

President's Perspective

Elim Christian Services, and those who support it, are engaged in a faith-filled relationship with eternal consequences. Christian ministry, as Jesus initiated it with his disciples in Matthew 10, is completely dependent on Christians living out the abundant grace given to them. When expressions of that grace are injected into life-chang-



Bill Lodewyk talks to Marcus (left) and Ira (in wheelchair) as they enjoy a campfire and some s'mores out by Elim's Covered Bridge. Bob, behind the group, looks on as he makes his way back to the Greenhouse, where he works most of the time

ing ministries like Elim, the results are eternal. Heaven rejoices when children and adults at Elim come to a deep awareness of Jesus love.

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. Matthew 19:14

As a supporter of Elim, your role in removing things that hinder children from coming to Jesus, is a response to God's grace that should bring you great joy.

I believe it was St. Francis of Assissi who once said, "Preach the love of Jesus unceasingly, and if necessary use words." Elim Christian Services, committed to "enabling individuals with special needs to achieve to their highest God-given potential", is a ministry where the love of Jesus is preached unceasingly, often without words. The stories of Patrick, Marissa, John, Charles, Dan and Dorothy which fill this *Elim Events* publication, are a testimony of how unceasing expressions of God's love do trigger celebrations in heaven.

In II Corinthians 8-9, Paul clearly articulates his belief that opportunities to give become occasions to experience grace. It is my prayer that as you read about events at Elim, you will experience God's grace in a way that encourages you and empowers you to actively engage the opportunities and challenges involved in contributing to God's kingdom. Thank you for your role in being a conduit of God's grace to the children and adults at Elim, in a way that has eternal consequences.

Bill Lodewyk
President & Executive Director

ELIM EVENTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2002-2003

"Elim is the Greatest Thing in the World"

Charles Sullivan has a severe learning disability. When he was very young, his mother, Ann, placed him in an early childhood program at their school. But there were problems. The major roadblock was that Charles' main disability was learning, not behavior. Unfortunately, Ann says "They stuck him in a room full of kids with behavior problems. They just threw him in the trash can of public school special education."

It got so bad that Charles not did not want to go to school. He became so depressed he just stopped talking, even to his mom. "Kids on the playground would gang up on him and he would be the one to get in trouble because he couldn't explain himself." Ann eventually took him out of school and homeschooled Charles, taking a night shift job so she could be with him during the day.

Fortunately, an 'angel in high-heeled shoes,' as Ann describes her, came on staff at the school. She helped Ann get funding and a new placement, this time at Elim.

Within two years, Charles had made significant improvements. "If it weren't for Elim — and this gives me shivers — it would not have turned out this well," Ann declares. "He could've been so lost and so angry and so depressed. Charles rose to this level because of Elim."

Academically, Charles has made

huge steps forward, thanks in large part to *Fast FortWord*, a program begun by Elim's Discovery Network program. His mother is impressed because he used to refuse to read, but now, "I find him up in his room with books all the time." Charles has even begun learning long division.

More importantly, "Charles feels that he is loved by God. He feels that he should be good because it is important to be good. You know, he has always been like that, but I think that Elim's ministry has been able to bring that out so that he has a better understanding of his place with God."

The little boy who once was too small to defend himself and

West Virginia with several classmates, some Elim staff and volunteers, and his teacher, Miss Vredeveld. She said, "Charles did fantastic. He got outside his comfort zone a bit, and he really worked hard." This from the teacher that Ann Sullivan says is "the greatest thing since sliced bread."

Ann notes that "Every time he comes back from those projects he's more and more verbal. He comes back so talkative." A side benefit is that Ann can watch Charles via Elim's web site, and find out that he really can do all that yard work she wants him to do.

"Our lives would not be this good without Elim and we're very much aware of it," reflects Ann. "There's nothing I can say about Elim that isn't positive. Charles may not like going to school, but he absolutely loves Elim."



Just like other kids, Charles may not love going to school but he absolutely loves Elim.

often wound up getting into trouble, is now physically, a grown-up, and has developed into a gentle individual who has even stretched into working on Elim's annual service projects.

In late July, Charles travelled to Gap Mills,

The poem, titled 'Broken Wings', advocated a life lived for God no matter what your disability.

In July, Dan's star rose again in Ireland, where he and thousands of other athletes with disabilities competed in the Special Olympics World Games in Dublin.

Dan was on the Volleyball team, representing the Midwest region of Illinois, and his mother (Jean) made sure she went with him. "It was fantastic," she noted. "The people were terrific. Just watching the kids compete and to see them pull together as a team and go for it was really, really neat."

After a rough start, Dan's team was re-divisioned and he was made captain of the team. Perhaps it was Dan's leadership, but certainly the team working together is what won them a gold medal in their division. But that's not all that impressed Dan

about his experience.

"All the other players on my team were older, except for two guys. But it was great being in Ireland. The hotel we stayed at just opened like two weeks before we got there. I got to see Arnold Schwarzenegger and Pierce Brosnan at the opening ceremonies. It was a huge place. It was built just for the opening and closing ceremonies." Ireland made a big impression on him, too. "Those are wonderful people out there."

Dan's favorite team to play against was Finland. They were extremely good. But even with tough competition, Dan and his team still came home with gold. What does Dan have to say about that? "Words cannot explain how we felt. It was overwhelming."

I got to see Arnold Schwarzenegger and Pierce Brosnan at the opening ceremonies.



Elim Athlete Shines in Ireland

Dan De Leeuw has once again reminded us of what Elim students can accomplish, despite their 'broken wings.'

Last December, Elim's friends and donors received our annual Christmas letter, that included a poem written by Dan.



Elim Events is published by:
Elim Christian Services, 13020 S. Central Ave., Palos Heights, IL 60463
708-389-0555, fax 708-389-0671, www.elimcs.org, info@elimcs.org
Elim Christian Services is a non-profit meeting IRS 501(c) standards.

Elim Christian Services is a recommended cause of the Christian Reformed Church of North America.

Elim Christian School is a member of Christian Schools International.



Elim Achieves Annual Goals

Elim met the special needs of over 200 students with disabilities through Elim Christian School’s educational and extra-curricular programs during the 2002-2003 academic year.

Over 180 adults with disabilities found vocational opportunities at Elim’s Oasis Enterprises and Adult Services that challenged them to continually strive to their highest potential.

With special gifts from the Elim Women’s Service League, the Children’s Residential program purchased a few items for the recreational area in the Flatley Center and outdoors as well. Each of these items provides positive recreational opportunities for use by the kids, especially during our long August break (between summer and fall school sessions). Nearly 40 students with disabilities were cared for in our on-campus residence hall (Kamp Cottage) and were challenged with a unique extension of their school curriculum that reinforced their classroom learning.

Over 400 students in local Christian schools (in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, California, Michigan, New Mexico and the Cayman Islands) benefitted from the programs of Discovery Network Services, including innovative processing programs like P.A.C.E. (Processing and Cognitive Enhancement) *Fast ForWord*, and *Read Naturally* (see back page).

The Elim Greenhouse opened in September of 2002, and has quickly become an important and valuable asset to Elim’s programs.

Envisioning the Ministry in the Coming Year

With the leadership of the Board of Trustees and the dedicated work of Elim’s staff, we look forward to many and diverse opportunities for the future. Here are some items gleaned from the work of our strategic planning committee:

Elim Christian School is already developing its own unique curriculum designed to meet the very specific needs of our special population while also striving to continually reach and surpass state Board of Education standards. The school has also incorporated a “mentor teacher” program that helps ease new Elim teachers into their positions and acclimates them to their work.

Elim’s Discovery programs seek to broaden their commitment to children in Christian schools by bringing their services to other parts of the country. Discovery has already made inroads to new programs, and fosters relationships with schools and school organizations on a national scale to further serve the Christian school population.

The greatest potential for Elim’s services to adults lies in the Oasis Enterprises aspect of its services. This entrepreneurial effort has targeted several new opportunities to enhance funding resources and programs at the same time, including opportunities to hire persons with less severe disabilities to meet additional staffing needs.

Elim’s Children’s Residential program seeks to provide increased therapeutic programming for the residents, and to fill all available residential openings.

Operating Fund Details 2002-2003

Operating Fund Balance as of July 1, 2002.....	\$8,675,774
Revenues	
Public Fees	9,804,221
Private Fees.....	565,340
Partnership.....	400,281
Sales.....	247,388
Gifts	1,455,688
Other Support.....	53,495
Elim Foundation	339,900
Total Revenue	\$12,866,313
Expenditures	
Wages & Employees.....	10, 234,259
Occupancy	885,510
Consumables	395,850
Transportation.....	234,164
Other.....	870,222
Total Expenditures.....	12,620,005
Transfer of Greenhouse from Building Fund	592,807
Operating Fund Balance as of June 30, 2003	9,514,889

Foundation Performance 2002-2003

Foundation Balance as of July 1, 2002	\$6,962,185
Gift Revenues	
Trusts & Estates.....	489,418
Endowments.....	126,325
Other Gift Revenue	291,293
Total Gift Revenue.....	\$907,026
Investment Revenue	
Interests & Dividends.....	140,512
Unrealized Gain on Sale of Securities.....	146,356
Total Gift Revenue.....	\$286,868
Total Revenues	\$1,193,894
Expenditures	
Endowment Distributions	28,022
Investment Fees.....	20,320
Promotion	16,957
Other.....	53
Realized Losses on Securities	394,929
Distribution to Elim Christian Services Operating Fund.....	399,900
Total Expenditures.....	\$800,181
Operating Fund Balance as of June 30, 2003	\$7,355,898

Operating Fund Projections 2003-2004

Operating Fund Balance as of July 1, 2003.....	\$9,514,889
Revenues	
Public Fees	9,698,700
Private Fees.....	436,900
Partnership.....	462,000
Sales	341,000
Gifts	1,500,000
Other Support.....	65,500
Elim Foundation	339,900
Total Revenue	\$12,844,000
Expenditures	
Wages & Employees.....	10,374,400
Occupancy	749,400
Consumables	423,700
Transportation.....	256,000
Other.....	1,040,500
Total Expenditures.....	\$12,844,000
Operating Fund Balance as of June 30, 2004	\$9,514,889

Honor & Memorial Gifts

The following people have made contributions to Elim in the form of memorial, birthday, and anniversary gifts to and for friends and relatives between April 1 and June 30, 2003.

Donald Arvia

Ms. Irene Kazwara

Richard Biesboer

American Top Soil, Ltd.

Clarence and Stella Bishop

Dr. and Mrs. Allan R. Bishop

In Special Recognition of Robert Boehm

Mr. and Mrs. Gary H. Campbell

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Mr. and Mrs. Craig D. Friesema
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry L. Oele
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Peulcr
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Raterink
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Slenk
Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Witsmeer

In Special Recognition of Cornelia Bronsema

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Mr. James Bishop
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bishop
Mr. and Mrs. John Miersma

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Mrs. Violet M. De Vries
Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Loerop

Henry Cook

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver H. Dorn

In Special Recognition of Dean Vallas, Country House Restaurant, Inc.

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Mr. and Mrs. James E. O'Donnell
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley J. Pajkos
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Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Wiersma

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Mr. and Mrs. Frank Groenewold
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Groenewold
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Mrs. Evalyn O'Brien

Ben Hofman

Kerkstra Precast, Inc.

Irene Hommes

Mrs. Minnie Schaafsma

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Mr. and Mrs. John K. Wigboldy, Jr.

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Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Slinkman

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Mr. and Mrs. Ronald L. Karns
Ms. Mildred M. Klebs
Mr. and Mr. Mark E. Moshier
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Muehleck
Mr. and Mrs. Kris Olson
Ms. Shirley Van Baren
Mr. and Mrs. James H. Veld

Sandy Lautenbach

Ms. Beth De Leeuw
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Knott

40th Wedding Anniversary of Lewis & Alice Mann

Mrs. Barbara J. Van Schouwen

Michael Flatley

Mrs. Sonja Marino

Baby J. Peter Modderman

Mrs. Wilma Modderman

Ruth Oostema

Mrs. Violet G. Oostema

Robert Peters

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth A. Stortz

Louis R. Regnerus, Sr.

Mrs. Eleanor Regnerus
Misses Agnes and Mathilda Ten Hor

50th Anniversary of Theodore & Charlene Ruiter

Timber Rock Trucking

John Schaap

Mrs. Eleanor Regnerus

Marian Slater

Mrs. Marguerite Kleder

Joost Sluis

Mrs. Jeanette Sluis

The Birthday of Steven Sullivan

Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Daniels

Julia Thieme

Mr. and Mrs. Keith E. Bruxvoort

The Birthday of Adam Thrall

Mr. Richard L. Weinberger

Edwin Tomeyer

Miss Agnes and Mathilda Ten Hor

Harry A. Tuinstra

Mr. and Mrs. La Verne Churchill

Alice Turngren

Mr. and Mrs. Randall Swart
Mr. and Mrs. Roger A. Swart
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne A. Swart, Sr.

Ronald Van Tholen

Mrs. Violet G. Oostema

Martina Vander Kooy

Mr. and Mrs. Ervin W. Bakker
Mr. and Mrs. Ross Bergen
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Boubourekas
Mr. and Mrs. John O. Brooke
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Jaskula
Mr. and Mrs. James Kane
Mr. Robert Kaszula
Mr. and Mrs. James L. Policchio
Ms. Colleen Quinn
Mr. and Mrs. Ethan Ridgley
Mr. Neil J. Tanis
Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Vander Kooy
Ms. Eleanor Vander Kooy
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley J. Wohadlo

50th Wedding Anniversary of Nick & Alice Vander Veen

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Warren Watson

Mrs. Dorothy Watson

Rosemary Weber

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas C. Burriesci
Dr. and Mrs. John Durburg
Ms. Suzanne S. Elben
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Mr. John F. O'Brill
Ms. Judith A. Rasmussen
Dr. and Mrs. Jay M. Riden
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Weber

Harold Werner

Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Tiggelaar

The Birthday of Thomas Wieringa

Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Daniels

Elizabeth “Liz” Wolff

Mr. and Mrs. Tim Elzinga

Gertrude Youngsma

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Baar
Mr. and Mrs. John E. De Young
Mrs. Leona R. Euwema
Mr. and Mrs. James F. Groer
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Kaszuba
Mr. and Mrs. Otto Krause
Mr. and Mrs. George M. Kveck
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mastruzzo
Mrs. Alice Munk
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Stamm
Mrs. Evelyn H. Stob
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Tameling
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Vander Leest
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Wierda
Mrs. Gay L. Youngsma
Mr. Theodore Youngsma





Elim Featured in new "Banner"

Pick up the August issue of the official monthly magazine of the Christian Reformed Church denomination to read an excellent article on Elim's programs and ministry



Elim is Grateful for Gunn

Dorothy Gunn is one of nine siblings. She is married and has two children and a beautiful grand-baby. Her journey at Elim started one Sunday at church when her pastor asked anyone who needed a job to stand up so he could pray for them. He prayed, and the next day Dorothy's sister-in-law called and asked if she would be interested in working for six weeks at Elim while someone was out sick.

She agreed to fill in, not knowing what the job was about. She started out working as an aide. The person she was working under noticed that she was a good worker and asked if she would be interested in working at Elim permanently as a Production Trainer. She agreed.

That was 16 years ago. She held that position for 13 years and then moved on to operating Oasis Cartridges for a year teaching eight people how to dismantle and repair toner cartridges for printers. From there, she moved to Oasis Enterprises to be the training coordinator on the work floor. Patrick O'Connor (Director of Oasis Enterprises) says she is the leadership and motivation for the team leads and team assistants.

Dorothy says, "I take no credit for my success. If it were

not for Christ, I would for sure be a failure. He is my source in every area of my life. My first position here was ordained by God and He instills every gift inside of me with His fine skills in pottery. I am being shaped into a vessel used by Him and because of His love, I use it daily with the clients, staff and everyone I come in contact with. The clients here have helped me to grow by leaps and bounds. They remind me of a book that you think you may know what it is about, but when you open it and read it, there are all kinds of hidden treasures, and you can't put it down because it keeps getting better and better. So I haven't stopped working here yet because I haven't gotten to the end, but my life is complete because I am doing what the Master needs me to do – to work here at Elim, and my heart is here, and where your heart is so are your treasures."

How Can You Help?

You can encourage Dorothy and her Oasis co-workers by taking very simple steps. First, think of two or three people who could use high-quality packaging and assembly services. Second, call those friends. Third, call Oasis Enterprises at 708-389-0654 and speak with Patrick O'Connor about these opportunities.

O'Harts Have Lots o' Heart for Elim

Patrick O'Hart is in his seventh year at Elim. His disability is an unknown syndrome manifested in low muscle tone. He is 13 years old with the cognitive functioning level of a 9-month-old.

God, though, does not limit people to what they can not do. "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

At Elim, Patrick's dad has noticed that "he does so well in the swimming pool. He can't walk or anything, but get him in the water and he just loves to float on his back. He loves the feeling of free-floating. Patrick should be an all-star backfloater."

"We were impressed, when we first took our tour, about how friendly everyone was," he contin-

ued. "Patrick just fits right in. He is a happy boy despite all his problems."

"It's been great working with Elim."



Volunteer Spotlight

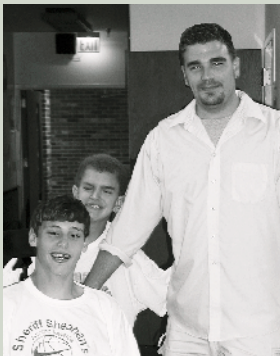
Jason Uelman, a Psychology major at Trinity Christian College, worked as an intern in Elim's Kamp Cottage during this past year.

During that time, Jason got to know and care about the male residents he worked with. "I just really enjoyed it for myself, but when school ended I didn't want to lose contact with the kids."

Jason had to consider just how involved he could be, considering his full-time job as a Verizon Wireless sales rep and a weekend job doing maintenance for his church.

To accommodate his schedule, Jason made arrangements to volunteer every Monday night to help out with the boys' pods in the residence. "Whatever they're doing, I try to help out or just to be there for the kids."

We're grateful to have Jason and many others help through volunteering.

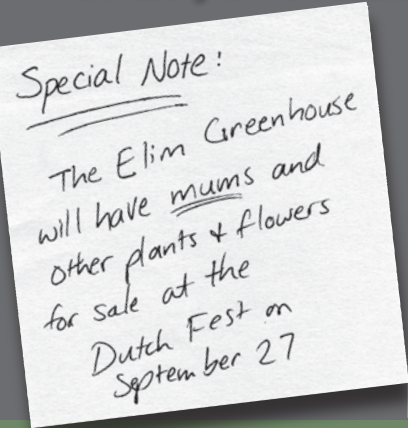


Elim's Going Dutch

The Elim Women's Service League invites you to experience the Netherlands right here on Elim's campus. In its eighth year, the Dutch Festival has proven to be a popular event for supporters and the community. You can join over 4,000 other visitors to Elim's campus on Saturday, September 27 from 8 am to 4 pm. Our Dutch Village Shoppes open at 8, and the parade kicks off at 9. Kids can enjoy a carnival with lots of games, a petting zoo, and lots of food that Mom & Dad are sure to love too. There's plenty to see and do for the whole family at the Elim Dutch Festival.

Elim Dutch Festival

Saturday, September 27, 2003 , 8 am - 4 pm
www.elimcs.org for more details



Life-Changing Gift Opportunities

YES!

I want to change my life and the lives of the special people Elim serves.

- ☐ Here is my life-changing gift in the amount of \$_____ to use as the Lord directs you.
- ☐ Here is my life-changing gift in the amount of \$_____ to support the education of children like Patrick, Marissa, Dan and Charles at Elim Christian School.
- ☐ Here is my life-changing gift in the amount of \$_____ to ensure opportunities to work for people like John, and to support the work of Oasis Enterprises and its faithful employees like Dorothy.
- ☐ Here is my life-changing gift in the amount of \$_____ in memory or in honor of a loved one (Please specify name and form of honor or memorial in comments area below).

Comments: _____

Take a tour of Elim, or invite us into your church or school

Call 708-389-0555 and speak with the Advancement Department to make special arrangements for an Elim ambassador to visit your church or group, or to arrange a tour of Elim complete with a fine lunch

“Read Naturally” Program Prompts Academic Achievement



You are sitting in your classroom and the teacher stands up front, directing students to take turns reading the current chapter aloud. Your best friend can’t wait for her turn — she loves to read aloud, but you do not. And when it is your turn, you hear the subtle sighs of a couple classmates who know how long it’s going to take you to read those few sentences.

It is a difficult and painful situation, encountered by far too many students. Reading aloud can be an awful experience, particularly when you have difficulty with reading or with processing what you’ve just read. Elim’s Discovery program is addressing these situations through

a new program called *Read Naturally*. Roseland Christian School teacher Cheryl Flory is amazed by the program’s success.

“I saw measurable results, because we have a ‘running record’ built right into this. The program shows just how every student is progressing,” says Flory. “Every child we had went up grade levels and reading levels. I saw children were reading with more confidence.”

Read Naturally is designed as a program to build fluency in reading, but it can do a lot more than that. Through the process of associating words with images, predicting patterns for books they read, and several read-throughs, the students

develop fluency in reading and processing.

“Each time a student goes through the process, it involves hearing it, reading it, saying it, visual tracking...and it works subtly on processing skills as well,” Flory notes. “It helps re-train the brain. Then, over time, the ‘cold’ read begins to improve on each book. They move up in levels and we can see what areas they have difficulty with, whether its vocabulary or comprehension or other aspects.”

Students have responded very well to the program at Roseland and other Discovery program schools, for obvious reasons. “They were very competitive,” explains Flory. “And they really worked hard to improve because they could see the progress. It was quite an incentive.”

Flory got her mother excited about the program too, and now has her volunteering in the classroom, leading many of the students through the program while Flory works with other students. “It is great to see the kids so excited about their progress.”

How Can You Help?

Elim’s Discovery programs (in your local Christian school) could use volunteers to help out with the Read Naturally program. If you have a couple hours a week that you could give, please contact the Discovery teacher at your school or call Elim at 708-389-0555



Marisa Finds a Place

Marisa Bullard came to Elim just two years ago, but her father already says it’s been a “very wonderful wonderful experience.”

Like many other Elim students, Marisa started out in an inclusive education program at a nearby public school. For many kids, inclusion is a necessary and beneficial educational program, even for many students with disabilities. But for students like Marisa, a more specialized setting is required.

Her father, Randy, acknowledges that in her previous school, where she was in an inclusive program, “The teachers were good, and she made a lot of good friends but it did not offer what Elim does.”

When Marissa came to Elim, she met a lot of wonderful staff and students and she’s been involved both inside and outside of school. Her dad says, “She loves swimming and was on the basketball team — these opportunities were not available before.”

He continues, “She’s been more outgoing. She’s developed friendships, she’s more vocal and she’s happy. She wants to get up every morning and go be with her friends.”

Elim provides a challenging environment for Marisa, one that provides vital opportunities. “It’s just been a great experience for us.”

Service with a Smile

It’s not hard to get John Wren to smile. Small talk, a question about the work he’s doing, or just a camera pointed at him will do the trick.

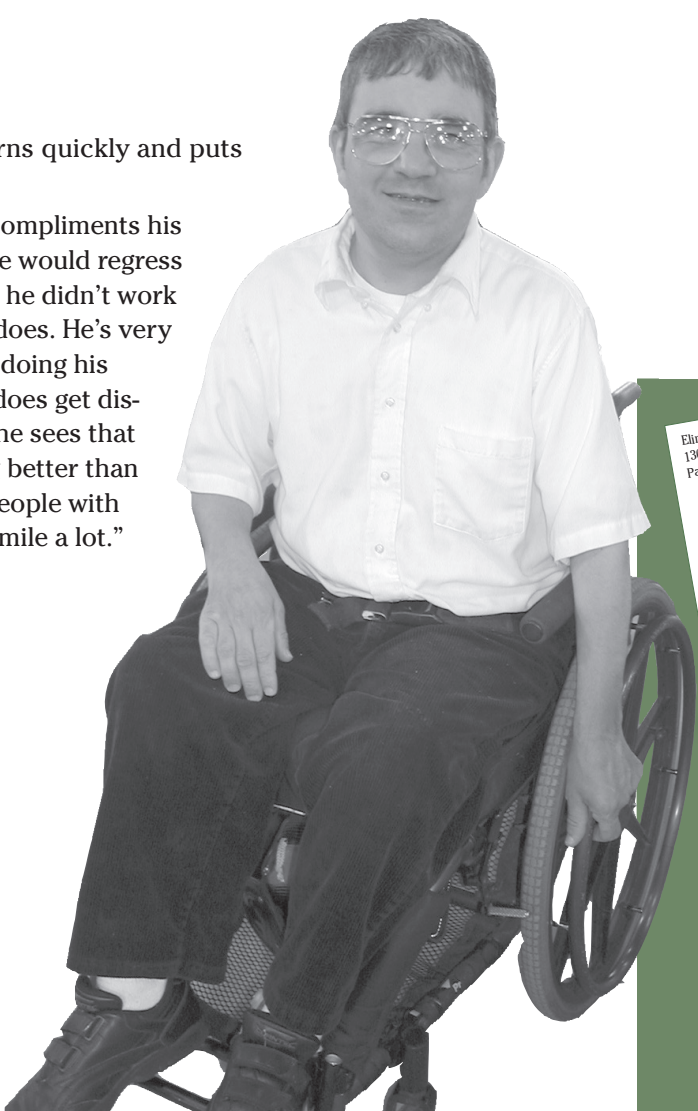
His attitude is just as positive when it comes to his work. Mike Mars, his case manager at Oasis Enterprises (a division of Elim that serves adults with disabilities), says he maintains a very positive attitude, despite struggling with cerebral palsy.

“John’s physical condition is deteriorating,” says Mars. “But he still goes to train at McDonald’s a couple days a week. He is out in the community and he has a uniform to wear, so it’s good for his self-esteem.”

When not at McDonald’s, John is very efficient on the Oasis Enterprises workfloor. He runs the damper machine at 75-80% efficiency (or 80% of the industrial

norm). He learns quickly and puts his all into it.

Mars also compliments his dedication. “He would regress a lot quicker if he didn’t work as hard as he does. He’s very diligent about doing his exercises. He does get discouraged but he sees that he’s still doing better than lots of other people with CP...he’ll still smile a lot.”



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