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News Weekly

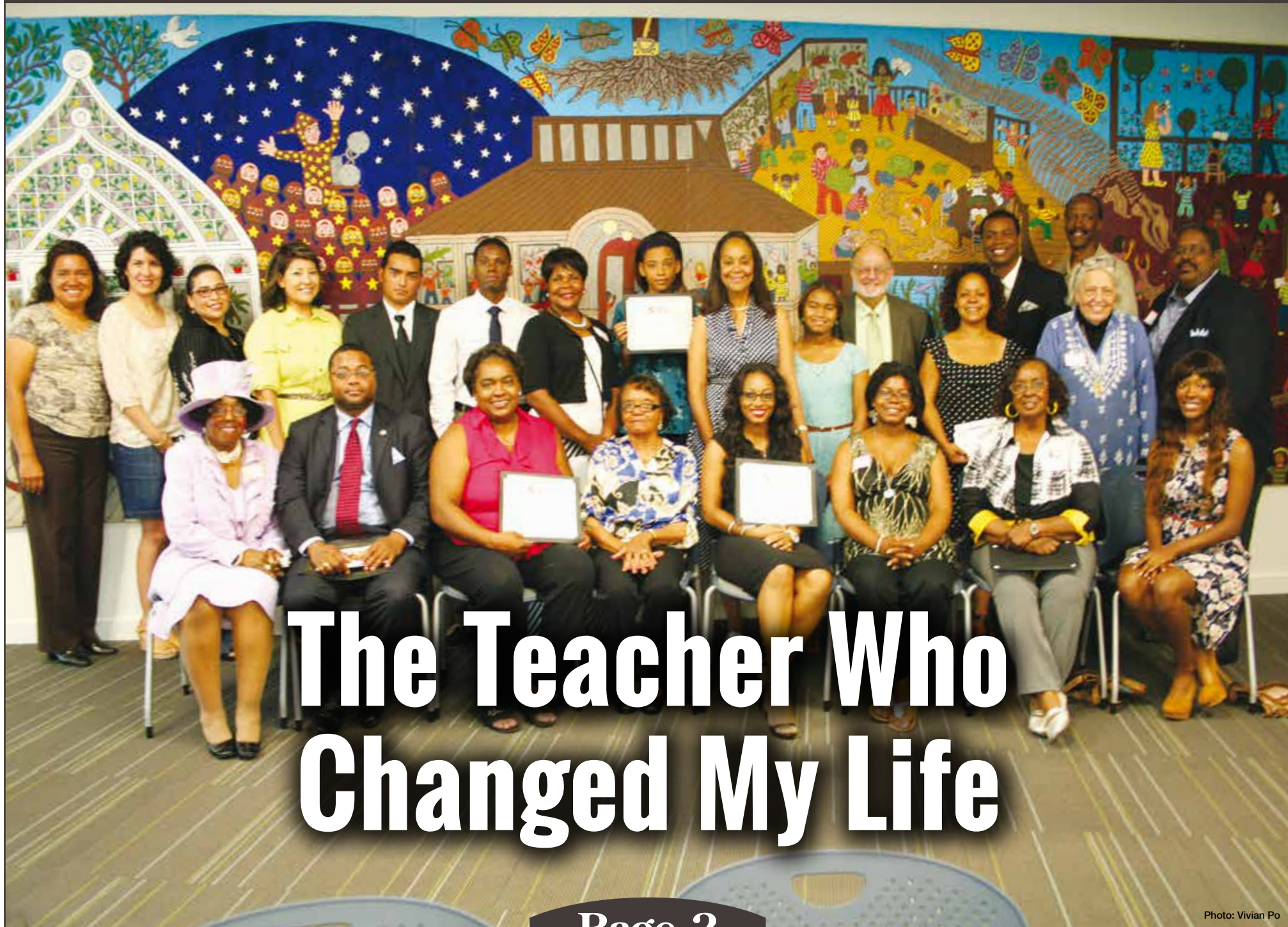
"The People's Paper"

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Photo: Vivian Po



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The Teacher Who Changed My Life

*New America Media, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Partner
with Ethnic Media to Sponsor Contest Honoring Teachers*



Center, Finalist Duana Parker (Teenage Category) L-R brother Haseem, Hakeem, father Duane Parker who won drawing for Ipad Mini, sister Nadja, teacher David Pierson and wife.



Winner (Teacher in Memory) Asali De Van Ecclesiastes, pictured with her family and Adinkra Nola Director Elizabeth Fletcher.

Story and Photos by Edwin Buggage

Honoring Teachers

As we conclude another school year, we see students taking a summer break and teachers getting a much needed rest as they prepare for the fall where they will again work hard teaching our youth and giving them the tools they need to be successful in society. Often castigated, underpaid and underappreciated for the work they do, but they are truly the unsung "heroes" and "sheros" in our community. Recently, New America Media through a grant by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation held an

essay contest. Partnering with Ethnic Media and sponsoring contests in Atlanta, Memphis and New Orleans.

Contest Winners and Dedication to Education

At the New Orleans Public Library in New Orleans East, many of the participants, their teacher and families and Ethnic Media Partners gathered for the award ceremony. The winners in the 14 to 18 year old category were (Winner) Tyrone Clay, (Honorable Mention) Carnisha Tassin, (Honorable Mention) London Taylor and the Special Judges Award went to Yolanda Andrade. In the Adult Category

(Winner) Juwanda Ford-Williams, (Honorable Mention) Arianne Dabney, (Honorable Mention) L'Issa Gates, (Honorable Mention) Jodacia Harrington. In the teacher in Memory Category, (Winner) Asali De Van Ecclesiastes, (Honorable Mention) Marie Agid, (Honorable Mention) Bertha Irons. The winners in the teenage and adult and the teachers they wrote about were awarded 500 dollars and the Teacher in Memory winner donated 500 dollars to a local school or charity.

During the event many of the winners and their teacher got up to speak. Maria S. George, the First Vice President of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association was the Keynote

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Speaker and spoke about the importance of teachers. Teenage category winner Tyrone Clay's teacher Benjamin Davis spoke briefly about Tyrone's work ethic and how he has many great things to look forward to in his future. Davis also donated his share of the prize to the furthering of Tyrone's education. "I wanted to write about and give thanks to someone who helped inspire me and now I am doing the same working in education," said Arianne Dabney speaking of Teacher Mrs. Josline Frank who was in the audience. In her essay she said, "I had no plans and was secretly afraid." But today she is a second year graduate student seeking to get her PhD in Counseling. This is just one of the many stories that were told during the ceremony.

Teaching is more than just a Job, it is a Calling

During Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath there were many people who went beyond the call of duty, truly becoming the face of selflessness. Doing whatever

they had to do to contribute to the rebuilding of the City and its people. Jodacia Harrington became a teenage mother while still in high school and could have easily become another negative statistic. But it was her former business Teacher Derek Bardell who never gave up on her and never allowed her to give up on herself. "Being a teacher is more than just a job, it is a calling to make an impact on the lives of our young people, in the years I have done this type of work I have worked towards giving children who come from what some would consider disadvantaged backgrounds access to all the things those from more privileged backgrounds have," says Bardell. Today things are looking bright for Harrington who is a young mother of two and attending Delgado Community College.

The winners in the adult category and Teacher in Memory are both professional writers, Asali De Van Ecclesiastes and Juwanda Ford-Williams. They both wrote touching essays, Ford-Williams wrote about Mrs. Del-

phine Butler who was her first grade teacher. In her essay Ford-Williams, who by this time had moved to New York and become a writer, received a package from Mrs. Butler and it was the book Ford-Williams made as a student in the first grade. In it there was a note that said, "I always knew you would do it." Asali De Van Ecclesiastes, is a Writer and Activist. In her essay she spoke of her sixth grade Teacher Mrs. Gloria Humphrey Scott, speaking of her teacher she says she taught her and her classmates ancestral pride and human dignity, a quality today that Asali embodies and teaches others. She donated her prize money to Adrinka Nola, a school her son attends headed by Elizabeth Fletcher.

The Importance of Teaching and the Future of America

Throughout its storied history the U.S. has become a great country because of immigration and amending itself into become a more just and fair nation where

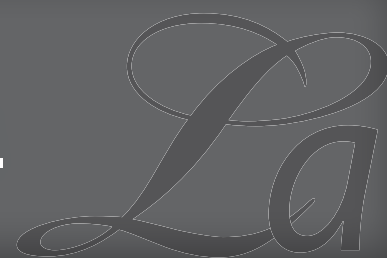
more of its citizens could access the American Dream. In the contest several essays touched on these themes. Bertha Irons and Patricia Thomas, in addition to writing amazing essays gave historical backdrops that charts the journey of African-Americans during the Civil Rights Era. In her essay Ms. Thomas speaks of her fourth grade teacher Ms. Porshe in 1963-64 New Orleans. "Mrs. Porshe had the ability to make every student in her class feel unique and special," she writes of her teacher. "She demanded that we treat each other with dignity and respect." In her essay she recalls a day that America mourned when President Kennedy was assassinated where Mrs. Porshe shed tears and told her class what a great man he was and all the good things he had done and was going to do for Black people in America. This great woman was one of the reasons Ms. Thomas became an educator working for several decades teaching special education, speaking of her career and Mrs. Porshe, she says,

"I truly enjoyed teaching children and helping them overcome obstacles and become successful in whatever they chose to pursue. After Hurricane Katrina I retired from teaching in the schools, but I have never ceased to be an educator, I still am dedicated to helping young people and I still think of the great impact Mrs. Porshe had on me."

In Bertha Irons Essay she spoke of her teacher at Walter L. Cohen High School, Mr. Lee, who gave her the wings to fly by helping her enroll in Xavier University in the 1950's. In her life she became a teacher and poured herself into the well of knowledge that many young people drank from during her time in the classroom. Something she says she could have not done without the help of Mr. Lee. On this day Mr. Lee's daughter was present at the event, with her and Ms. Irons meeting for the first time. Overall it was a day filled with emotion as

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100 Black Men of America Convene in New Orleans

Photos by Glenn Summers

The organization of 100 Black Men of America held it's 27th Annual Conference here last week-end at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Pictured are some highlights from the event.



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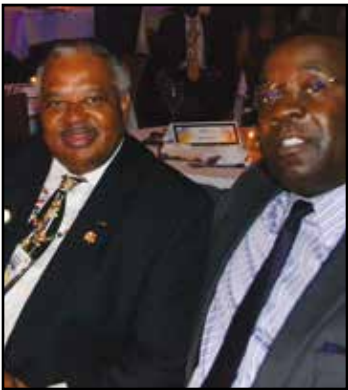
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100 Black Men VIP Reception

Photos by Vincent Sylvain



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Pipeline to the People

Fondest Moments with Fathers

Question: Can you talk about the most memorable time with father and lessons of life learned?

By Corey Anderson
Data News Weekly Columnist

Carl Winslow. Archie Bunker. Nigel Thornberry. These are just a few examples of what one might point out to be something we call a father. But what exactly is a “father”? Although they are fictional characters, they exuded, to the entire world, the qualities that we consider to be of a great father: caring, watchful, protective, using brawn when necessary, and providing for his child(ren) to further their growth whether it be in a mental, physical, or spiritual aspect. However, some people neither have this father nor “cather figure” consistently or have never experienced these qualities from a person other than the woman in their lives. We tend to look at these individuals as deprived. However, this is why we give some of the strongest women in our lives the title of mother and father.

Due to the upcoming “Father’s Day” this weekend, Data News Weekly wanted to talk about the most memorable time with your father and what you gained from it. Would you pass it on (since all lessons aren’t positive)? How did they affect your outlook on life?



Jennifer Carter

“The fondest memory of my father, the late Alderman Gregory Carter of St. Louis, Missouri is when I graduated from Xavier University. I have never seen a bigger smile on his face. He said it was the best investment he had ever made, and I will never forget his tears of joy on that day.”



Tommy E. Curtain, Jr.

“My father’s name is Tommy E. Curtain, Sr. The most memorable time I had with my father is when I asked him “what made you marry my mother”? He told me that they didn’t both have a lot of money, but that he loved her. He said, “they believed that they could build together.” The lesson he taught me was that you can’t be afraid to start from the beginning and grow. It’s very important to be patient.”



Bre'Anna Jolliff

“My most memorable time with my father, D'Broski Jolliff Sr., would have to be when my father took me out on a father/daughter date. On the date, he taught me how I should use my silver wear correctly, how to sit up without my elbows on the table, and always place the napkin in my lap. He as well taught me how a date should go and how a man should treat a lady. Experiencing all of this taught me to never settle for less, and have high standards not only for myself, but as well for the potential guys I was to encounter along the way. I really appreciate my daddy alot & all he does for me. He makes this date yearly now & I always look forward to each one of them.”

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many in the audience was moved to tears several times during the ceremony.

A moment that left many weeping was a story of hope and inspiration for the future of America. When Bayron Chavez a high school student recently coming to this country from Honduras came up to the podium with his Teacher Ms. Lynette Lopez. In his essay he likens her to an angel that God has put in his path to help him and also that she is more than a teacher, but a mother figure. He spoke to the audience in Spanish with Ms. Lopez translating wiping tears of joy and appreciation from his face expressing the love he has for his teacher and for what he hopes to do in his new country.

Teachers are one of our society’s most valuable assets. This is something we sometimes take for granted, but it is time that we acknowledge, appreciate and respect teachers for all the hard work they do. And as a country if we care about being competitive in the 21st Century then we as a nation must invest in education and teachers.



Honorable Mention (Adult Category) L' Issa Gates.



New Orleans Data News Weekly Editor Edwin Buggage, Vivian Po, Education Beat Director New America Media and Vincent Sylvain, Publisher of the New Orleans Agenda.



Honorable Mention Adult Category winner Arianne Dabney with teacher Derek Bardell and Honorable Mention (Teacher in Memory) winner Bertha Irons.



Carnisha Tassin Honorable Mention (Teenage Category) pictured with her mentor Jessie.

Terrilyn Monette's Car Found Decomposed Body Inside

Authorities pulled a missing teacher's car from a New Orleans bayou Saturday and police said there was a decomposed body inside.

Authorities couldn't immediately say whether the body was Terrilyn Monette, who was last seen leaving a New Orleans bar not far from the bayou in the early morning hours of March 2. She would've had to cross the waterway to get home.

Monette was a Long Beach, Calif., native who moved to Louisiana to teach. Her family has been flying back and forth from California to look for her. They attended a prayer vigil Friday and appealed for FBI intervention, accusing the New Orleans Police Department of mishandling the case. The department has denied the accusations.

Monette's mother, Toni Enclade, was among the family members who came to the scene Saturday.

"I don't understand why it took them so long to find her car," Enclade told The Times-Picayune. "This is supposedly one of the first places they would have checked.



Terrilyn Monette

I'm just overwhelmed. It doesn't make sense."

Louisiana state Rep. Austin Badon helped spearhead the search. He said he and a volunteer diver resurveyed the waterway and found the car.

"We decided to sonar this area again, and more heavily, and it got a hit," Badon told The Associated Press.

A diver got into the water and found the car, which was covered

with a film when it was pulled out. Badon described the body as "heavily decomposed."

John Gagliano, the Orleans Parish coroner's chief investigator, said he could not immediately tell if the body was a man or a woman. Gagliano told The Advocate an autopsy will be performed Monday to determine the identity

of the body and cause of death.

Monette was a second-grade teacher at Woodland West Elementary School in Harvey, which is located across the Mississippi River from New Orleans. She had come to Louisiana through a program that recruits teachers to area schools and had been nominated for a teacher of the year honor.

After going to a bar, her friends left her at her car. They told police she planned to sleep before driving home. She left a parking lot about 5:15 a.m. and a traffic camera captured her making a turn in New Orleans' City Park.

Monette's disappearance sparked a broad search handled in part by the Texas group Equusearch. A number of cars were pulled earlier from Bayou St. John as part of the search, some of which had been reported stolen.

"Unfortunately it wasn't what we were looking for in terms of finding here alive and well, but it does bring the family some closure," Badon said.

Statewide Lemonade Day Local Winners Announced

Lemonade Day Louisiana set for May 3, 2014 next year

Last month, more than 13,000 youth across Louisiana participated in the state's third annual Lemonade Day on Saturday, May 4, 2013. Immediately following Lemonade Day, participants are encouraged to submit their business results information via the Lemonade Day website. This form is used to properly document how each participant tracked their business results. Winners will receive a gift basket from Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers. Additionally, Junior Achievement of Greater New Orleans will honor local winners at a special event at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11, 2013 at their headquarters located at 5100 Orleans Avenue in New Orleans. Lemonade Day is already gearing up for Lemonade Day Louisiana 2014, which is set to take place on Saturday, May 4, 2014.

Winners for Statwide honors and also the New Orleans and Northshore market are listed below.

**Statewide Overall
Top Producer**
Name: Cultural Elite Dance Academy
Location: New Orleans, La (outside of the Jazz Festival)
Profit: \$1597
Donation: \$100 to Breast Cancer Research

**New Orleans
Top Producer**
Name: Cultural Elite Dance Academy
Location: New Orleans
Profit: \$1597
Donation: \$100 to Breast Cancer Research
Best Business Plan
Name: Norman Price Wildcats

Location: New Orleans
Profit: \$465
Donation: \$100 to SPCA

**Northshore
Top Performer**
Name: Shane Barrow and Markus Demote
Stand: Pucker Up
Profit: \$521
Donation: Metropolitan Center for Women and Children

Best Business Plan
Name: Myrissa Groggier
Stand: M&M's Lemonade
Profit: \$280
Donation: \$80 to St. Jude's Hospital

Data News Weekly,
a sponsor of Lemonade Day 2013, congratulates all of the winners, and all those who participated in the event!

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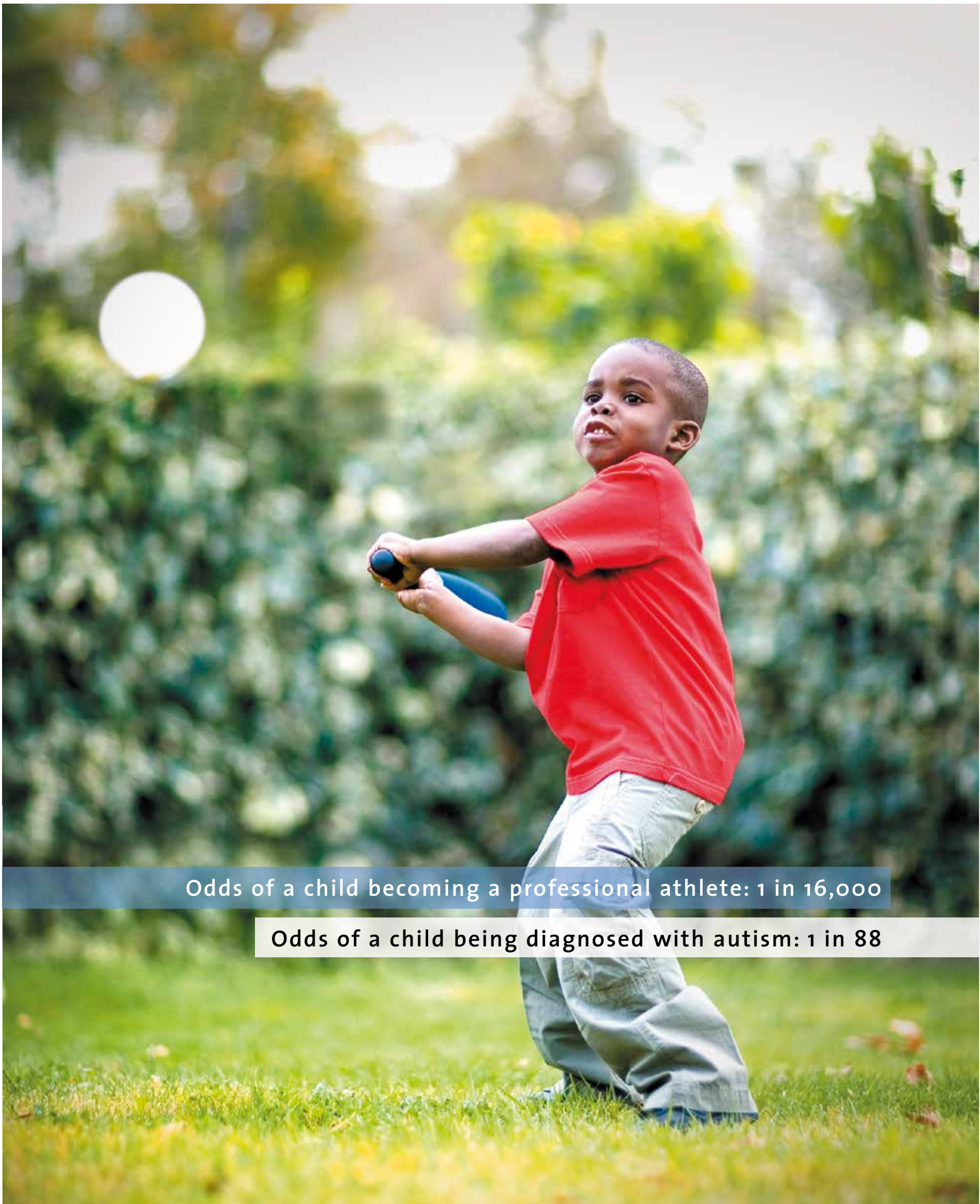
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