



HEARING AND SPEECH CENTER
a non-profit clinic, school & community



PEOPLE ARE TALKING

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HEARING AND SPEECH CENTER

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In This Issue: Celebrating Education!

Summer can be a great opportunity for kids to learn and explore, but it is also often a time when children with hearing loss risk losing the momentum they have gained during the school year. Our summer newsletter highlights the ways that the Hearing and Speech Center helps our kids and families continue learning throughout the summer and beyond. We are also spotlighting ways that adults and our professional community support one another in life-long learning. Many programs and activities facilitate education, and many people have supported their development and provided funding to enable their continuation. This issue is dedicated to those services that educate our kids, families, and community, both in and out of the classroom.

Summer Exploration Camp Jones Gulch

Who is brave enough to fly down a zipline, creative enough to perform in a talent show, AND able to manage their hearing loss while exploring the great outdoors? Our youth program participants!

Sixteen deaf and hard-of-hearing students, ages 8-13, attended YMCA Camp Jones Gulch this July as part of an annual Hearing and Speech Center program for local youth. Spending time learning new activities, meeting new friends, and working with a group is an important part of social development for children and youth. Our summer camp program enables kids with hearing loss to participate in these activities in a safe, nurturing setting that connects them with other deaf and hard-of-hearing youth as well as new peers and friends. This program is provided at no cost to families, thanks to the support of the San Francisco Department of Children, Youth, & Families and the generosity of our donors! One participant wrote: "Even though it is my fourth year coming there, I am still having as much fun as the first, if not, more. This is because every time I come back, I meet new friends as well as old friends...Another thing is that the atmosphere is not only fun, it is also welcoming...The camp isn't just a place to hike around and enjoy nature, it is also a place where you overcome obstacles." Our youth are on the path to success, thanks to programs that provide tools to learn and grow and thanks to their own incredible determination to conquer *any* challenges that come their way!

SUMMER 2015

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"The camp isn't just a place to hike around and enjoy nature, it is also a place where you overcome obstacles."



A Message From Our CEO



Dear Friends,

Thank you to all of you who are responding to our Summer Education appeal. For our deaf and hard of hearing students, the interruption of the educational process during the summer can often be a major setback. Your support allows us to build a bridge during this time and ensure continuity. We run tutoring, classes, summer job placements and for those fortunate enough to be planning for college, a college preparation and life skills program. As I write this letter, we are also running our summer camp at Camp Jones Gulch and giving several of our kids the opportunity to get out of the city, be with other kids with hearing loss, learn, and to just simply have fun! So again, thank you! If you would like to be a supporter, visit our website at www.hearingspeech.org and click the "donate" button.

If you've visited us in the last few weeks, you've probably noticed that our lobby has undergone a renovation. I'd like to thank Lorraine Alwaise and Tory Peterson of Design Milagros, who supported the Center and our Facilities Committee by helping to coordinate the painting, carpet installation, and design concept.

Finally I would like to thank the Pacific Heights Wine and Food Festival for choosing the HSC as their charitable cause this year. It is a wonderful series of events that occur between September 17th and 20th, focused on wine, food, and fashion. Their website is www.pacificheightswineandfood.com. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Darragh Kennedy | CEO

Learning Outside the Classroom A Student Perspective

Cassidy Shea is a student from Pitzer College, who has spent the summer observing Speech-Language Therapists and Audiologists at the Center, as part of a self-designed curriculum for her college's summer internship program. Here, she shares more about her experience:

Communication, be it verbal or signed, is at the crux of our ability to navigate the human world, and the importance of one's ability to do this with confidence is immeasurable. People often paint speech therapy as only necessary to treat a lisp or a stutter, but fail to realize the vastness of the communication disorder spectrum affecting nearly 40 million in the US alone. These barriers can affect people of all ages and can stem from a myriad of things, including but not limited to hearing loss, head trauma or stroke, autism spectrum disorder, and developmental conditions like cerebral palsy.

I am an undergraduate student studying Cognitive Science at the Claremont College Consortium. Because the specificity of SLP is not available for me to study in my undergraduate department, I have been eager to engage with the field in whatever capacity is available for me. After receiving a scholarship from my school to pursue an unpaid internship in the city, the folks at the Hearing and Speech Center were generous enough to welcome me into their offices for the summer. After graduating from Pitzer College I plan on entering a graduate program in Speech and Language Pathology, and pursuing a clinical career either working with children or older adults.

My time at the Hearing and Speech Center has provided me with a glimpse into the nuances and complexities of the support systems necessary for those experiencing communication barriers. HSCNC provides a comprehensive and holistic approach to treatment, taking into account the social, financial, and educational supports that must accompany any technological and therapeutic treatments. I admire their dedication in attempting to provide life-long care and support, and I will surely bring these values along wherever my studies may take me. Thanks HSCNC for the time and energy you have shared with me!

Written by: Cassidy Shea, student and volunteer, Pitzer College

About
8% to 9% of
preschool children
have speech disorders, and
approximately 5% of school-
age children have speech or
language impairments.

Source: National Institute
on Deafness and Other
Communication Disorders
(NIDCD)

Community Partnerships: Educating Parents and Professionals

In previous issues, we've written about how our Speech-Language Pathologists are impacting the community through their partnerships with other agencies that work with young children and families. Our staff members also partner with other professionals to improve their own practices and referral methods.

This spring, the Hearing and Speech Center was excited to host Occupational Therapist Maya Fok from Connected Kidz for two presentations on Sensory Integration. Maya spoke to a group of Hearing and Speech Center staff, parents, and community members about how sensory integration can impact function in everyday life, both at home and at school. Our staff members often work with children who may have trouble with sensory integration, meaning that they have trouble appropriately responding to sensory experiences coming from the body and the external environment. While children with sensory integration dysfunction would visit an occupational therapist for therapy or intervention, other professionals, like teachers or SLPs, can greatly benefit from learning more about strategies to support working with children who deal with this common diagnosis.

Maya was able to answer questions about ways to help children adjust to a new classroom environment and cues to promote body awareness. Parents also asked about the impact of technology on their children's development of motor skills. Children may come to the Hearing and Speech Center for speech therapy or due to hearing loss, but a critical part of our program goals is to provide the best possible to service that takes the unique needs of each child into account. To that end, our staff prioritize making connections with other community agencies for referrals, learning best practices, and engaging in an open dialogue about how we can support those we serve.



Donor Corner

June 30 was the end of our fiscal year, and we'd like to take the opportunity to thank all of our supporters who continue to make our programs possible. From July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, we have received 577 gifts from individual donors through events, our End-of-the-Year campaign, and more - totaling nearly \$200,000!

During the last year we have provided:

- outreach, support groups, hearing screenings, and case management to 550 adults and seniors
- 6,014 audiology appointments to 2,136 clients, including 710 children
- 3,628 sessions of speech-language evaluations and therapy to 230 clients
- education, advocacy, and support to 119 families, 75% of whom are from low-income households

Your support makes our work possible!
Thank you!

Do you want to volunteer or help us plan our next event? Contact Jessica Brockman at (415)921-7658 or development@hearingspeech.org. We need your help to make a difference!

FUNdraising for Education Wine 4 Words

This spring, the Hearing and Speech Center hosted the second annual Wine 4 Words fundraiser at the beautiful Tres Sabores Winery in St. Helena. This family event benefits our Education Programs, and this year, we raised nearly \$13,000 thanks to our many supporters! Wine 4 Words included wine tasting, authentic paella and tapas, face painting, live music, farm animals, a scavenger hunt, and more - and thanks to the buzz from our community of supporters, we sold out with 165 ticket purchasers! The generosity of many donors also enabled us to sponsor 11 families from our programs with tickets to the event!

The success of Wine 4 Words is due to our parents, clients, staff, and friends who volunteered their time and effort to make this amazing day happen. Thank you for helping us provide the best possible education for our kids!





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Visit us online to learn more about how we can help you, or someone you know.

Community Spotlight: Jennifer Rosdail



Jennifer and Paragon support our education programs through events like Wine 4 Words



The Hearing and Speech Center has had the great fortune to be connected with a number of community partners who support our events and programs. Jennifer Rosdail of Paragon Real Estate is an avid supporter of our Education Program, and here, she shares more about how she became part of the Hearing and Speech community:

I am involved as a sponsor because I have been able to see the difference the center makes in the lives of the students and clients. My eldest son attended Claire Lilienthal, which was the San Francisco school district mainstreaming school for many former HSC students with hearing loss, and I was very impressed with the students. And then when my best friend Carolyne's son needed the help of the Center, I was so happy she asked me to support its programs. When I sponsored the "See What I Hear" event years ago, I took one of my best friends who suffers from hearing loss as my guest AND ran into many people from my Lilienthal community. I realized then that long-term support of the center was a good fit for me personally in so many ways. People and businesses participating philanthropically in supporting unique institutions is important in gaining perspective and in making the world just a little bit better. Every time I attend one of the HSC events or read the newsletter, I am touched by just what a big difference the Center makes in the lives of so many - in both the practical side of hearing loss and communication, as well as giving them a place to connect and experience total acceptance.

If you or someone you know are selling or buying real estate, contact Jennifer and mention that you were referred by the Hearing and Speech Center - she has generously agreed to make a donation from any referred commission back to the Center. For more information about community partners who give back to our cause, check out our website!