

# NEVINS INC.

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

I am so pleased to announce that Nevins will re-open our campus on June 1st. Spring signifies a new beginning and after the past year we have all endured, this new beginning is a welcomed blessing. Please rest assured that we will adhere to all Covid-19 protocols recommended by the Centers for Disease Control, the NC Department of Health and Human Services, and the Mecklenburg County Health Department. We will foster a safe environment which includes, mask wearing, social distancing, hand washing, and regularly sanitizing our campus environment. We are committed to providing a healthy environment for our participants and team members on an ongoing basis. We continue to encourage participants and team members to become vaccinated prior to June 1st to ensure the safety of all.

Nevins is celebrating Founder's Day on May 14th. A small group of committed parents wanted to ensure their children with intellectual and developmental disabilities would have a site in North Charlotte to attend that would provide educational, fellowship, and employment opportunities for their adult children. Through their hard work and community support, Nevins was founded on May 14, 1959 and we proudly continue their mission today!

Summer Camp will begin on June 1st and we have interesting and fun activities planned Monday-Friday from 8:00-2:00, such as art therapy, music therapy, yoga, crafts, outdoor activities, health and wellness, and field trips. Our Nevins team has been developing the program and I know all participants are going to have lots of fun this summer. On July 16th, we are also planning a Summer Celebration that will include our annual awards ceremony, enjoying lunch, and lots and lots of fellowship.

By the time you read our newsletter, I will have been a member of the Nevins Team for a little over three months. While I continue to learn more and more about this incredible organization, the thing I am looking forward to the most is meeting everyone after June 1st. Daily, I am surrounded by many of your photos in the lobby and I cannot wait to meet you in person and get to know you.

Welcome back my friends!

Sincerely,



Davan Cloninger  
Executive Director



# GROWING TOGETHER THROUGH COVID-19



Like many others, COVID-19 has been a challenge for Treana and her family. Treana's dad and Nevins Board Member Tracey Suggs said, "The hardest part of managing life through COVID-19 has been just that; managing life. With safety a main concern, everything we were used to doing from daily interactions out in the public to school and working from the office were now changed to isolation at home. It was also tough to see our family and loved ones get sick from the virus. We even lost family members and friends. Life now has so much more meaning because we see now that at any moment it can change."

Their family has grown stronger during the pandemic. They got through it by remaining solid in their faith and family values while staying up to date and adhering to the safety guidelines as much as possible. They mentioned how a shining light in the craziness was the opportunity to slow down, reflect, and focus on the importance of every breath and moment we have in life. A big part of lockdown was revisiting quality time together as a family and learning to love and be attentive to each other's needs. They have also given back to the community through their organized events.

"Self-care and self-love became a priority and not just socially accepted hashtags. As parents we reinforced our love for each other and our children. It never left but over the years our time was given to so many other daily commitments."

While being home, Treana has focused on pursuing her art through acrylic abstract painting, coloring in design books, and exploring art lessons on YouTube. Looking forward, Treana is eager to get back to seeing her friends and the great staff at Nevins. She especially missed the art and design classes with instructor Jax and opportunities to get involved in the community again through various programs.

"We look forward to a beautiful future. The love we have for humanity and our own relationships as a family have flourished. We know that God will continue to order our steps into this unknown landscape that we call the next chapter as long as we keep our eyes on him. We will continue to visualize and create the world we wish to live in."



**"We look forward to a beautiful future. The love we have for humanity and our own relationships as a family have flourished."**

**- Tracey Suggs, Treana's Father & Nevins Board Member**

## TIES TO NEVINS HISTORY

Nevins recently reconnected with the Whittington Family when learning of the passing of Frances Brown "Brownie" Whittington. Brownie and her husband, Arthur Donnel "Whitt" Whittington, along side the four original Nevins Founders worked to create the Nevins Vocational Training Center. The Whittington's son, Don, was one of the first 41 individuals to attend Nevins in 1959 and participate in classroom education, vocational training and sheltered workshop employment. Tom Whittington, Brownie's surviving son, remembers many days coming to Nevins to help clean the buildings and grounds. Tom recalls how happy Don was having a place to go and his love for wood work, skills he acquired while at Nevins.

Tom and Sue Whittington visited the Nevins Center for a meet and greet with Nevins leadership. Tom shared tears of joy and pride to see that Nevins has remained mission focused for 62 years and continues to create opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities.

In addition to donating an intricate hand-made chess table made by Don, the Whittington's made a generous donation through a stock transfer in memory of Brownie. Nevins has also received donations in Brownie's memory from Whittington's friends and family. All Memorial funds donated in Brownie's memory will directly benefit individuals attending our 2021 Summer Camp which begins June 1, 2021. We can't thank the Whittington's enough for the legacy that Brownie and Arthur began over 60 years ago.

**Planned Giving is a wonderful way to create a legacy and support Nevins' mission. Contact our Development Office at 704-596-1372 ext. 210 to establish a planned giving gift today.**



Top: Brownie, Tom, Whitt and Don Whittington  
Left: Sue & Tom Whittington  
Right: Don & Tom Whittington



Left to Right: Pamela Glass, Davan Cloninger, Tom Whittington, Richard Schmidt

## Nevins Board Leadership



Greg Smith,  
Nevins Board Member

Greg Smith has been serving on the Nevins Board for over 10 years. He has a long and successful career as an IT Executive here in Charlotte and was most recently the Director of Sales for the SEAST at Curvature. Curvature was acquired and now Greg is Sales Director/ Southern States for Park Place Technologies. His career has been focused on building and growing sales teams globally. Greg brought that dynamic ability to Nevins. His contributions to Nevins have been instrumental in helping Nevins aim to be the "Provider of Choice" in Mecklenburg County. Greg is passionate about Nevins and has relationships with many who attend Nevins, families and the wonderful staff that serve the organization. He has created many long and wonderful relationships along the way. Greg often remarks to friends, colleagues or anyone who asks why Nevins?:

"The individuals we serve at Nevins are the most joyful, appreciative, loving people you will ever meet. I am inspired by their positive energy and outlook on life despite any challenges they may face. Come with me to Nevins the next time you think life is hard. Your spirits will be lifted through Nevins participants hope, love and joy".

Greg is a constant figure at Nevins largest Fundraiser, Fiesta Italiano, where you can find him on stage making sure everyone is enjoying the day. His team the "Blazing Buffalos" are reigning champs of our Chili Cookoff which is another wonderful fundraiser for Nevins. In fact, his team has won the last three years in a row. Greg constantly is promoting Nevins and constantly states that being on the Board at Nevins has been an honor and a privilege.





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## KEEP IN TOUCH WITH NEVINS

*At Nevins, we are a large "family", a family that consists of participants who utilize our programs, the parents or caregivers of our participants, our talented staff, dedicated volunteers and our generous donors and community partners.*

*Our quarterly newsletter is also available in digital format via e-mail. If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter electronically, please e-mail your contact information to [development@nevinsinc.org](mailto:development@nevinsinc.org) or subscribe to the newsletter on our website at [www.nevinsinc.org](http://www.nevinsinc.org).*



*Nevins is committed to creating a community where all adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities reach for their full potential.*

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