



December 2012

Dear Mercede,

Happy holidays and thank you so much for your continued support of The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation! In our winter issue of McKenzie's Messages we'll be sharing highlights from last month's successful McKenzie's Run, updates on the newest McKenzie's Academic Resource Center, as well as upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. We've even got some great holiday gift ideas for those special people in your life this holiday season. We hope you enjoy reading about our outreach efforts and programs and realizing as a supporter, what you are making possible.

With much appreciation,

Blake & Stephanie Wilson



The 3rd Annual McKenzie's Run on November 10th was an incredible success! With over 3,600 participants - it was the most attended race yet! Jaguar quarterback, Blaine Gabbert, and captain of McKenzie's Run, led the start of the 5K race with an opening ceremony commemorating McKenzie and giving praise to local youth who have united to better their community. Episcopal High School McKenzie Club leader, Kalen Koch, then led the crowd into a beautiful rendition of the national anthem. The race started with a confetti cannon explosion as participants took to the course knowing they were running and walking for a great cause.

After the run participants enjoyed games, face painting and the Eleven22 band performing live at the run post-party. The largest youth team - The Bolles School including the Running for Ryan team - was awarded a prize

## Foundation Fun Facts

### Donate a New Toy and Bless a Child with a Christmas Gift!

We are collecting new toys and gift cards for the many wonderful students who attend our McKenzie's Academic Resource Centers. Please drop off a new toy or gift card (for teens) to the MARC at Countryside located at 10960 Beach Blvd., 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Monday - Friday until December 11th. Or you can drop off donations at B.E.A.M. located at 650 6th Ave. South in Jacksonville Beach. Thank you for caring for our students!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

## Volunteer Spotlight



Student volunteer Brianna Prado, volunteers as a mentor after-school at McKenzie's Academic Resource Center at Portside. She is a high school

to have Blaine Gabbert visit their school!



Thanks to all the sponsors, volunteers and supporters who made McKenzie's Run a success! Proceeds from the run go to youth programs at McKenzie's Academic Resource Centers and building orphanages abroad. For pictures of McKenzie's Run go to the [Foundation's Flickr page](#). To watch video of the run go the [Action News](#) website, our media partner.

student at Sandalwood High School and volunteered 20 hours in September and October. She also volunteered at our summer camp, Kamp Kenzie, this past summer. We are so grateful to students like Brianna, who selflessly give their time to positively impact a student's life.

### Did you know?

We had 11 exceptional student and adult volunteers who each volunteered 15 or more hours this fall at McKenzie's Academic Resource Centers!

If you are interested in volunteering as a mentor at one of our centers, please sign up online at [www.mckenziegives.org](http://www.mckenziegives.org). This counts towards service hours and you only need to be 13-years-old to volunteer. For teachers, this counts towards ESOL certification.

## Get a Holiday Gift and Support a Great Cause!

We have inspiring items that would make a special holiday gift for someone in your life. The best part is that proceeds from the sale of each item goes towards the Foundation's mission to help young people recognize their full potential.



Our items includes beautiful, hand-made Liv-n-Grace bracelets, NEW butterfly hats, teal necklaces, McKenzie's Run long-sleeve tees, The Reason CD, butterfly magnets and our grey long-sleeve BE shirts that are currently on sale for \$10 (sizes are limited)! Go to [shop.caregivegrow.com](http://shop.caregivegrow.com) to order your gift online.

### Thank you for your birthday gifts!

We had several caring students who recently collected donations to the Foundation instead of gifts on their birthday. We'd like to thank the following for collectively raising over \$3,500!

- Kilty Barker
- Ally Taylor
- Anna Blake
- Cameron Perry Walker
- Summer Schreiner
- Amelia Watterson

Thank you for donating your gifts! Happy Birthday!

## The New MARC is Welcomed with Open Arms in the Countryside Community!

We successfully opened our second McKenzie's Academic Resource Center (MARC) in the Countryside Community in Jacksonville on



### Vision

The Foundation is dedicated to helping young people find their purpose in an increasingly complex and challenging world.

### Mission

Our mission is to help young people recognize their full potential by providing programs that encourage caring for others, giving to those in need, and growing in

September 13th! Over 150 families and students toured our new center, enjoyed treats, jumped on the bounce house and boogied to the DJ at the Grand Opening.



their own spirituality.

We now have an average of 40 students and 15 volunteer mentors attending the center weekly where we are providing free mentoring and tutoring programs for each student.

On December 12th, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. we are having the very first holiday party at the new MARC! If you'd like to help out, please sign up to volunteer at [www.mckenziegives.org](http://www.mckenziegives.org) or you can donate toys or gift cards so we can bless each child at MARC with a Christmas gift. Donations can be dropped off at the main clubhouse in Countryside, located at 10960 Beach Blvd. from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday until December 11th.

Contact info:


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