

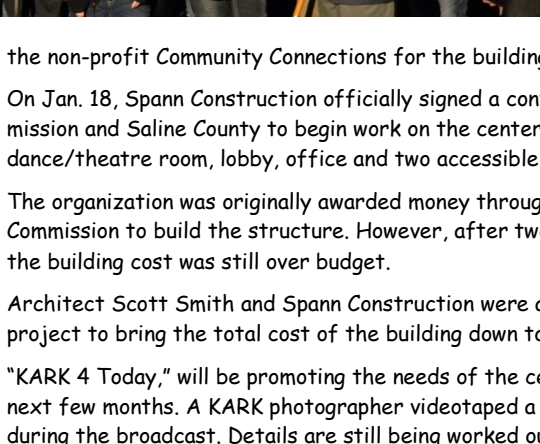
IMPORTANT: SPRING SEMESTER START DATES

Little Rock/East End: March 1 at 5:45 & 6:45
 North Little Rock: March 1 at 4:45
 Conway: March 2 at 5:00 & 5:45
 Hot Springs: March 12 at 4:30

(Hot Springs New Location: Dance Arts Studio 978 Airport Rd. Suite E Hot Springs, AR 71913)

I CAN! ARTS & RESOURCE CENTER ON ITS WAY

A ground-breaking ceremony for the "I CAN! Arts and Resource Center" took place on Jan. 25 with a live ceremony broadcast on KARK 4 Today.



Over 100 supporters of I CAN! joined the festivities that morning that began at 5am, with the official groundbreaking that took place live on air.

Los Toritos Restaurant, located next to the I CAN! ARC property at Lot 3 Angel Court in the East End Community, offered a special breakfast for the event and serves as the home base for the television broadcast. The restaurant donated 10% of its sales from the day to the non-profit Community Connections for the building project.

On Jan. 18, Spann Construction officially signed a contract with the Ark. Economic Development Commission and Saline County to begin work on the center. The 1,600 square foot building will house a dance/theatre room, lobby, office and two accessible bathrooms.

The organization was originally awarded money through a grant from the Ark. Economic Development Commission to build the structure. However, after two bidding periods were complete earlier in 2011, the building cost was still over budget.

Architect Scott Smith and Spann Construction were able to identify \$52,000 worth of savings on the project to bring the total cost of the building down to \$183,000.

"KARK 4 Today," will be promoting the needs of the center during its upcoming broadcasts for the next few months. A KARK photographer videotaped a special I CAN! Dance class on Jan. 12 to use during the broadcast. Details are still being worked out, but the station is helping to bring awareness through its "4 The Greater Good" project. Watch KARK 4 Today from 5-7 a.m. for upcoming announcements later in the month.

Anyone can donate at any time through the website at www.communityconnectionsar.org. Community Connections is selling sponsorships of engraved bricks beginning at \$100 to \$250, sponsorships of trees for \$500, and engraved benches for \$2,500.

WATCH THE KARK FOOTAGE

Missed all of the live footage from KARK the past few weeks?
 Watch it here!

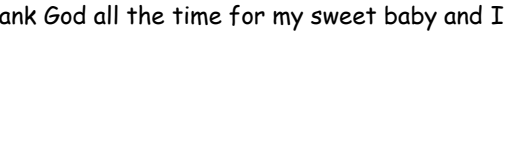
(copy these addresses and post them in your internet address bar)

www.arkansasmatters.com/fulltext?nxd_id=502282

www.arkansasmatters.com/fulltext?nxd_id=505572

I CAN! SPOTLIGHT: SKYLAR

Skylar is a fun-loving 8 years old with Down Syndrome. She started Julie's I Can Dance class in 2010 and is now in the Hot Springs class. She has learned so much from being part of this class. She loves gymnastics, playing on her iPad, watching movies along with acting them out, and most of all shaking her booty. Skylar has overcome many obstacles in her life-heart surgery, feeding issues resulting in a G-tube placement for 18 months, and social anxiety to name a few. She has made my life so much better in every aspect. She has taught me patience that has made me a much better teacher and mommy. I surely do not stress out about the small things anymore. And most of all, I am closer with God all because of my special angel. Soon after Skylar was born, I started the Group of Arkansas Down Syndrome



Angels with the Down Syndrome Buddy Walk for our area. Angels of Arkansas sends books about DS to new parents. I thank God all the time for my sweet baby and I would not change a thing about her.

Leslie Faulkner, Mom,

Hot Springs Class

DEVOTIONAL BY LINDA BATES

Lamentations: 3:32 & 33 NIV *Though he brings grief, he will bring compassion, so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men.*

Diagnosis: Remember those long days when you waited to get a diagnosis? Or maybe you didn't have to wait and was told quickly. Lucky you!

Many of us waited and some of us maybe had to wait years to get the whole story. Although the waiting was torture there was growth that came with that waiting.

Did I appreciate the long wait. No! But I do appreciate the fact now that when I am faced with another wait I don't have to let myself fall into despair. The answer will come when it is the right time.

My prayer: But while I wait for answers Lord, let my friends and family hold my hand and encourage me so that they too will be blessed because of their faithfulness to me and to you.

FALL RECITAL PHOTOS

The Fall Recital photos by Ashley Diggs Photography have been uploaded to our Facebook page!

Check out:

www.facebook.com/icandanceclass



WELCOME NEW INSTRUCTOR, LEEANN DANNER!

Community Connections and I CAN! Dance would like to welcome LeeAnn Danner to our team! LeeAnn has taken over the Hot Springs I CAN! Class beginning this semester after a long hunt for a permanent dance instructor there. We want to thank parents Leslie Faulkner and Courtney Eubanks for establishing the Hot Springs class and we are very excited for our new instructor.

LeeAnn can be contacted at Leeann.Danner@baptist-health.org.

A VERY SPECIAL PAGEANT

2nd annual *A Very Special Pageant*

April 14th, 2012

6:00 p.m. at Fountain Lake

(Entry deadline is 2/14)

Ages K-12 and must receive special education services to be eligible.

Facebook: *A Very Special Pageant*

Please contact April Donley for more information at

(501) 701-1731

ARKANSAS ANGELS PAGEANT

When: March 17, 2012

Where: Beebe High School Auditorium

Who: Any Child with Special Needs ages 0-21

Free to all contestants!

<http://arkansasangelspageant.weebly.com/>

Facebook: *Arkansas Angels Pageant*

GRANT NEWS!

The Christopher Reeve Foundation has awarded Community Connections with a \$5,000 grant to help purchase the surfacing material for the eventual accessible playground at the I CAN! Arts & Resource Center! We were one of 76 organizations in the U.S. to get this funding.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Skylar Stone (EE) - surgeries & healing

Shelby Sides (EE) - surgery March 1st

Prayers for these children, their parents, knowledge within the medical teams, and strength to their families!

(Please submit prayer requests by simply replying to this email)

A NOTE FROM JULIE:

Please begin praying about how God can use your skills to improve our classes. If you have a special talent that you think we can use, please share with us. We need volunteers to make this work and to grow our programs. We have already seen some families take on larger roles with our organization.

For example, Lindsey Stone is now going to kick off the new Showstoppers Cheerleaders in Little Rock. Leslie Faulkner helped start the I CAN! Dance in Hot Springs. Gina Moore has become the parent coordinator in Conway. Dave and Diane Roberts, architects, are using their skills to sketch the treehouse design we'd like built at the ICARC.

There are many others, but those are just a few examples. Perhaps you have the gift of organization and would like to keep attendance records and check on those who weren't in class this week to make sure they are ok. Perhaps you would like to work with our "Buddies" and train them to be even better teachers to our dancers. Maybe you can help bring in a special speaker to a class to two, like a nutritionist, or a lawyer who specializes in wills. Maybe you like to plan parties and you can help fundraise.

God can use whatever you're good at in this program. Just keep asking him to show you the way. I know all of you are busy and struggle to just keep your house together, but I know that I volunteer to help someone else, helps me keep my chin up.

Thanks, Julie

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Conway: Tara Walls tarawalls@live.com

East End: Julie Mayberry mayberry@winstream.net

Hot Springs: LeeAnn Danner Leeann.Danner@baptist-health.org

North Little Rock: Andrea Strube astrube@yahoo.com

www.communityconnectionsar.org

[Facebook.com/icandanceclass](https://www.facebook.com/icandanceclass)

[Facebook.com/icanartsandresourcecenter](https://www.facebook.com/icanartsandresourcecenter)

To remove your email from our newsletter list, please reply to this email with REMOVE in the subject line.



Every child...
 Every chance...
 Every day.

