



# the Elim equip

Fall 2019



## THRIVING... AFTER YEARS OF HARD WORK

**Lily has truly defied all the odds.**

When Lily first came to Elim at the age of three years old, doctors had told her family that she would never be able to walk. That's why Elim's staff can't help but cheer when they see Lily running down Elim's hallways!

This huge victory came as a result of a lot of hard work and determination.

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*Lily's parents always believed this was possible; you've helped make those hopes come true!*

# THRIVING TAKES LOTS OF WORK

STORY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## LILY'S UNSTOPPABLE TEAM

Even before coming to Elim, Lily's parents enrolled her in physical therapy to help her build physical strength. When she joined Elim's family, she began working with Elim's physical therapy team. At that time, Lily was unable to stand, instead traveling through her daily tasks in a Rifton activity chair.

Elim's team first helped Lily build enough strength to stand using an assisted stander. Next, they worked with her and paired her with a walker to assist her in gaining walking skills. Now, she loves being able to run!



**Thank you for equipping children like Lily to achieve their God-given potential through your support.**



## GROWING IN MANY WAYS

While Lily's walking skills are amazing, she's grown in other ways, too. Now seven years old, Lily has been paired with a communication device to help her express her wants and needs. Her improved communication skills have allowed Lily's personality to shine.

"Lily is the most joyful little girl I have ever met," says her teacher, Emily Paluch. "She's rarely upset and is always giggling and making us laugh. She has grown a lot socially since she started at Elim and now engages with her classmates during the school day."

Currently, Lily is learning to express her likes and dislikes, being encouraged to explain WHY she doesn't like something by using her device. She is also learning to identify shapes and colors. Her family is thrilled about all of Lily's new skills!



## FRIENDLY. COMPASSIONATE. A CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY.

At Elim, we believe in pushing boundaries and affecting change. We are helping people grow, learn, and thrive.

We do this because **WE BELIEVE.**

We believe everyone has immeasurable worth...and that by God's grace, we are called to help them pursue their potential.

We believe everyone has a God-given purpose...and that we are all called to serve and support one another in fulfilling God's calling on each of our lives.

**THANK YOU** for believing that too.

**Elim**





## MICHAEL SWIMS TO BETTER HEALTH

Elim's swimming program provides so many benefits to its participants. Not only does swimming bring physical benefits, but it also helps with coordination, flexibility, socialization, relaxation, sensory stimulation, and so much more!

That's why Elim's team knew they needed to get creative in order to get Michael swimming.

Michael is extremely social, remembers everyone's names, loves interacting with his peers, and delights in cracking jokes to Elim's staff members. Yet, even with his outgoing personality, Michael struggles with loud noises and with participating in recreational activities. And until now, he flat-out refused to swim.

Michael's teacher, Lauren Surbaugh, worked closely with his mom in order to brainstorm ways to get Michael in the pool. They came up with a strategy where Michael would be rewarded with his favorite toys from home if he was willing to join his classmates in pool time.

It worked! Now, Michael loves swimming with his friends on Fridays and anticipates the activity all week long. When in the pool, he works with an Elim recreational therapist to complete group activities like passing a ball, playing with water buckets, and finding rings on the bottom of the pool.

Not only is Michael now able to enjoy new social and educational activities in Elim's pool, he is also benefitting from the therapeutic effects of water activities. "It's very soothing and calming for Michael to be in the pool," Surbaugh explains. "It provides him with so many health and sensory benefits, too."

OUR POOL PROGRAM IS JUST ONE WAY WE KEEP OUR STUDENTS MOVING AND GROWING. YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THIS PROGRAMMING POSSIBLE! CAN YOU SEND A GIFT TODAY TO SUPPORT THE KIDS AND ADULTS OF ELIM?

*Message from the president*

## A NEW START

Change for any of us, and particularly for those we serve at Elim, can be unsettling. We know that changes to routine or schedule can have a big impact on our students and adults. But our staff also realizes that learning to navigate change is a critical life skill, and it happens best when it is incremental and on a foundation of that which is not changing. Incremental change on a platform of stability is critical – not only is it important to students and adults at Elim, but it is informative to us as an organization.

While Elim has, and continues to, change, it also has an unchanging nature to it.

**What has never and will never change at Elim is our Christ-centered mission.**

It was Christ who moved in the hearts of William and Mary Masselink to found Elim over 70 years ago, and it is Christ who continues to move hearts in and through the services that we provide for Michael and Lily at Elim today.

The absolute, unchanging nature of Elim's Christ-centered mission is what makes it possible for us to embrace change as a way of doing what God calls us to do even better. Your partnership – your prayers, encouragement, and support – is God's affirmation that Elim needs to continue to change and not change all at the same time. Thank you for being on that exciting journey with us!

  
Dr. Bill Lodewyk  
President





**"THANK YOU FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT, EMPOWERMENT, AND INFORMATION THAT I CAN TAKE WITH ME MOVING FORWARD."**

*-Faculty member, Unity Christian Academy (South Holland, IL)*



## **YOU MAKE LEARNING POSSIBLE AT ELIM AND BEYOND!**

Because of you, educational consultants from Elim's Learning program recently held professional development workshops with faculty from seven schools. These workshops focused on learning and behavior strategies (all through Universal Design for Learning) that will help partnering schools work toward their goals of improving learning for all students.

The mission you support at Elim continues to expand with each new person our message touches. Through consultations, coaching, and professional development, Elim Learning serves and supports both educators and people with disabilities within their communities. Their work is equipping all learners to pursue their God-given potential, and that is happening because of you and your support.

When schools increase their level of learning about disabilities, programming, supports, and strategies – individuals with disabilities can thrive in their school communities. While school services are just a segments of how Elim Learning serves our mission, the impact is substantial.

Thanks to your support, more people can connect and engage in Elim's vision to see people with disabilities thriving in their communities. Your partnership in Elim's mission equips communities to better support individuals with disabilities, promotes inclusive cultures, and provides opportunities for all of God's children to become all God created them to be.

**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:

**Elim**  
CONNECT. ENGAGE. THRIVE.

- ☐ \$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](http://www.elimcs.org)

**To give securely online, go to [www.elimcs.org/donate](http://www.elimcs.org/donate)**



### **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 to empower people with disabilities to thrive in their communities?**



### **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

**Elim**

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