

CONTINENTAL NOTEBOOK

By Heather Wiederhoeft



Tom Ferazzi, managing director of treasury operations at Continental, sits with his son Eric, who was born with Down syndrome.

A Father's Love

TOM FERAZZI IS LIKE most parents in that he is committed to ensuring his 13-year-old son, Eric, receives the best education possible to help him become successful in life. For Tom and his wife, Lori, finding the right educational setting for Eric has been a struggle as Eric was born with Down syndrome. Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal condition in the United States. One child in every 733 live births has Down syndrome. Today, more than 400,000 people in the U.S. have it.

Tom, Continental's managing director of treasury operations, and his family have been on an educational journey that has often been frustrating. "For several years, we tried to work with the public school system only to fall short on so many occasions," he says. "The system has a tremendous challenge in educating typical children and is often not equipped to deal with children with special needs. We found that our academic expectations for our child were often at odds with the expectations of the public school system."

Though the Ferazzis did find a private school they felt would meet their goals for Eric's education, they were on a waiting list for more than seven years with no true hope that Eric would be able to enroll. The family decided their best hope for Eric was to start the Horizon School. "We decided we needed to control our own fate and open a much-needed school to give our son, and other children with Down syndrome or similar disabilities, the opportunity to reach their full potential," Tom says.

The Ferazzis have been involved with every aspect of the Horizon School, from its initial inception to overseeing the day-to-day operations. The school is housed within Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, a Friendswood, Texas, church that donated both classroom and office space. It opened for its first day of classes August 25.

The first three students at the Horizon School are flourishing in their new environment, and other families have expressed interest in enrolling their children. "The parents of our current students are so grateful for the school and are very excited about the progress they are already seeing in their child's education and social skills," Tom says.

To learn more about the Horizon School, visit thehorizonschooltx.com/thehorizonschool/Home.html.

greener planes mean bluer skies

This month, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change convenes in Copenhagen, Denmark, where world leaders will work to reach an agreement on international climate change.

Continental is proud to be a leader in promoting environmental awareness in the airline industry. The company supports the aviation sector's goals of reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) output by an average of 1.5 percent annually and achieving carbon-neutral growth from the year 2020, along with the longer-term objective of reducing carbon emissions by 50 percent by 2050. These goals are subject to critical aviation infrastructure and technology advances achieved by the industry and government, such as the improvement of the nation's air traffic control system by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Continental was the first U.S. carrier to participate in a biofuel flight demonstration. In that demonstration we used a blend of algae and jatropha oil along with traditional jet fuel. Continental continues to support efforts to develop sustainable alternative fuels in commercial quantities.

Perhaps most critically, Continental operates one of the youngest and most fuel-efficient fleets in the industry. The airline reduced its CO₂ emissions and fuel burn by more than 38 percent since 1997, yet it carries more customers. Continental is retiring most of its classic aircraft and will continue delivery of fuel-efficient Boeing Next Generation aircraft, including the 787 in 2011.

Continental's commitment to the environment extends to our operations as well as our fleet, including the use of electric ground service equipment, and recycling waste at our hubs and on our flights. Continental's maintenance facilities also use a paperless environment for all aircraft maintenance records.

For more information on Continental's environmental programs, visit continental.com > About Continental > Global Citizenship.