



WORDS FROM CEO Brett Bachmann



Another year gone by quickly, another year with much accomplished, and even more to do. In the next few weeks, we will spend our time surrounded by our family and friends, enjoying the upcoming holidays and reminiscing on just how quickly 2016 has turned into 2017. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to all our donors, volunteers, students, families, friends, and board members of Heuser Hearing & Language Academy and The Heuser Hearing Institute.

As we close this year out with good will and cheer for the season, I want to wish our current supporters and future supporters a happy holiday season. I'd like to take this time to salute the teachers and audiologists who labor in love everyday to change the lives of the children and families of HHI. One such special member of the management team, Debbie Woods, a member of the Heuser family since 2007, is profiled in this month's newsletter. Debbie exemplifies daily the spirit and passion of our school, and works tirelessly to make sure our students reach their full potential. She is a true treasure!

Your generous end of year gifts supply our students and classrooms with smart boards, much needed support for our teachers, and help to put smiles on the faces of kids who must deal with hearing issues every day. These kids cope with amazing odds, but manage to do it with the zeal and innocence of childhood. I invite you to come visit Heuser Hearing & Language and one of Heuser Hearing Institute's three locations to see just how much your support matters to so many of our clients, patients, students and families.

As the year comes to an end, I wish you all happiness and cheer. Thank you for your kindness towards our students and the school -- today and always!

Happy Holidays!

Brett Bachmann – CEO of Heuser Hearing Institute

HEUSER HEARING INSTITUTE FOOD DRIVE



FOOD DRIVE

Saturday, December 10th

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

117 E. Kentucky St. Louisville, KY 40203

We will be collecting food at all 3 of our locations from 8:30a.m. -12:30p.m. and 1:30-4:30p.m. Monday-Friday. Donation boxes will be located in the lobby.

Lyndon Location
417 Benjamin Lane,
Louisville, KY 40222

Dupont Location | 502-584-3573
3900 Dupont Square South, Suite D
Louisville, KY 40207

Downtown Campus
111-117 East Kentucky St.
Louisville, KY 40203

MEET DEBBIE WOODS



How long have you been at HHLA and what are some of your day to day activities?

In 2008 I walked in the doors just when they were transitioning from LDOS to HHLA. In fact, I remember sitting in the lobby with the superintendent, news outlets, and my daughter Maddie. I knew it was a pivotal point in HHLA's history and was so happy to be a part of it! I started off as a parent of a child attending HHLA. I took a year off from my teaching career to get her adjusted to a new school, and never left. Next thing I knew I was offered a grant writing position, then front desk (while grant writing). Sadly, my early intervention certification from Georgia did not transfer. So, to compensate not having that certification, I obtained a certification in deafblind and a masters in deaf education. Now, I am the Education Director of Heuser Hearing & Language Academy. From the first day I entered, it's almost as if my career here has been scripted. I have worked almost every position, received magical scholarships for degrees I needed, and followed the path until it led to what I was supposed to do.

How did you pick HHLA?

I remember very clearly living in Georgia knowing I needed to move back to my home town of Louisville. I LOVED my teaching job. It was at my dream school and I was also working as an early interventionists, but there was nothing for my deafblind daughter Maddie. I searched on internet for opportunities in Louisville that would help her learn communication. I was desperate to communicate with her. I stumbled on to (at the time) Louisville Deaf Oral School. I didn't hesitate. I made the leap. Put my house up for sale, left my dream job, and came home in search of a better life for my daughter.

What changes have you seen over the years?

The biggest changes is TECHNOLOGY. It's amazing. When I first arrived at LDOS/HHLA exactly half the school signed and half were oral. However, as the technology and early intervention has improved I have seen children make amazing strides! We now only have 2 signing classrooms and the rest are oral. Children are speaking and are graduating our program at younger ages. We are literally working our way out of a job. It's glorious. I have seen miracles every day, deafness does NOT have to be a disability.

How has the Hearing hearing school of thought changed over the years?

Well, I've been here for 8 years but I do see a strong oral push. If a child can be oral, we will help them reach that goal. However, we do understand not every child has the capacity or anatomy to be a hearing child. We do embrace Signed Exact English for children who need sign language.

What improvements would you like to see in the next 5 years? 10 Years? My wish would be to have small satellite Academy's in Eastern and Western Kentucky. I feel blessed the children in this area get amazing intervention and would love to provide it for many more children.

What is your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part of the job are the small moments with the children. I get to witness the first time a child says "mom" or the first time they put two words together. It fills my heart. However, nothing is better than a smile and a child running to you and giving you a hug.

What is your least favorite part of your job?

My least favorite part of the job is not being able to help all children with hearing loss. I wish Heuser could help all children.

The most challenging part of your job?

The most challenging part of my job is balancing my time between being education director and grant writing. I want to always to be with the children but necessity says I must write grants to keep the doors open!

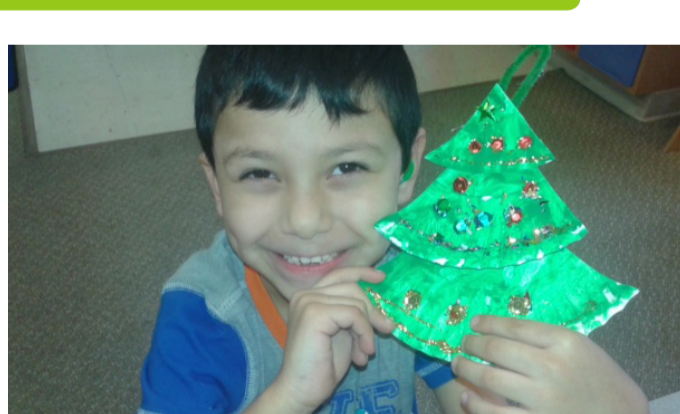
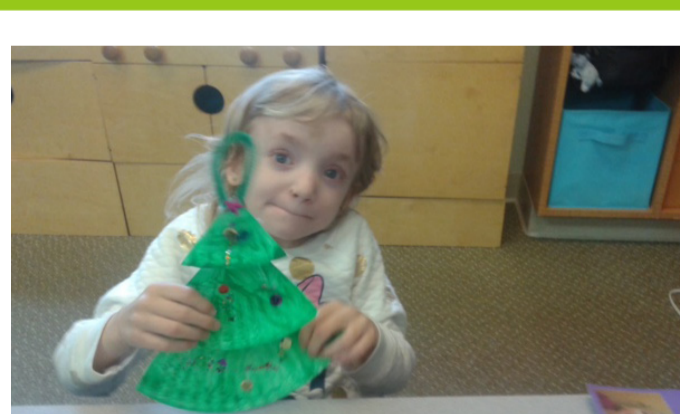
What is one wish you would have for the parents of hearing impaired students?

My wish for them is to understand that hearing loss won't limit their children. I wish them happiness and peace in this holiday season.

What is your holiday wish for the children of HHLA?

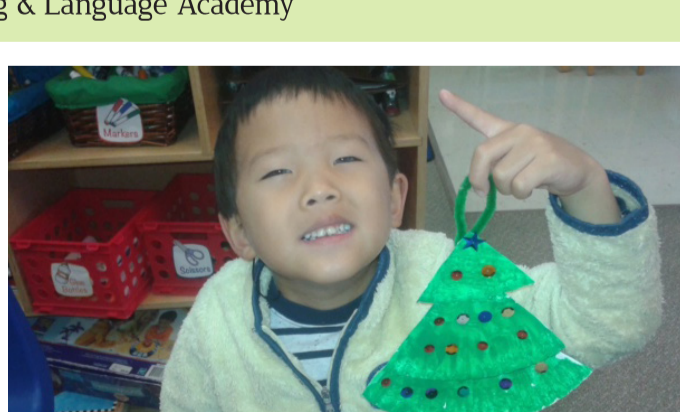
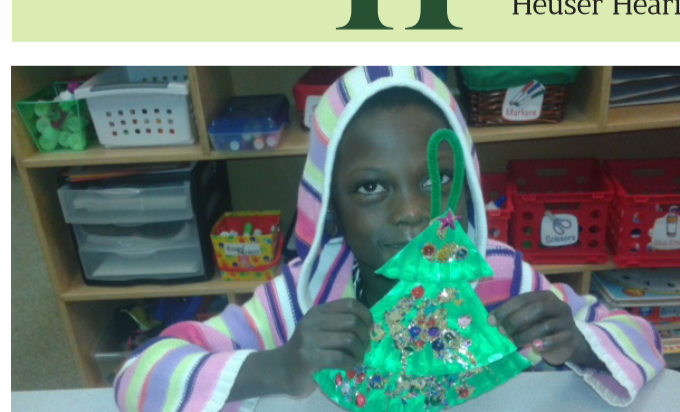
I wish them smiles and laughter!

SEASON'S GREETINGS!



SEASON'S GREETINGS!

FROM THE



HEUSER EVENTS

- **Food Drive**
December 10th
- **Field Trip**
December 14th
- **Kiwanis Christmas Party** 1:00 p.m. |
December 15st
- **Polar Express Pajama Day**
December 16th
- **NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK**
December 19th-30th

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