



The Homeschooler December 2016

MY SON'S STORY By Carol Brown

Many of you have probably read my credentials or have heard that over the last 30 years my journey has expanded from being a therapist working with children and their families to being a teacher and administrator in classical Christian schools, as well as a few years in homeschooling. Now, I have the privilege of working with students, families, and schools through Equipping Minds to provide hope.

However, what you may not know is that I have sat where you may be sitting now, desperately wanting to hear hope for my son, Clayton, who was struggling. That journey began abruptly when his entrance into this world was traumatic. We watched God breathe for him for the first 13 hours before the trauma team arrived and transported him to the neonatal unit—an hour and a half down the mountain. We were in rehabilitation therapy from the get go, and the next 7 years would be filled with evaluations, speech therapy, and many tears.

With my education and experience, I began reading every book I could get my hands on and could never seem to find “Clayton” in any of those books. He did not say his first sentence until he was almost 4, but then ... starting talking up a storm. When he was 5, the private school of our choice would not accept him and even told me that he had scored lower than any other student.

Then God placed an educator in our path who came to our home for the assessment and said, “There is so much in there that wants to get out... I think our school would be perfect for Clayton.” This was a classical Christian school in Fletcher, NC, Veritas Christian Academy. He had an exceptional year and scored a 99% on his phonemic awareness test. However, at the end of the 2nd grade, his reading and spelling were still laborious. That’s when I was sitting at the Georgia Dyslexia Conference and heard Clayton’s struggles described perfectly. I heard on that day that there was hope.

He would spend the summer at a learning center 4 hours a day, 5 days a week for 8 weeks. Amazingly, at the end of that time, he was reading, he was spelling, he was getting jokes, and able to follow multi-step directions. He was comprehending and telling stories in detail and in sequence... He was happy and confident. He went on to thrive in the classical Christian schools

were I served. He was in the drama productions and excelled at impromptu's and was on the Mock Trial team.

As he progressed, there was one area which remained a struggle... processing speed. As his classes became more intense, he told me that he could not process some of the information as quickly as it was coming. I was in the position to have the best teachers and had trained them in the latest brain-based instructional methods. However, I couldn't ask the teachers to slow down the pace for one student.

This led me to further my research and training in the area of neuroscience and cognitive developmental therapy/brain training. My husband, who is also an educator, and I went through cognitive development training which focuses on developing the underlying skills necessary to read, comprehend, and process information. Clayton went through an additional 60 hours of cognitive development training which increased his processing speed and his working memory. For the first time, he was reading for pleasure!

In August of 2011, Clayton began his studies at Boyce College in Louisville to pursue a degree in biblical counseling. While he had to work harder than many students to simply pass his classes, we were amazed that he had a 3.65 for the spring semester of 2013 – 4 A's and a B+. He graduated in December of 2014 with a 3.2 overall GPA! He will begin graduate school in August 2015. He has also interned for our center during the summers of 2012-2014 and now works for us full-time bringing hope to students who are struggling as he had struggled. On July 28th, 2013 he was the guest preacher at Grace Presbyterian Church in Danville, KY. You can listen to his sermon on the Church Website, from the July 28, 2013 sermon: "Are You Keeping the Gospel Yourself." Yes, language processing disorders in receptive and expressive language can be overcome!



Carol Brown will be one of the featured speakers at the 2017 TPA Convention. She has over 30 years of experience as a principal, teacher, cognitive developmental therapist, social worker, reading and learning specialist, speaker, HSLDA special needs consultant, and mother. She received her M.A. in Social Services from Southwestern Seminary and B.A. in Rehabilitation Counseling from Marshall University. She is a certified school counselor, special education specialist, teacher, and principal and served classical Christian schools in North Carolina, Georgia, Northern Virginia, and Lyon, France. In 2012, Carol was licensed and certified as an FIE Mediator by the Feuerstein Institute: International Institute for the Enhancement of Learning Potential. She is a consultant for Sound Therapy International. In 2014, Carol is continuing her educational and research endeavors as she pursues a Doctor of Education (Ed.D 2016) at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. "Understanding how children learn is my passion. Cognitive training is the missing piece to the puzzle."



2017 TPA MEMBERSHIP NOW AVAILABLE! 2017 TPA Membership is now available online. TPA offers programs, workshops and events to support your family throughout the year and we travel anywhere in the state if your group needs help. Our programs and services are open to all homeschool families, not only TPA Members. TPA Membership gives you a discount at most TPA events. Don't forget, your TPA Membership offers you **free admission** to the 2017 TPA Convention, a \$20 HSLDA discount, a \$15 high school graduation registration discount, and a \$5 ITBS testing discount! Remember: Your TPA Membership is valid from January 1 through December 31 of each year. Go to www.teachingparents.org to become a 2017 TPA Member.



CONVENTION PAGE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you interested in developing LEADERSHIP skills and making new FRIENDSHIPS while VOLUNTEERING for a great organization?

TPA is asking for volunteers for the 2017 Homeschool Convention to help as Pages on March 10th and 11th. We ask that our volunteers be 13 years of age or older. They will help welcome workshop attendees, assist attendees and speakers with minor needs, collect workshop attendance, possibly introduce workshop speakers, etc.

Sign up by February 15th. For more information or to sign up, visit <http://goo.gl/1pSPcJ>.

Contact Rebecca Hammond with any questions at rebecca.h831@outlook.com.



TPA 2017 High School Graduation Ceremony – May 12, 2017

ATTENTION homeschooled seniors & parents!!! Information for the 2017 TPA Graduation Ceremony is now posted on the TPA website (www.teachingparents.org) under the graduation tab! If you missed the Fall Meeting in September, you'll want to read through the detailed information thoroughly as the deadlines are firm.

Important dates:

***** Online registration & ordering now open! *****

Winter Informational Meeting

Date: Jan 5, 2017

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Central Christian Church

***** DEADLINE to participate --- Feb 1, 2017 *****

AUDITIONS for Student Presentations

Date: Feb 7, 2017

Contact Seth at gradstudntpres@teachingparents.org

Questions? Contact Jeff or Jeanine Schantz at graduation@teachingparents.org.

TPA LIBRARY CLOSED

The TPA library will be closed during the month of December. Items checked out in November are due in January.

TPA Library is usually open on Thursdays 11am - 1pm, weather permitting. It is located in the basement of Pathway Church, 2001 N. Maize Road.



TRAIL LIFE USA AND AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS

AHG Troop KS0281 and Trail Life Troop KS-0281 invite you to have some cold-weather fun with us. On Saturday, January 7, we kick off the season with our **Winter Warm Up!**

The kids will divide into patrols and alternate between indoor and outdoor activities that will teach or strengthen their outdoor skills. We'll provide hot dogs for lunch, hot chocolate, and hot coffee. Bring a side dish to share for lunch. After lunch the patrols will compete against each other to show what they learned. The fun starts at 10am and we should finish about 2pm.



Riverlawn Christian Church (4243 N. Meridian, Wichita) Winter Warm Up, Saturday, January 7, 2017, 10 am-2 pm For more information contact Scott Durkee at tpatroop281@gmail.com or Angie Ray at mrsangieray@yahoo.com.



AIC Drama Auditions and Teacher Registration!

If you have a heart to serve, a flare for the dramatic, and a love for children, we invite you to apply to be a part of Adventures in Character (AIC) 2017: CORAM DEO! AIC is a program for children 6-12 years old held concurrently with the TPA Convention, and will be March 10-11, 2017 at Century II Convention Center. Our goal is to support parents in instilling the principles of God's Word in the hearts and lives of their children, and we challenge the students—and volunteers—to build their lives on the unchanging Truth of the Bible, learning how to apply it in the here and now of life.

Volunteers 13 and older may apply to be part of the drama cast/crew or to teach small groups of children. All applications may be submitted via the website at: adventuresincharacter.com.

Drama Auditions are January 5 and 6 from 6-9 p.m. at Heartland Community Church (457 S Woodlawn in Wichita, KS). Please submit your audition application online and you will be contacted by Drama Director, Amy Shelden, with specific information regarding your audition. (Additional times may be available upon request.)

Teacher Registration opens January 1, and is an excellent opportunity for young people to grow in their own faith while investing in the lives of the next generation. Teacher trainings are held on Thursday evenings throughout the month of February, giving teachers and assistant teachers a chance to get to know each other while learning and preparing for their responsibilities. Visit the website for specific details and to submit an application.



Please contact AIC Director, Natalie Weber, at director@adventuresincharacter.com with any questions or for additional information.

2017 TPA CONVENTION

REGISTRATION OPEN DECEMBER 1!

What?! Isn't it a little early for the TPA convention? Yes, the 2017 TPA Convention is early this year – March 10-11. But it's always a perfect time to get refreshed, shop for curriculum, and attend workshops to get answers to some of the homeschool questions you have. For the last few years TPA has been praying about finding a featured speaker to help homeschool families with special needs students. We are so excited to offer workshops and local vendors who have information and services to help these special families. Check out the TPA website for information on featured speakers, convention details, and to register for the 2017 TPA Convention. Registration begins December 1! **Don't forget if you are a 2017 TPA member you will get free admission to the convention!**

AREA EVENTS:

CENTRAL HOMESCHOOL FAMILY MINISTRIES – Spring 2017

Central Homeschool Family Ministries invites homeschool families to consider joining our ministry for the spring 2017 semester. CHFM recently began its 19th year of providing cooperative classes to homeschool families. We offer a great selection of classes for all grade levels, including enrichment classes such as Art, PE, and Choir; academic classes such as Writing and Science as well as full courses for high school students. All classes are held at Central Christian Church. Visit the website to view complete information about the ministry and request a consultation – www.chfm.org. Consultations for the spring semester will conclude on December 5th. Online registration will take place January 5th -6th.



WICHITA DEFENDERS

The Wichita Defenders exists to provide home school athletes with a competitive sports program that uses athletics as a tool to disciple young men and women to pursue godliness and excellence in every aspect of their lives.

Basketball

The Defender basketball season is underway. Please visit our website at www.wichitadefenders.org to learn more about our program and see our schedule for high school and middle school games.

Elementary basketball mini-camps this year.

Who: ALL boys AND girls ages 6 and up (beginner/novice level)

When: Tuesday, December 6 & Tuesday, January 3 from 2:00-6:00 pm

Where: Immanuel Baptist Church (1415 S Topeka Ave, Wichita, KS 67211)

How Much: \$5 per child with a \$15 family max

Includes: Basic and foundational skill work, drills, games, fun and FOOD!

Soccer

The Wichita Defenders are excited to offer our first year of girls' soccer this coming spring. Please contact Eric Nordberg (wichitadefenders@wichitadefenders.org, 316-619-4653) or Brian Moser (moser-bunch@cox.net) for more details.

Volleyball

Congratulations to our varsity girls' volleyball team placing 7th at the Springfield Homeschool Nationals in Springfield, Missouri.

Bowling

High School Bowling will be kicking off the second week of December. The parents' meeting and tryouts start Monday, December 12, at Northrock Lanes with practices starting shortly thereafter. All who tryout will be on the team. Bowling meets/tournaments are in January and February. Contact Coach Walter Level (316-636-5444) or Eric Nordberg (wichitadefenders@wichitadefenders.org, 316-619-4653) for more details.

Visit The Wichita Defenders on Social Media

Facebook : [Wichita Defenders](#)

Twitter: @WichitaDefender

Instagram: Wichita_Defenders

Contact Us

For inquiries of the Wichita Defenders please contact Eric Nordberg, WichitaDefenders@wichitadefenders.org or visit our website www.wichitadefenders.org.

**YOUTH WORKSHOPS AND CAMPS**

We can help you out when school isn't in. Workshops are geared for suggested ages 6-12. Advance registration is required.

Registration Website:

<http://www.markartsk.com/youth-workshops/>

Phone: 316.634.2787, ext. 219

Email: lauren@MarkArtsKS.com

Address: 9112 E. Central Ave. Wichita, KS 67206

KIDS' DAY OUT WORKSHOPS | \$30

Dec. 22 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Star Wars inspired Paintings
Dec. 23 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Holiday Themed Gift-making

YOUTH MAKE YOUR MARK WORKSHOPS | \$30

These workshops may be done as a side-by-side activity with friends and family, or children may participate by themselves.

Dec. 1 | 7 – 9 p.m. | Clay "Gingerbread" Houses
Dec. 15 | 7 – 9 p.m. | Snowmen Sculptures
Dec. 17 | 3 – 5 p.m. | Van Gogh inspired Snowmen

YOUTH STEAM CAMPS

Mark Arts STEAM Camps are all about creativity and innovation, linking art to concepts in science, technology, engineering and math. During each session, students will explore mixed media, drawing, painting, clay and experiments. Early drop-off and late pick-up options are

available when scheduled in advance. Camps are limited to the first 36 enrolled per age range.

Heroes STEAM Camp | Ages 6 – 9 | Dec. 28 – 30, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

\$95 / Members \$85. Super, science, and folk heroes will inspire campers on an adventurous exploration of Pop art, gravity, super-senses, crystallization, geology, and more as we make connections between fictional worlds and our own.

STEAM and the Stars Camp | Ages 9 – 12 | Dec. 28 – 30, 1 – 5 p.m.

\$95 / Members \$85. This week draws inspiration from Star Wars and other fictional stories of space as students learn about constellations through the seasons, map artistic and mathematical galaxies, and explore the relationships among our Earth, sun, and moon, all while applying these concepts to the elements of art.

**GUITAR LESSONS**

Guitar Lessons offered by an experienced Christian teacher, performer, and previous co-owner of C Major Guitars. I provide weekly customized private guitar lessons with optional vocal/guitar performance training in a centrally-located friendly home setting. For information call or text Kathy Roush at 316-258-0952. Holiday Gift Certificates also available.



KANSAS HUMANE SOCIETY

Join us at the Kansas Humane Society. We have lots of fun things coming up in December:

- ✓ Tot Tuesday-December 6
- ✓ Furry Film Friday-December 9
- ✓ Read to Rover-December 17
- ✓ Single Day Critter Camp- December 16
- ✓ Week Long Critter Camp- December 19-23
- ✓ Week Long Critter Camp – December 26-30
- ✓ Schedule to bring your group in for a tour/animal lesson, and an animal meet & great! Learn about all the amazing things happening at KHS.

If you are interested in any of our events, please contact the Youth Education office at 316-220-8709. Visit our Webpage at <http://www.kshumane.org/for-kids.html> for all of our Youth Education events!

POLITICAL SCIENCE CLUBS

Clubs provide many opportunities--part of the right of Freedom of Association-- to share common interests-- learning experiences, discussion, hobbies. I have devised a number of home-school friendly political science clubs addressing citizenship or conservative values that can be done weekly from HOME with a post or comment to a learning platform (like Blackboard that colleges use). We will plan to meet face-to-face MONTHLY. Parents are encouraged to participate with their student at home. Memberships are short term and cost only \$10/semester. Because we ONLY Meet MONTHLY, all clubs require 30 minutes of self-learning/week. Then students make comments or share what they find noteworthy on macarthurhighschool.moodlecloud.com

9 Clubs are open to TPA students. They are organizing for Jan 2017. **Dec 1 is the sign-up deadline.** Currently we have our meetings at NW Christian Church on Wed. at lunchtime. You may sign up for more than 1; please list 2 or 3 preferences.

- 1--Prager Club (ongoing) We may have three clubs-- Prager I: Political Science/Foreign Affairs; Prager II: Economics; Prager III: Life's Lessons (all other topics)
- 2--**Founders Club** Learning about the Founders
- 3--**Current Events Club** (discovering "Conservative" sources--the other side of the story)
- 4--**The Issues Club** (using some radio serials & other materials on immigration, gun control, healthcare,

religious freedom, and others sources--gives the history of how we got to the present on various issues)

5--**American Citizenship Club** using *Cybercivic* from the KS Sec. of State's Office, speakers, etc.

6--**Supreme Court Club**--Using Hillsdale's Supreme Court lecture series (recommended Jr & Sr only)

7--**LEFTISM**--The Hijacking of Am. Culture--(explains the culture, and ideas that have changed Am. Culture) Requires a book purchase.

8--**What is a "Conservative"?** Club Requires a book purchase: *America the Strong* by William J. Bennett.

9--**Ratification Club** (studying a few of the FEDERALIST and Anti-Federalist essays--recommended for Jr. & Sr. only) Will require the purchase of 2-3 book sources of the next year.

Clubs require 2-3 members at a minimum.

Other services:

1)**2-Semester High School Gov't class based on founding documents, & founding principles**

2)**Readers Circles**--Book Studies in the tradition Ben Franklin's Junta--reading groups who mostly read & discuss. These learning groups meet weekly and cost \$35/semester--no tests, no big assignments, but does require 30 min. reading at home **each week**. Meeting times depend on who is interested.

For Jan 2017

1--Uncle Eric's "**WWII & How it Affects You Today**"---

combining History, Government, and Economics

2--Uncle Eric's "**Whatever Happened to Justice**"

3--**The American Cause** by Russell Kirk

4--**The Problem with Socialism** by Thomas DiLorenzo

5--**Godonomics** by Chad Hovind

Contact: melaniepetersen7056@gmail.com