

Announcing... TOTS Therapeutic Child Care Center, NFP

BY AGNIESZKA MORONI (FOUNDER & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST)

Who do you know that's Making a Difference in our community? Nominate them to jorie.schaeffer@strollmag.com.



Take a look at the playground of a local daycare center. Do you see children with Down syndrome? Are any kids in wheelchairs or other adaptive equipment? Probably not.

Our area is full of wonderful childcare centers, but when it comes to children with disabilities, most centers are not equipped or staffed appropriately. School

District Special Education services start at 3 years old and are often only offered for 2½ hours per day. But what happens to a single parent who needs care for a child with Cerebral Palsy who is only 18 months old? How about the parents who can't afford to live on one income because their 2-year-old has a genetic disorder, and the medical bills are outrageous? Hundreds of full-time working parents are without childcare options (unless of course, they're fortunate enough to have a grandparent or other relative/friend who is familiar with the child's special needs).

BUT CHANGE IS COMING AND IT'S GOING TO BE GOOD!

I proudly introduce you to my project: **TOTS Therapeutic Child Care Center, a full-time daycare welcoming and supporting children with moderate-severe disabilities.** I'm a pediatric occupational therapist evaluating and treating children from 0-3 years old in the Early Intervention program. I have had countless families tell me the struggle they've had with finding appropriate childcare for their little ones with differing abilities. I have a huge heart for working parents! My husband and I are extremely grateful for the daycares and preschools that have taught our three children since infancy and allowed us both to work full-time. If our children had disabilities and couldn't attend those centers, we would be forced to live on one income and our financial situation would be detrimental to our family.

The TOTS Center is in its Capital Campaign to get its massive mission off the ground. We are off to a great start with a generous donation from the Foglia Family Foundation, a generous grant from the RSM US Foundation, proceeds from several successful fundraising events, and hundreds of individual

donations from family, friends, and colleagues of our supporters. Will you help us keep the momentum going and join our list of donors?

Join us as we co-host the amazing upcoming STROLL Hawthorn Woods Country Club Magazine Event: Flamingo Family Fest Fundraiser on Saturday, July 29th from 2-10 pm & view information about how to get more involved at www.totscenter.org.

See you there! Hurry up and RSVP! You don't want to miss this event, as it's going to be EPIC!



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