



WINTER 2009

A Publication of the
C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation

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Director's Notes

As C.A.S.T.'s 19th year winds down, I find myself sitting here just before the Thanksgiving holiday weekend it seems like a good time to reflect upon and be thankful for another special year.

I am especially thankful for all

C.A.S.T. & P.A.A. Partner for a Win-Win at Lake Conroe

As part of the 2009 Toyota Texas Bass Classic (TTBC), members of the [Professional Anglers Association](#) (PAA) partnered with C.A.S.T. to create a once in a lifetime opportunity for nearly 30 children from the [Shriner's Hospital](#) in Houston, Texas. Words simply cannot describe the impact an event like this can have for children who have battled so many obstacles in their young lives.



As participants enjoyed a morning on the water and break from reality, volunteers prepared awards and BBQ lunch for all to enjoy. C.A.S.T. Spokesman and PAA angler, [Clay Dyer](#), was on hand for the event as a volunteer angler and motivational speaker. As many of you know, Clay's stories can be awe inspiring as well as extremely entertaining!

PAA anglers demonstrated their overwhelming commitment to youth and the community with a turnout of over 35 boats. In terms of partnerships this event was a win-win situation for all and can only be measured by the ear to ear smiles wore by all. "It's just a great thing," said PAA Pro Rick Morris. "We get to be outdoors all the time. These kids don't necessarily get that opportunity."

We would like to extend our tremendous thanks to the PAA and the many dedicated anglers who gave their time, Shriner's Hospital and everyone who made this event possible! The dedicate of our many volunteers has made the [Lake Conroe Event](#) possible since 1998!

My C.A.S.T. Experience at the Toyota Texas Bass Classic

by Dave Mansue, Professional Bass Angler

On Sunday, October 18, 2009 I was one of approximately 25

of the kids that we were able to reach. This year we took out over 2,400 kids and gave many the opportunity to enjoy the special thrill of being on a boat and fishing for the first time.

I am thankful for many our volunteers across the country. You are the ones who enable us to share our love of fishing through caring and dedication as you give your time, money, and yourselves to help create such a wonderful venue as are the CAST events and to reach out and touch each one of these children.

I am thankful for all of the Sponsors, Partners, Agencies, and all the individuals that furnished funding, grants, and the individual and in-kind donations that helped to make all of the events possible. With today's economic situation your continuing support has been more important than ever.

I hope that all of you will continue to believe in our mission and continue to support CAST in any way that you can. You are all definitely "Special People Helping Special Kids Catch A Special Thrill" I am both proud and thankful to be a part of this organization with you.

Spotlight

Professional Anglers assembled at the SJRA ramp on Lake Conroe for a very special event. We were to meet with 20 young children and take them fishing. These were special children who had suffered severe physical injuries and were being treated at the [Shriner's Hospital](#) in Houston, TX. Most had little or no outdoor experience but all were looking forward to sharing some time away from the hospital and in a boat with a Professional Fishermen.

I was paired with Katharine, a 5 year old young lady who had sustained severe burns in a fire. Katharine, accompanied by her mother, Denise, had an electric personality.

Katharine's excitement was apparent from the start. She could not wait to get in the boat. Once in, she quickly demonstrated her skills at opening all the compartments and operating the Trolling Motor on the front of the boat. Katharine loved the boat ride as we cruised to our first fishing spot. Upon our arrival, despite the special gloves she must wear to protect her skin, she quickly dove into the can of worms, showing absolutely no fear! Through the help of a local marina owner we found the perfect fishing spot. Here, Katharine caught fish after fish, proving herself a worthy Brim Champion. I'm convinced not even Denise knew Katharine possessed such skills, making her Mom very proud. The joy in Katherine's eyes and the excitement in her voice were not only contagious but overwhelming! I cannot recall ever having so much fun catching Brim.



Once the fishing was complete we all returned to the TTBC site where we enjoyed a great lunch together and most importantly more time together. C.A.S.T. National Spokesman [Clay Dyer](#) joined us for lunch and provided a speech that was inspirational to not just the kids but to all in attendance.

During the day Katharine and Denise shared with me there steadfast determination to conquer the obstacles ahead. It was amazing to see this determination in their eyes and hear it in their voices. Despite our brief time together, we shared many stories, thoughts and emotions. We had become friends. This friendship was exhibited by the great big hug and kiss Katherine gave me when we finally had to say goodbye.

My C.A.S.T. experience will always be a memorable one. I'm sure I speak for all the Pro's when I say, I feel I was fortunate to have been involved in such a worthy cause. It's ironic that just a day earlier I was down on myself for not fishing well in the biggest event of my life. On this day, I was reminded by Katharine and Denise of what life is all about, how determination and faith can guide us through the toughest of times. Katharine showed me that my problems were not really problems at all and how lucky I am to be doing what I love to do. I am confident that through her positive attitude, determination, magnetic personality and her Doctor's skills, Katherine will someday be doing the same.

A special thanks to Jim Owens, C.A.S.T. Executive Director, Art Pasley, C.A.S.T. National Program Director and Danny Blandford, PAA Business



California Dept. of Water Resources

The [California Dept. of Water Resources](#) began their partnership with C.A.S.T. in 2005 with the creation of events at Lakes Del Valle and Perris. In the year's since, an additional 3 events have been added at Lakes Oroville, Castaic and Silverwood bring their total to 5 events across the state of California. DWR Staffers also assist with [US Bureau of Reclamation](#) hosted events at Lakes New Melones and Millerton. Keep up the good work!

C.A.S.T. Swag Makes a Great Holiday



Gift!

C.A.S.T. Camo Baseball Hat

Bulk Order Price: \$ 12.00
Regular Price Price: \$15.00

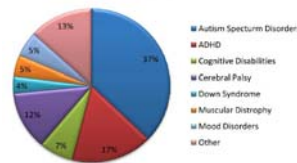
Visit our website to view a wide range of C.A.S.T. promotional items available for purchase. We have

Development Manager for working so hard to put this great event together.

Evaluating Our Reach & Furthering Our Impact

The 2009 season marked the 18th Anniversary of the [C.A.S.T. for Kids](#) program. To date over 450 events have been held throughout the United States and we continue to grow year every year. Six new events debuted in 2009 adding Plattsburgh, NY, Stratford, WI, Napa, CA, Elgin, TX, Kennewick, WA and Hesperia, CA to the line up.

Disability Demographics



Approximately 2,000 participants had the opportunity to take to the waters with the assistance of over 3,500 boaters and on-shore volunteers at 54 C.A.S.T. events held this year. The [Fishing Kids](#) program saw nearly 10,000 youth and 1,000 volunteers at 15 event across Washington State.

Demographic surveys were completed at ten events representing different regions of the country this year and we could not be more pleased with the feedback that has been provided. Obtaining this information enables the foundation to evaluate our impact and identify ways in which we can better serve our target populations. Complete 2009 survey results will be available in early December. [Email Ashley](#) for details.

"As the parent of an autistic child, it is not often we can take part in a community event where a child with special needs is welcomed with such enthusiasm from staff and volunteers."

Parent- [Leesylvania](#), Virginia



Special Thanks to Partners & Supporters!

Our success is measured in smiles and your contributions make everything possible! View [Grants, Donations, In-Kind Donations & Gifts](#) made to the C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation

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