

The HCZ25 Buzz

Healthy Connections Zero to Five
Newsletter

www.hcz25.com

November 2025



L-R: Savannah, Sarah, Ava, & Lillie McKee

Welcome to the Fall edition of the HCZ25 Buzz, a newsletter that's all about what's happening in the world of Healthy Connections Zero to Five. The journey has been amazing thus far. What started as a sincere desire to connect and serve within the special needs community has blossomed into a beautiful almost magical series of events for our family and the organization. We have witnessed firsthand that God still moves mountains and that not all mountains are made of stone. We can't wait to see what's in store for next year. Trey and I are so grateful and offer our heartfelt thanks for your emotional and financial support and words of encouragement.



Connecting: Launched www.hcz25.com - One of the goals for 2025 was to have a website about our program. We were very excited to launch our HCZ25 website in February. We invite you to check it out. We will use this as one of our primary resources to connect, educate and advocate children and families with special needs.

Special Note: Our logo was created by Savannah & Lillie



Serving: In February Kirsten and I represented HCZ25 as volunteers at the **Night to Shine** celebration, which is sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. The night is a prom-like event for people with special needs to be honored and to simply have a good time. We went naively thinking we would go and be a 'blessing' to our assigned honored guest. What we experienced was totally the opposite. The night was an awesome experience for us as we were the ones



richly blessed by some of the sweetest, most sincere people you will ever meet. And yes, we plan to be co-sponsors and attend this event in 2026 and the years to come.



Advocating: On March 22, HCZ25 was one of many Co-Sponsors participating in the annual **Buddy Walk** put on by an amazing organization, the **Coastal Alabama Down Syndrome Society CADSS**. Ava was one of the little Diva's attending this event. Her team, Ava's Avengers, raised over \$900 in support of CADSS. We were once again awestruck at the outpouring of community supporters committed to ensuring that children with special needs have every opportunity available to thrive and succeed to the best of their ability. There were over 30 vendors and numerous volunteers that made for an outstanding day in the park. The event was held in Loxley AL.



Advocate & Support: Another vision of our program is to support families needing specific therapeutic services that support early development in their children. Developmental delays are common with Down Syndrome and other chromosomal disorders. Aggressive speech, physical and occupational therapies as well as family counseling give the child a much-improved chance of reducing the developmental delay, and counseling helps educate the family to better understand, cope and nurture their child's development. We are honored to partner with an amazing organization, the Charles Henderson Child Health Center in Troy, AL. and a few of their partners in care, Pike Pediatric Therapy and Broken Crayons Family Counseling. We work with these wonderful organizations to help offset the cost of therapy and family counseling where there is limited or no insurance coverage for aggressive treatments needed and hopefully reduce the developmental delays in their children. Over the past year we have provided funds directly to these organizations for therapy (Speech, Physical & Occupational) as well as family counseling sessions. We hope to add additional partners-in-care as our program develops and expands.



**Charles Henderson
Child Health Center**



Community: Essential to our program's growth is funding. On April 26th HCZ25 teamed up with the O's Cool Bike Foundation for our 'Pedaling for a Cause' fund raiser. This event took place in Troy AL on the Campus of Troy University. The event was a total success. We raised over \$4,000 for HCZ25. Special thanks to Onick and Heather Lewis for allowing us to join them in this wonderful event. And a special thanks to all the donors and volunteers that made this a fantastic experience.





Connecting: In June there was a 4,855-mile bike event that started on the Pacific Coast at the Golden Gate Bridge on June 4th and ended in Washington D.C. on August the 9th. The ride was sponsored by the non-profit, Journey of Hope. Each year, approximately 50 young men embark on a cross-country trip to test their physical abilities and promote awareness for people with special needs and disabilities. **HCZ25** was honored to help sponsor one of the young men on this journey, cyclist, Loftin Worthington. Loftin is a student at Troy University and spent the summer on a journey of a lifetime.



Connect & Serving: In July HCZ25 Kirsten & I represented HCZ25 and were honored to be able to connect with the staff at the Maxwell AFB Elementary School and helped with their back-to-school bookbag event. This was an awesome experience in getting to know the staff, especially their Special Education Program staff. We are currently working with the school to make a financial contribution to the Special Education Program, which in a small way is our way of giving back to a program (Air Force) that has been such a large part of our lives and our family story. Also, a little, small coincidence, Sarah, Ava's mom attended this school back in the 1980's when I was stationed there on active duty.



Connecting, Serving, Giving: In September, members of our Leadership Team (Kirsten, Sarah, Stefanie Pablo and I) met with the Leadership Team at Rockwell Elementary School in Spanish Fort, AL. to make a \$500.00 donation to the school's Special Education Program. We hope to make this an annual event and possibly work with the school to raise funds for playground improvements for children with special needs. We were also excited to learn that Ava will be attending Rockwell in January 2026 in their Early Intervention Program.

*"In my heart I plan my course, But the Lord Established my steps"
Proverbs 16:6*

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THANK YOU



As we approach the completion of our first full year of operation, we are amazed and incredibly grateful for the impact we've been able to make. God has truly blessed us on this journey. We also recognize this milestone would not have been possible without the generous financial and emotional support of our family and friends, as well as the tremendous contributions from our community partners and corporate donors.

I hope you have enjoyed reading about our highlights of 2025. Thanks to this outpouring of your support, HCZ25 has provided financial assistance to a wide range of programs that directly benefit children with special needs and their caregivers. We can't wait to see what's in store for HCZ25 in 2026. Together, we are helping build a more inclusive and supportive community—one child, one family at a time.

Sincerely,

Benton L. Busbee

Founder & President

Healthy Connections Zero to Five



Good News Guys
Mulder Church Men's Group



CC Consulting



Brundidge Rotary Club
Brundidge, AL



The 74 Club of Mobile

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