

# Listen For A Lifetime with Hearts for Hearing



## Hearts for Hearing

In response to your requests, Hearts for Hearing is proud to present our first newsletter! Our goal is to provide quarterly newsletters on our website. As we reach the end of our second year of providing Auditory-Verbal therapy & audiological services for children & adults with hearing loss, we thought it would be best to start by looking back at all of the exciting things that took place in 2008 as well as looking forward to what's in store for 2009.

We're delighted to note that three of our Auditory-Verbal therapists, Amber McLean, Natalie O'Halloran, & Lindsay Steuart, passed the certification exam this past year. With eight certified AV therapists, Hearts for Hearing is now the largest Auditory Verbal center in the world!

We continued to pursue our goal of sharing our service model with other professionals. In 2008, over 25 presentations were given by Hearts for Hearing personnel at national and international conferences. Additionally, numerous professionals from around the world came to OKC to visit our clinic. Thank you for allowing students and visiting professionals to learn from you and your family members. In 2009, we expect visitors from Argentina, Mexico, Canada, and several US states. Also, Hearts for Hearing has been awarded a grant to support a new initiative which aims to educate professionals working with children with hearing loss.

We also continued our commitment to research and development by conducting several research projects within the past year. The worldwide validation study of Phonak's new personal FM system, the *Inspiro*, took place at Hearts for Hearing in June of this past year. The results of this study have led to a modification in the fitting protocol used for personal FM systems



### Happy Holidays!

and Nucleus cochlear implants. Hearts for Hearing also participated in sponsored research projects with the Advanced Bionics Corporation & has submitted applications for two separate NIH grants. The upcoming year will bring many more opportunities in the research arena.

Of course, Hearts for Hearing would not be in a position to serve children and adults in Oklahoma without the incredible support of many generous groups and individuals. In September, the Chi Omega Sorority held a fashion show called Passion for a Fashion, with proceeds benefitting the clinic. Also in September, the Bob Funk & the Oklahoma Pork Council held the Taste of Elegance Gala & raised substantial funding to support Hearts for Hearing. In October, the Gaillardia Golf and Country Club & David LeNorman held the second annual Hearts for Hearing Pro/Am golf tournament with proceeds benefitting Hearts for Hearing. Currently, we're in the middle of our Annual Campaign to generate funding that will allow our work to continue and to make 2009 an even better year! Please feel free to pass along the names of persons or organizations interested in supporting children & adults with hearing loss.

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### Special points of interest:

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*Inaugural Hearts for Hearing  
Newsletter*

*Editor: Jessica Ballard, Au.D.*

## Hearts for Hearing Preschool

One of the many important programs Hearts for Hearing offers for families is the Hearts for Hearing Preschool. The Hearts for Hearing Preschool provides 3 to 4 year old children with hearing impairment a language intensive program to help them develop spoken language and auditory skill as well as, social and cognitive skills. It prepares young children with hearing impairment to integrate into a mainstream preschool setting, at the earliest possible age, with appropriate support services as needed.

The preschool is taught by certified speech-language pathologists and Auditory-Verbal therapists. Currently our preschool teachers are Amber McLean M.S., CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVT and Lindsay Steuart M.S., CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVT. The focus of the preschool classroom is on

language listening and speech development. A reverse mainstream setting is used to create a blended learning environment that integrates several typical developing peers to model age appropriate listening and language skills. Children with hearing impairment wear either hearing aids or cochlear implants. A sound field amplification system is used as well as personal FM's to create the best listening environment.

Each week, a theme is targeted which incorporates vocabulary and activities that center around the theme. A weekly parent letter is provided that gives parents ideas of things they can do at home to carry-over the vocabulary. Graduate students in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Oklahoma also have 8-week clinical rotations through our preschool assisting in the activi-



*Heaven Autrey under the big top at the preschool!*

ties. As these student's are part of the future, they learn strategies to help develop listening and spoken language for children.

Currently, the preschool meets on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Our school calendar runs September through May in addition to a summer session at Our Lord's Community Church.

## Listening for Littles

"Listening for Littles" is a parent-toddler class taught by certified Auditory-Verbal therapist, Tamara Elder, M.S. CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVT. Additionally an audiology doctoral intern assists and is available to perform checks of each child's equipment to ensure maximum performance during the activities.

"Listening for Littles" provides an experience similar to the Hearts for Hearing Preschool classroom but involves both the parent and child. A theme based curriculum is followed and the vocabulary targets are integrated within group routines, snack and language activities. Activities are fun, practical, and edu-



*Jacob Johnson and mother, Jennifer warming up the vocal cords!*

cational. The parents play an integral part in each class by learning the songs and finger-plays, along with the routine of the morning.

Additionally Auditory-Verbal strategies and techniques are tar-

*"parents play an integral part in each class"*

geted weekly and woven into the morning. These strategies ensure the maximum development of spoken language through listening. This experience helps prepare children for the transition to preschool as well as provide more opportunities for modeling and practice of the "auditory living" philosophy.

## Family Profile: Maverick Hunter

Maverick Hunter is just like any other soon-to-be two-year old boy. He loves to listen to music, read books, and play outside, and his parents report that he says something new almost every day. What's unique about Maverick is that he does all of these things in spite of his profound hearing loss.

Maverick was diagnosed with bilateral deafness and fitted with hearing aids at Hearts for Hearing during his first month of life. At ten months of age, he received bilateral cochlear implants and has made excellent progress since that time. Mav-

erick's development is a testament to the commitment of his family who has driven him from Altus to OKC for weekly Auditory-Verbal therapy and regular audiology appointments.

This past fall, Maverick's family decided to go one step further and extend their commitment to other children with hearing loss. They spoke with family and friends in their community and asked them to consider making a donation to Hearts for Hearing in Maverick's name. In November, Maverick and his family presented a check for \$6000 to Hearts for Hearing. His family hopes this support will al-

low the gift of spoken language to be provided for another child in Oklahoma with hearing loss.



*Maverick Hunter presents a generous gift to Hearts for Hearing*

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** *When is Hearts for Hearing going to move to its new location?*

**A:** The Board of Directors of Hearts for Hearing recently voted to remain in our current location. At this time, our current location offers a fiscally sound residence, and it is in close proximity to many of the professionals with whom we collaborate closely. However, the space at our current location does not support the growth we have experienced over the past two years. In order to serve the patient population of Hearts for Hearing, it will be critical to acquire additional clinical space within the next year. We will keep you posted regarding further developments.

**Q:** *Does Hearts for Hearing provide free hearing aids, audiology services and Auditory Verbal therapy for children?*

**A:** A very good question! Hearts for Hearing does provide all children five years of age and younger who have significant bilateral hearing loss with their first set of hearing aids at no cost. Financial assistance is also available on a sliding scale basis for all children eighteen years of age and younger for audiology services, Auditory-Verbal therapy, and pre-school tuition. Applications for financial assistance are available on the Hearts for Hearing website or can be requested at the clinic. There is a \$50 processing fee for all applications.

**Q:** *Does Hearts for Hearing provide services for adults?*

**A:** Yes! We provide diagnostic assessment of hearing, hearing aids, cochlear implants and aural rehabilitation services for all adults with any degree of hearing loss. In fact, over 1/3 of the patients we serve are adult patients. We have given many presentations both nationally and internationally to share the services we provide for adults with hearing loss. We have also conducted numerous research projects studying new technologies that benefits adults with hearing loss.



*Fun times at the Gaillardia Golf Tournament! Harper Orr, Teresa Caraway & Robin Houston*

## Calendar of Events:

Dec. 13, 2008 – Hearts for Hearing Christmas Party  
Dec. 24, 1:00-5:00 & Dec. 25-26 – Hearts for Hearing office closed  
Dec. 31, 1:00-5:00 & Jan. 1-2 – Hearts for Hearing office closed  
Dec. 22 – Jan 9 – Pre-school and Listening for Littles break  
Coming Soon! Family Workshop & Support Group to be scheduled



3525 NW 56th, Building A Suite 150,  
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(405) 548-4300, fax (405) 548-4350

## HEAR for the Holidays!

The cost of hearing aids, an FM system, audiological, and AV services is over \$15,000 for the first year of a child's life.

You can help a child with hearing loss learn to listen and talk by making a tax deductible contribution.



Please contact us by calling (405) 548-4300 or detach the bottom portion and mail to Hearts for Hearing.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution in the amount of: \_\_\_\_\_ . (Make check payable to Hearts for Hearing)

Please send my acknowledgement to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Visit Hearts for Hearing on the web at [www.heartsforhearing.org](http://www.heartsforhearing.org)

**"Listen for a lifetime"**

### Services for Adults:

- ◆ Comprehensive audiologic evaluation and management
- ◆ Hearing aid dispensing and assistive listening devices
- ◆ Cochlear Implant Center
- ◆ Auditory habilitation

### Services for Children:

- ◆ Comprehensive audiologic evaluation for children and infants
- ◆ Hearing aid/assistive device fittings
- ◆ Cochlear Implant Center
- ◆ Comprehensive speech and language evaluations
- ◆ Auditory Verbal Therapy
- ◆ Auditory Oral Preschool
- ◆ Parent-toddler education
- ◆ Summer enrichment program
- ◆ Family education and immersion

### Services for Professionals:

- ◆ Educational consultation and development
- ◆ Mentoring for Auditory-Verbal therapy and pediatric audiology
- ◆ Workshops and seminars
- ◆ Speakers bureau for civic, community and professional groups

