

A blue circle containing an orange arrow pointing to the right.

ALEX IS CONNECTING, ENGAGING, AND THRIVING IN HIS COMMUNITIES

Seven years ago, Alex's parents walked through Elim's doors and almost immediately knew that they had found the right place for their son.

"I really couldn't see him anywhere else," his father recalls. When Alex and his family were first introduced to Elim, he was only 6 years old and in need of a school to provide the tools and the education for him to pursue his full potential.

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The Elim logo features a stylized blue circular graphic above the word "ELIM" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

ELIM
www.elimcs.org

Because of you, Alex is learning to thrive, even when he's not at Elim.

ALEX IS THRIVING...

STORY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A SECOND HOME

Alex, a student of Elim's middle school program, is known for his great sense of humor and strong memory. He loves DVDs, listening to his favorite Christian rock songs, and driving his little sister crazy. You might bump into Alex and his family at Elim's annual 5K. Alex's love for running is almost as strong as his family's passion for Elim!

"Elim has made everything we thought might not happen with Alex become a reality. He has advanced so much because of the programs at school," his mother Cheryl explains. "His reading and language skills have considerably improved. We are so grateful that we found Elim for Alex."

REFRESHING SUCCESS

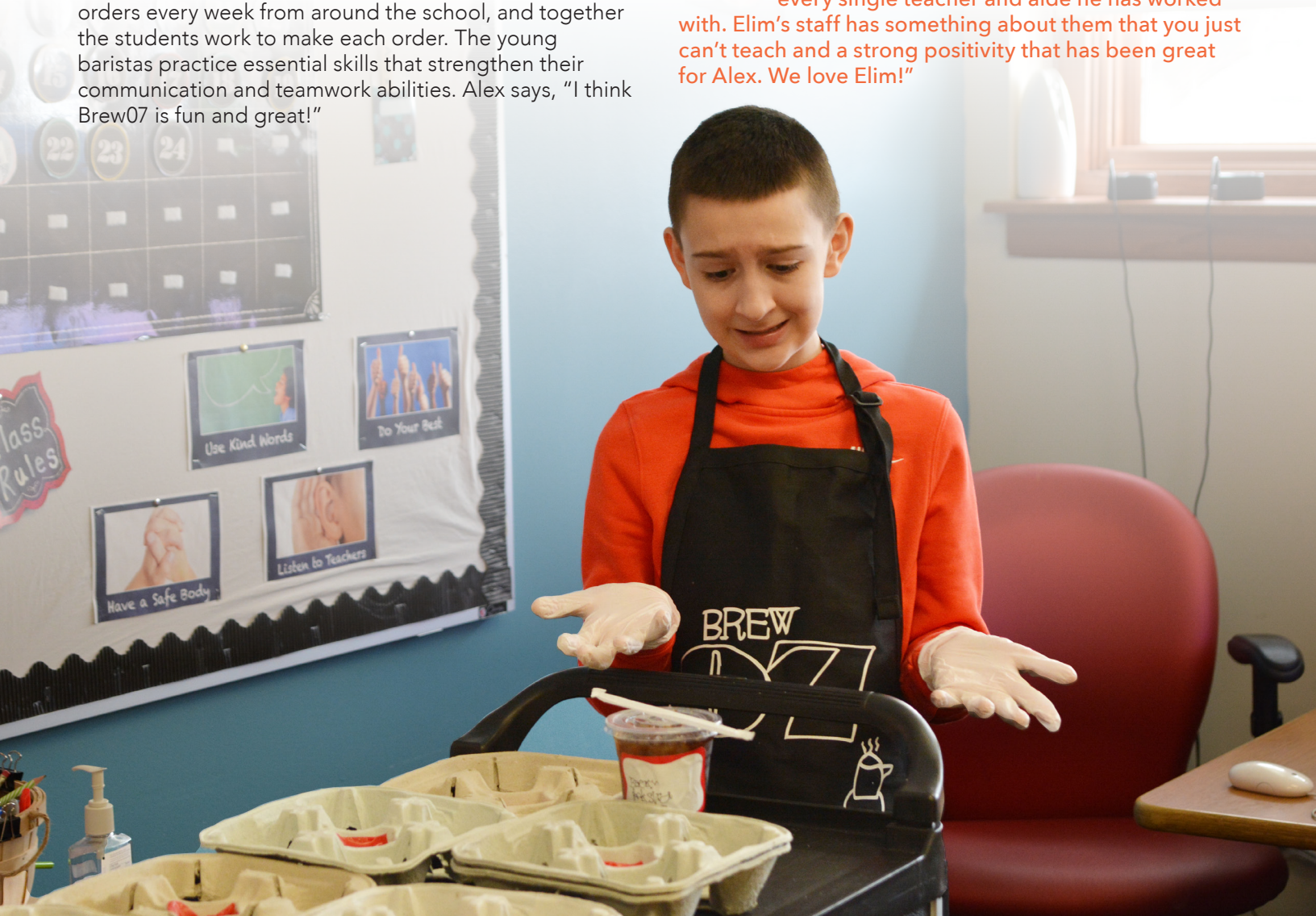
This year, Alex joined a new class where he participates in a classroom coffeeshop, "Brew07." Brew07 takes orders every week from around the school, and together the students work to make each order. The young baristas practice essential skills that strengthen their communication and teamwork abilities. Alex says, "I think Brew07 is fun and great!"

On coffee shop Thursdays, you can typically find Alex stationed at one of the creamer stations ready to add the finishing touch on coffee orders. Though, according to his speech therapist, Becky, Alex has become a very versatile helper. He is able to fill in where he is needed and complete a variety of tasks. He loves to go out on deliveries and interact with Brew07's customers!

"Seeing Alex weekly for our Brew 07 coffee shop allowed me to see how much he has grown with his ability to work closely with his classmates and independently complete his job tasks," Becky shares. At the end of the school year, he was even awarded Brew07's "Go-to Guy" because he will jump in and help with whatever is needed. "I am super proud of Alex. He has done really great this year."



A Final Thought: Cheryl thanks Elim for the care and detail towards her son's continued progress. "Alex has had a connection with every single teacher and aide he has worked with. Elim's staff has something about them that you just can't teach and a strong positivity that has been great for Alex. We love Elim!"



Message from the president

THE RHYTHMS OF SUCCESS

We tend to value what is scarce to us.

For those of us immersed in routine, adventure is attractive. The reverse is equally true. Our sense of what is most important is a product of how God has uniquely wired us, and what we need to be most whole.

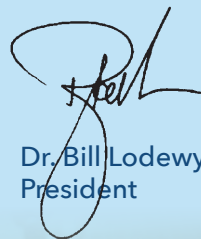
For many of the students and adults at Elim, the God-ordained rhythms of routine and constancy are what they need to pursue their God-given potential.

Routine and constancy become not just a matter of preference, but of necessity. This makes the rhythms of service at Elim absolutely critical to the vision of people with disabilities thriving in their community.

For students and adults at Elim with an acute need for routine and constancy, picture schedules and year-round services provide a life-giving rhythm not only for them, but also for their families and care-givers as well. They know they can depend on staff, on access to an education that fits their child, on opportunities that help their loved one express their gifts, and on supporters like you who make all this possible.

At Elim, where progress is often measured in what can appear to be small increments, God-ordained rhythm is a critical component of success. In a world where time away can actually impair growth and education, your partnership with Alex, Claire, and Jason allows Elim to provide year-round, life-giving services that give people what they need to thrive.

Thank you!



Dr. Bill Lodewyk
President



JASON CONQUERS SKILLS AND TEACHES OTHERS

Jason has worked hard at Elim and he's now using his success to teach other students new skills, too. Through Elim's peer modeling program, students demonstrate social skills that they've mastered for their peers who are also working to further develop their social skills.

Jason is a great peer model," his teacher, Kellie Small, explains. "We often use him as a peer model to teach other students with autism to raise their hand in classroom situations, take turns playing a game, or even to teach conversational skills."

While serving as a role model for others, Jason still works hard to conquer new skills each day. He recently learned to read directions and microwave his own lunch. He works hard to hit new goals and is challenging himself to improve his reading skills.

Your support allows us to help Jason develop new leisure skills, too. He loves swimming in the pool and participating in recreational groups when he attends Elim's programs. He enjoys crafts and going into the community, too!

EACH DAY, JASON IS LEARNING, GROWING, AND DEVELOPING THE SKILLS HE NEEDS TO THRIVE AT SCHOOL, AT HOME, AND IN HIS COMMUNITY. CAN YOU GIVE A GIFT TO HELP JASON BE A ROLE MODEL FOR OTHERS TODAY?

**DON'T MISS ELIM'S DUTCH FESTIVAL!
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2019**

Free admission, free parking, and fun activities for all ages!



TEACHING TO LEARN

Elim offers programs for over 200 adults with disabilities year-round. Through these daily opportunities, your support provides vocational training, life-skills training, and continuing education and work opportunities. With your help, we equip hundreds of people, including Claire, to reach their highest God-given potential.

Claire hasn't always been motivated to read, but she has great potential in this area. Because of this, Elim's team brainstormed and came up with a creative solution.

When two student volunteers from Marist High School came in to help in Claire's classroom, they asked Claire to help "teach them to read." Claire quickly agreed that she was up for this challenge. Each time they visit, Claire chooses a book, all the while being encouraged to increase the reading difficulty. We're pleased to report that Claire's reading level has already increased over a full grade level!

Her entire team was delighted to hear her announce, "Claire is so good at this!"

Claire takes her duties so seriously that she now offers to read to Elim's staff members. She even checks in with the high school students to make sure someone will be available to cover her reading duties while they have school breaks and can't be together. Do you see the confidence that Claire has developed because her community learned how to encourage her?

Claire's growth isn't just evident in her reading skills. In her first years, she would go into the community but was frequently too afraid to get off the bus. Now, she walks right off the bus, embracing new situations like a pro. She has made friends with other adults she works and learns alongside, and she has started joining in for games of basketball, something she never had played before. Claire's confidence is growing because of you.

WHAT WILL CLAIRE CONQUER NEXT?

No matter what she chooses, your support makes it possible for Claire to get the support and encouragement she needs to thrive!

USE THE ENCLOSED PERSONALIZED FORM TO SEND YOUR GIFT TODAY!

YOUR GIFTS EQUIP PEOPLE FOR GOD'S PURPOSES!

Choosing one of the following options will provide the opportunities and support that will equip children and adults at Elim to pursue their highest God-given potential. Please mark the amount you are enclosing:

- ☐ \$50
- ☐ \$100
- ☐ \$250
- ☐ \$_____ to support as many children and adults as possible.



ELIM CHRISTIAN SERVICES | 13020 S. Central Ave. | Crestwood, IL 60418 | 708-293-6509 | www.elimcs.org



Your gifts make a difference!

Each day, Elim equips learners - adults and children, on- and off-campus - to use the gifts they've been given by God, and to thrive in the world He created for them.

Can you give a gift today empower people with disabilities to thrive in their communities?

To give securely online, go to www.elimcs.org/donate

Elim Christian Services: Our Mission

At Elim, we know that each individual has been created in God's image and that He has a specific purpose and calling for each of us. With your help, we strive to equip individuals with disabilities to pursue their God-given potential by living their lives to glorify Him! Elim accomplishes this mission through the following program areas that serve people of all ages:

- School program
- Adult services
- Elim Learning
- HOPE Packs



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