



AVA SPLASHES HER WAY TO SUCCESS!

If you're looking for 5-year-old Ava this summer, start your search at a pool. "Ava loves to swim! She gets so excited when she sees the swimming pool. The water allows her to move independently and she is so happy."

At Elim, Ava takes advantage of speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. She delights in swinging on a modified playground swing. She enjoys technology and answering questions on the classroom Tap-It Board. But, her greatest joy is always found in Elim's pool.

Kelly Potrawski, Ava's teacher, says her enthusiasm for swimming is contagious. "Ava loves to swim and she is always happiest in the pool. You can tell that she feels so free. She is excited to kick around and feel the water surround her."

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This young lady never stops surprising her parents, or the staff at Elim.

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AVA FINDS HER VOICE

When Ava first came to Elim, she was scared and uncomfortable if she was away from her dad, her mom, or her grandma. But she quickly grew comfortable at Elim and now looks forward to school days. She enjoys her classmates and benefits from the many lessons Elim has to offer.

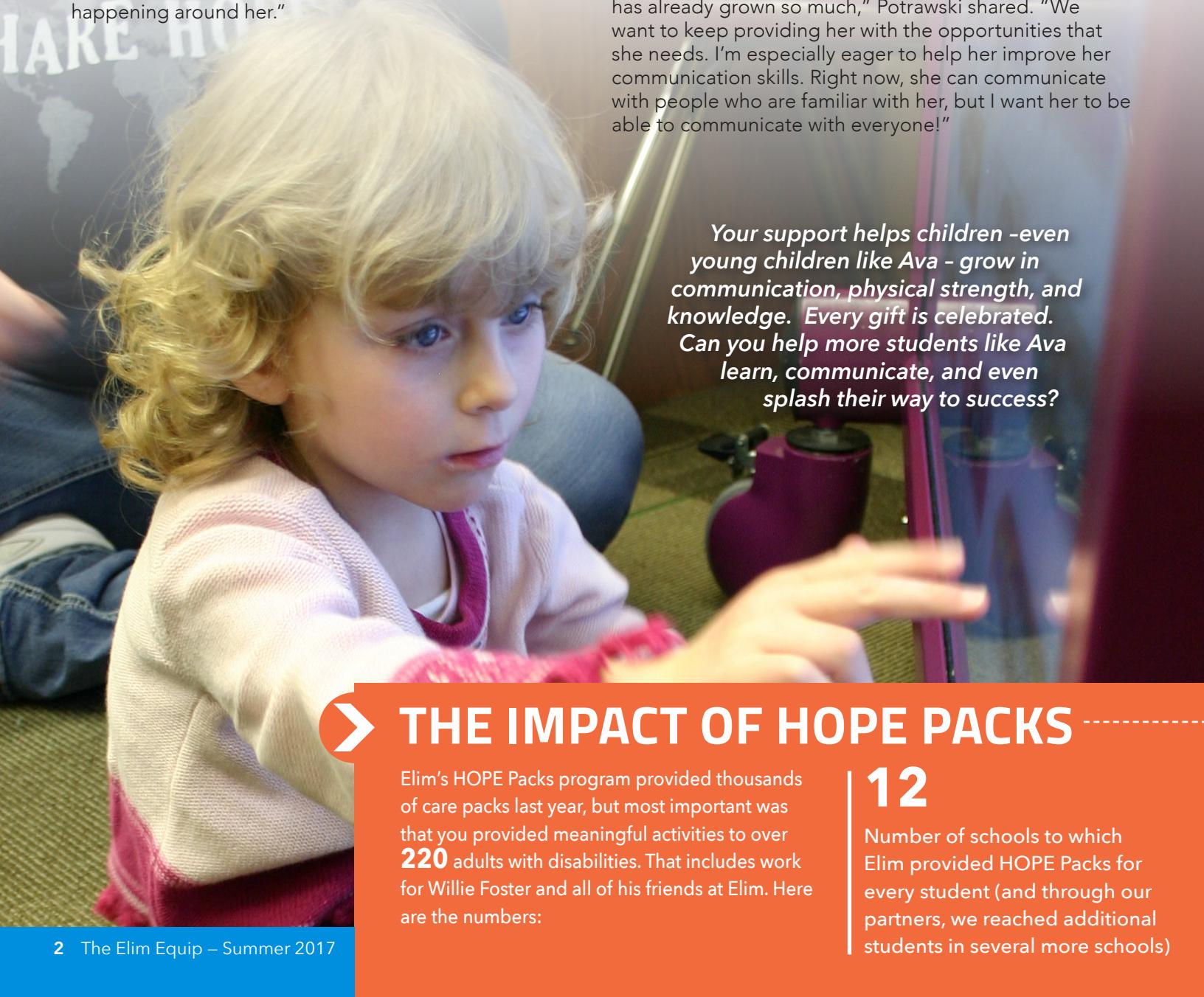
Potrawski has been especially impressed by how much Ava's communication skills have grown. "Ava's been in my room for two years, and when she came to Elim, she didn't have a true communication system. Now, she uses picture symbols. She not only can communicate her wants and needs, she can also share her emotions and comment on the things happening around her."

In her preschool class, Ava spends her days matching symbols, learning colors, patterning, learning to count, and more. She's growing and progressing academically. Just as importantly, she loves being around her classmates and her happiness is evident to all.

DREAMING BIG!

Ava's family can't wait to see what the future holds for her. Right now, Ava is able to sit unsupported or even stand with support for short periods of time. Her family has a dream that she'll learn to walk in the coming years. "Ava never stops surprising us. We know that dream is a stretch, but we remain optimistic!"

Ava's teachers echo their faith in Ava's abilities. "Ava has already grown so much," Potrawski shared. "We want to keep providing her with the opportunities that she needs. I'm especially eager to help her improve her communication skills. Right now, she can communicate with people who are familiar with her, but I want her to be able to communicate with everyone!"



Your support helps children -even young children like Ava - grow in communication, physical strength, and knowledge. Every gift is celebrated. Can you help more students like Ava learn, communicate, and even splash their way to success?

THE IMPACT OF HOPE PACKS

Elim's HOPE Packs program provided thousands of care packs last year, but most important was that you provided meaningful activities to over **220** adults with disabilities. That includes work for Willie Foster and all of his friends at Elim. Here are the numbers:

12

Number of schools to which Elim provided HOPE Packs for every student (and through our partners, we reached additional students in several more schools)



Imagine doing the good works God prepared in advance for you to do...

WILLIE CHANGES THE WORLD

Why does Willie love Elim HOPE Packs?

"It's good to know we are helping the kids," Willie says, recalling the different times he's been able to actually hand out the HOPE Packs to Chicago-area students who need school supplies. "They all tell us thank you and how much they appreciate it."

Willie is one of our best workers! No matter what the task, Willie is one of the first to volunteer. He loves to talk, but when he gets to work, he is focused and conscientious to carry his share of the load...and often even helps others. He is always cheerful and the rest of the team enjoys being with him.

Through Elim HOPE Packs, Elim's adults package and distribute school supplies, food, and other necessities for kids in need.

Thank you for using your gifts to spread hope through Elim HOPE Packs, Willie!

42

Churches that ran a HOPE Packs drive last year - is your church on the list for this year?

5,190

Total number of Domestic HOPE Packs assembled and distributed by Elim, assembled by 220 adults with disabilities and impacting so many lives across the Chicago area.

Message from the president

THE GIFT OF HOPE

As I write this, Elim is in the midst of a healthy and productive review of its mission and vision. This discernment process is something Elim's board takes very seriously.

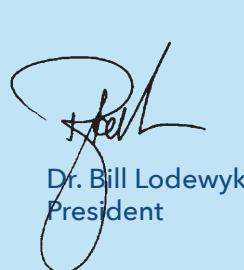
Elim's board endorses what has long been the core of Elim's mission which is to equip people with disabilities to pursue their God-given potential. Elim continues to faithfully live out that mission by providing an amazing array of services uniquely tailored to the needs and the unfolding of God-given potential in each of the students and adults at Elim.

The God-given potential and purpose of children and adults with disabilities is no different than it is for any of us.

WE ARE ALL CREATED WITH A FUNDAMENTAL NEED TO BE IN COMMUNITY AND WE ARE ALL CALLED TO THE TASK OF BUILDING COMMUNITY.

At Elim we understand that task to be partnering with schools, churches, businesses and families to promote communities of belonging. Elim's experience and expertise in equipping people with disabilities to pursue their God-given potential makes it a growing resource for community builders all around the world.

When you partner with Elim you are not only providing an amazing array of services uniquely tailored to the needs and God-given potential of students and adults like Ava and Willie at Elim; you are also equipping them to be in community, and to help build community. Thank you!



Dr. Bill Lodewyk
President



ELIM IMPACTS INDIA

This spring, Ashley, a recent addition to Elim's outreach team, shared Elim's expertise with special educators and ministry partners in India. As part of Elim Outreach, Ashley provided training and resources to 65 disability ministry leaders from 50 remote villages in northern India, impacting the lives of hundreds of children and adults with disabilities.

These educators were not only grateful for Ashley's wisdom and guidance, they were starving for it. They so greatly want to help children with disabilities in their own communities. Some even had their own children or family members who needed the training Elim provided. Many are so passionate about their calling to help individuals with disabilities that they walk one to three hours each day to get to work in order to serve.

Your partnership with Elim made this life-changing, world-impacting connection possible. Can you partner with Elim today?

USE THE ENCLOSED PERSONALIZED FORM TO SEND YOUR GIFT TODAY!

YOUR GIFTS EQUIP PEOPLE FOR GOD'S PURPOSES!

Choosing one of the following options will provide the opportunities and support that will equip children and adults at Elim to achieve their highest God-given potential. Please mark the amount you are enclosing:

- \$50
- \$100
- \$250
- \$_____ to support as many children and adults as possible.



ELIM CHRISTIAN SERVICES | 13020 S. Central Ave. | Palos Heights, IL 60463 | 708-293-6509 | www.elimcs.org



To give securely online, go to www.elimcs.org

► Elim Christian Services: Our Mission

At Elim, we know that each individual has been created in God's image and that He has a specific purpose and calling for each of us. With your help, we strive to equip individuals with disabilities to achieve their highest God-given potential by living their lives to glorify Him! Elim accomplishes this mission through the following program areas that serve people of all ages:

- Elim Christian School
- Domestic and International Outreach
- Elim Adult Services

- HOPE Packs



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