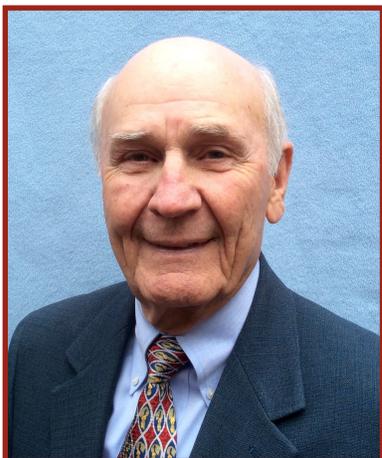


December 2018



A Message from our President, Charles Cooper

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with the warmth of family, friends, food and football! During this holiday season we are filled with gratitude. We are gearing up for an exciting 2019 with a lot of momentum to celebrate and build upon.

There has been considerable interest in our 60-acre parcel of land in Murfreesboro, so generously donated to Springboard Landings. It's still on the market awaiting the right developer(s). We are entertaining the option of dividing this parcel to suit the needs of more than one builder. Call 615-997-2900 at Marcus & Millichap and talk to Rob if you or someone you know is interested. In the meantime, we are searching for an appropriate site on which to build our first Springboard Landings apartment building. This land needs to be close to jobs, restaurants, entertainment and preferably on a bus line. In other words, not isolated. If you become aware of such a location, please let us know.

We couldn't have gotten this far without you. Your generosity and support give hope to an overlooked population to help answer their question: What happens to me when my parents are no longer here? We've learned that when you commit to helping society's more vulnerable members, your community will rally behind you if you can show them how.

Merry Christmas from our Springboard Landings family to yours!

*For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord; plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Jeremiah 29:11*

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

August 2018 was a busy time for the Board of Directors. The Board gathered for two intense planning sessions to set the strategic direction for Springboard Landings as we grow into the future. With two leadership gifts behind us, Springboard Landings is ready for the next step toward fulfilling our vision. This session was critical to ensuring that the Vision and Mission of Springboard Landings can carry us beyond the current generation.

Vision

Springboard Landings, Inc. will be a Springboard launching adults with mild developmental disabilities toward an independent life.

Mission

Springboard Landings, Inc. will provide options for housing in a safe, community-centered environment that encourages independence and social inclusion.



Springboard Landings is giving many thanks to all our generous donors and supporters this holiday season!!! Through your support we have come so far and together we can make a difference! Happy Holidays!!

COMMUNITY CORNER



In November 2018, the story of Kalin Bennett became a highlight on national news and social media. Kalin had become the first autistic player to be drafted to a NCAA basketball team when he was admitted to Kent State University. Kalin credited hard work and identifying his unique talents as being the keys to his success.

Stories like Kalin's are becoming more and more common as individuals with disabilities become more integrated in society. Opportunities abound as society focuses more on what people can do instead of what they can't.

Do you have a story of extraordinary achievement? We would love to hear it! Share your story on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/springboardlandings> or email us at info@springboardlandings.org.

YOU CAN HELP

As another year comes to an end, I look back at the exciting ways in which Springboard Landings has grown and is moving toward the culmination of the vision of the Founders and the founding Board of Directors.

With the help of our loyal supporters over the years, we have forged our way to the position where we can see the Landers having a place of their own - supported by family and friends, while having the freedom to be independent and enjoy the camaraderie of their peers. Our Board is busy researching and refining the acceptance criteria for Housing, Life Inventory Skills, Policies and Procedures, exploring possible partnerships, and much, much more. With a population that is often overlooked, this is a necessary undertaking to help recognize and support the needs of high-functioning adults with mild developmental disabilities.

I see 2019 as a time to strive to find that piece of land out there that is just waiting for Springboard Landings to call their own. With your help, this can be accomplished. Let us know if you see some land surrounded by community that looks like the future home for our Landers - it currently may be vacant or abandoned. We will do our due diligence and reach out to find that gem of land we are so much in need of to launch the next stage of our mission. We are open to remodelling a building to meet our needs.

I am pleased to be one of the founding Board of Directors and am passionate about Springboard Landings and the wonderful, fulfilling lives that will be provided by the benefactors of the vision.

Please continue to support the vision as this comes to fruition.

Happy Holidays!

Dawn Morgan-Bagby



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See how at <https://www.kitces.com/blog/qualified-charitable-distribution>



Meet Our New Board Member



John Cooper joined the Springboard Landings Board of Directors after relocating back to his hometown of Nashville in April. He previously spent 5 years in Hong Kong to help launch and grow an office for a leading digital experience design agency. Cooper has 25 years marketing experience working both agency and client side in high-growth and Fortune 500 companies spanning music, entertainment, telco, automotive, and technology industries.

Q: What drew you to serving on the Springboard Landings Board?

A: The obvious answer would be because my parents are the founders of the nonprofit, so I guess I was kind of a shoo-in. But the real desire is because my little sister is a future Lander and through her, this overlooked population has gained my heart. They've made a difference in my life and I hope to do the same for them. I'm really thankful for the opportunity.

It's also the people reading this that drew me to serving. Springboard Landings is a place that cuts through all the political division and negativity we see in the media. It has been a window for me to see the true goodness in people. I've been blown away by the generosity of family, friends and complete strangers. It's a breath of fresh air.

Q: How has it made a difference in your life?

We're talking about young adults with mild developmental disabilities, who didn't always start out that way. Everyone has their story. My sister fell into this population after contracting encephalitis when she was 5 years old. I've met another that resulted from spinal meningitis and seizures at birth, and another that had a traumatic brain injury from a car wreck in high school. This could be any of us, at any time. Circumstances in life are what bring out the true heroes. To see their perseverance through various obstacles inspires me to be my best amidst my own challenges.

Q: Was there anything like Springboard Landings in Hong Kong?

The Nesbitt Centre was established in Hong Kong in 1993, with its first residential facility opening in 2003. They serve a broad range of people with disabilities but have a similar focus on giving them the same opportunities to develop and use their talents and skills as other people. They opened coffee shops to employ people with learning disabilities to showcase their abilities to the local community. It was always heart-warming to get a cup of coffee from one of their locations, The Nest, near my office. It reminded me we're all in this together.

Q: From your perspective, why do you think Springboard Landings is important?

A: The need for services for this population wasn't even recognized by Tennessee legislature until the year 2000. Although great strides have been made since that time, to this day - they're still lumped in with people with intellectual disabilities in terms of many regulations. People with mild developmental disabilities have a different set of needs. They are capable of much more independence, although still vulnerable. A Task Force was established in 2006 that projected this population to be between 12,078 and 39,252 Tennesseans. You may see them bagging groceries, helping out at beauty salons, performing light duties at the YMCA or performing janitorial jobs at your office. They're not the ones getting financially ahead in life and more likely to depend heavily on their parents. Springboard Landings helps answer the question: What happens to me when my parents are no longer available?

Q: What are your hopes for your term on the Springboard Landings Board?

A: I'm lucky to be serving on a talented Board. My hopes are that as we gain more exposure, we continue to make the right connections and get the funding necessary to bring this to fruition. I can't wait until the day we start preparing our future Landers for their own apartments and a path for reaching their fullest potential when their parents may no longer be around.





Building Community

As the year is closing, this will be the last chance this year to make a tax deductible donation to Springboard Landings! You can even make your donation in honor of persons on your gift list - making it truly a gift that continues! Use the enclosed envelope or go to www.springboardlandings.org and click on the DONATE tab.



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Providing adults who need a limited amount of support an option for independent living in a secure, community-centered environment.

Springboard Landings is a member of the Center for Nonprofit Management and The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.

springboardlandings.org (615)719-9060 info@springboardlandings.org

Springboard Landings is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible.