

CHILDREN TO BENEFIT FROM NEW FOUNDATION

The Op Foundation, a non-profit organization founded to benefit children with special needs by assisting their families, educators, and health care providers, will host a launch party on three dates in April to acquaint the public with the mission and workings of the foundation. The parties will be held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Paul Walker, on April 19, 25, and 26 at 8:00 p.m.

“The launch parties are being held so we can tell the story of the Op Foundation first hand. The primary goal of this event is not fundraising but rather an opportunity to share our vision,” said Joy Walker, who started the foundation with her husband Paul in late 2007. “Seeing the dramatic increase in children with developmental disabilities, we felt compelled to help equip our community. The number of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) alone has risen from 4 in 10,000 children a couple of decades ago to 1 in 150 according to the Centers for Disease Control”, added Dr. Walker.

“We hope to serve as an expeditor and a facilitator for anyone who lives or works with a child with special needs, whether they are a family member, a teacher, or a medical professional. We hope these parties will be a great kick-off for our Awareness 2008 campaign. The next goal will be to spread the word to various civic groups and churches throughout Northwest Georgia. “

The Op Foundation takes its name from many of the words it embodies. “When we had the idea of forming this organization some of the concepts we felt strongly about were: optimizing potential, opportunities, optimism, development and hope. Most of those words contain “op” and it seemed logical that the name Op Foundation could represent all of those ideals in one.” said Mrs. Walker.

The Walkers plan more events through The Op Foundation, including a 3 day conference by noted specialist, Dr. Vincent Carbone (a pioneer in the field of Verbal Behavior Analysis) on the campus of Berry College, October 22 – 24.

“For us to have a speaker of this caliber in Rome, Georgia is a major event.” said Dr. Walker. “We expect participants from all over the southeast. Registration will begin this month and has limited seating. Details are posted on our website (www.theopfoundation.com).”

To learn more about the work of The Op Foundation, including the upcoming launch parties, contact jessicabost@theopfoundation.com.

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