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OpenDoors of Asheville



JUNE 2012

### OpenDoors Calendar

**July** - Early Registration for Dig the Du is Open!

**August** - Happy Body Yoga Class for a Cause benefits OpenDoors

- Back to school team leader & volunteer training

**October 14** - Dig the Du @ Sky Valley Farm

### Our **Multi**-talented supporter



You may not even know that

### Notes from Jennifer Ramming OpenDoors Co-Founder and Director



**"When viewed comprehensively, the effects of learning failure take on a much greater significance...the ultimate contribution a child will make to society, or the burden they will place on it."**

-- Cinthia C. Haan

The Haan

Foundation for Children

In recent months we have renewed our focus on our OpenDoors kids who have learning differences, known as LD. Thirty percent of our 47 OpenDoors students are already identified as having LD and more will be evaluated.

The combination of having LD with the challenges of multigenerational poverty will almost always equal wasted potential if we do not actively attend to these children's needs as early in their lives as possible.

you are familiar with the work of Ryan Bednar, but if you have ever: been to the OpenDoors website, liked us on Facebook, previewed the Art Affair masterpieces online

**you are!**

Owner of Asheville's [Bednar Multimedia](#), Ryan has been assisting OpenDoors with all-things-tech since our very first benefit auction. Ryan has been by our side since Fall of 2009 and has made much of the success we have seen through the Art Affair possible - from posting black Box Photography Steve Mann's gorgeous art images to setting up online bidding, ticket purchasing and much more.

"I was fortunate to have many great role-models growing up, and I've been given many opportunities... I think it's easy to take these things for granted, but it's hard to imagine where I'd be without those major factors in my life. Working with OpenDoors is just one way that I'm able pay it forward."

-Ryan Bednar



Though not made evident by commonly used standardized test results, research quoted by the Haan Foundation shows that most children with learning disabilities have average or above average intelligence. Often, children with LD possess a creative genius and multi-dimensional thinking, vision and complex strategy that is rarely realized.

We at OpenDoors get to see it when children are given the opportunity to explore organized sports, museums, play board games and be creative outside with our volunteers and team leaders. I played Blokus with a student who could not read most 1st grade sight words and watched in amazement while he beat me time after time. Perhaps I shouldn't have been amazed. We also know students who have an uncanny memory for the many routes to school or home, or sense of direction and special brilliance on the sports field and chess board.

Most kids want to learn, but for kids with LD this is not possible without tailored instruction. They may never come close to meeting their potential. Add poverty and parents who feel a lack of success in their own educational history, and you have some seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Without identification and proper instruction, these learning difficulties quickly impede a child's self-esteem, ability to learn, socialization skills and can quickly lead to

depression.

We at OpenDoors can change all this by offering support, individualized techniques for instruction and enrichment as intervention. **We can change not only their lives but the lives of those around them, strengthening our whole community**



## Ryan & Tia Bednar at this year's Art Affair

BednarMultimedia is primarily focused on providing high-quality, affordable websites and other multimedia services for local small to medium sized businesses and organizations. Because all small businesses are ultimately unique, Ryan takes a personalized approach for all his clients, adapting services to fit their individual needs and available resources.

In today's digital age (and today's economy), having a professional like Ryan *donate* his time to a non-profit can really be the difference between making a difference.. or fading away.

**Thank you Ryan!**

We are DU'ing it again!



[Click here to Register](#)

## Community.

By supporting OpenDoors, with your time or your money, you help provide the testing, support and enrichment opportunities needed to give our kids the chance they deserve. We want OpenDoors children to be mentored, coached, counseled, challenged, educated, and held gently yet firmly accountable every step of the way as they fulfill their potential.

When children can access an education and are no longer threatened by poverty, they will feel confident that their day to day survival is not at stake, and they can start being learners and contributing members of our community, and most importantly experience the joy of being children.

May you each find love, hope, and determination this summer!

Jen

**Contribute**

(thank you!)

## Stay in Touch



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## OpenDoors Helps Make a House a Home





wnc's dirty duathlon  
run/bike/run  
sky valley farm  
events@idaph.net  
opendoorsasheville.org

**October 14, 2012**

**Dig the Du** is a 2.5 mile run/12 mile bike/2.5 mile run at Sky Valley Farm in Hendersonville that benefits OpenDoors of Asheville.

Meet our Board  
**Leslie Huntley**  
Education Committee Chair



Leslie has been involved with OpenDoors - as a mentor, fundraiser and now as our Education Committee Chairperson - for just over a year. In that role,



**Team Leader Jennifer Pickering with OpenDoors youth Regianna**

When Regianna's family started planning a move to a new house, her Mom Nita expressed an interest in making a CLEAN start. We all can appreciate how important systems and order are in our day to day lives, and for a single mother of 4 kids, it is *that* much more important.

As Regianna's OpenDoors team leader, Jennifer Pickering put out a call for help and OpenDoors was able to connect her with 'organizer extraordinaire' Amy Wortham. Amy is part of the amazing OpenDoors network of families and volunteers at Isaac Dickson Elementary.

Together, Amy and Nita were able to get rid of what the family didn't need any more

and build a new organizational system that would work best in their new home. The goal was to help make their new home more tidy, welcoming and comforting than they've ever had before.

After the move, Jennifer got Regianna's opinion of the new way of life and as is often the case, the youngest summed it up beautifully...***when i asked her how her home feels now, she replied, "It feels good- NO - it feels GREAT!!"***

**"A clean orderly home is such a gift. When our home is in disarray for whatever reasons- kids, funds, health, skill, etc- it affects every aspect of our life and our potential. Amy has helped to bring this gift to this family. She has seen a new way for them to live, and worked with them to help create a new sense of home. Creating**

Leslie does what she can to ensure our youth have access to the supplemental education or enrichment they need.

Leslie is an interior designer and owner of [Roost Interior Design](#) in Asheville.

Based on her own life experiences, Leslie believes it takes more than a traditional classroom education to give our children what they need to succeed.. and that is why she chooses to share her time and talents with OpenDoors.

*"In order to break the cycle of poverty, students need exposure to the full breadth of cultural and recreational experiences that other children have access to. There is so much more that feeds the students' imagination and soul beyond academic work. I love the fact that OpenDoors is committed to offering the full experience to its kids."*

*- Leslie Huntley*



**Create a new sense of home. Creating pathways for order and ways to sustain, and giving hope for a home that feels welcoming. Amy has been extraordinary in her understanding, care, perserverance, and generous spirit."**

**- Jennifer Pickering**

Jennifer and Amy are just two parts of Regianna's team and we love how involved - and at a grassroots level - they are with the family. After Regianna was assessed with a learning difference, OpenDoors scholarships helped her family access tutoring and [New City Christian School](#) does a phenominal job supporting her other educational needs during school hours.

From helping with household upkeep, to organizing Regianna's special educational needs, this 'community team' beautifully shows what OpenDoors is all about.

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