

FOCUS AREA: HEALTH

# PEDIATRIC OUTPATIENT THERAPEUTIC PROGRAM



## LEG UP FARM

Jackson is an eight year old boy who has been coming to Leg Up Farm for occupational therapy for one year. Upon first receiving Leg Up Farm services, Jackson's mother shared how he and his twin brother developed normally and were best friends throughout their Pre-K years.

Then, the summer before they entered Kindergarten, Jackson fell ill and began to have seizures. The seizures wiped out all learning, movement, and language that he had acquired. He stayed at the hospital until somewhat stable, but the medical team left mom with the impression that he would never function above that of a 6-9 month old for cognition and 18-24 month old for mobility.

His Leg Up Farm therapist shared with the mom that we wanted to try anyways, that we couldn't promise anything, but that we at Leg Up Farm do therapy differently. Through his sessions, Jackson began to learn dressing skills. He began to learn to play ball with his twin brother again.

Unfortunately, recently Jackson came to his session highly medicated due to having an increase in seizure activity. This had caused him to be out of school for a month. The therapist chose to center the session around use of an adaptive bike. Mom said that they had a trike at home, but that Jackson was unable to use it independently. Almost immediately after getting on the adaptive bike, alertness came back to Jackson's eyes. The faster he was assisted with pedaling the bike, the more he looked around and smiled. These were the first smiles seen by mom in weeks. Additional strategies were then utilized in the session (balance ball, quickshift, therapeutic listening, and adaptive dressing). At the end of the session, the therapist looked at Jackson and said, "Good job! Give me a high five." Jackson reached up and hit the therapist's open hand. At this point, Jackson's mom had tears in her eyes and said she never saw him do that before upon request.

That is the beauty of what we can offer at Leg Up Farm. We create these moments, even the little ones, that mean so much to those with whom we work.

Thank you for your support!

# LIVE UNITED

