 Tour Night on March 27th! Tour the facility, meet a Jill's House family and members of our staff, and see firsthand the impact that Jill's House is making on families with children with special needs.

We do ask that you reserve a place ahead of time. To let us know that you're coming, RSVP to Katherine Allison at katherine.allison@jillshouse.org.

CELEBRATION OF SPECIAL CHILDREN GALA



A Celebration of Special Children, a black tie benefit for Jill's House, brings together more than five hundred guests for a special night to honor the courageous families and inspiring children Jill's house serves.

To reserve your sponsorship and table today, visit jillshouse.org/events.

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