# Heuser Hearing & Language Academy

NOVEMBER 2017

## WORDS FROM CEO Brett Bachmann



"Be present in all things and thankful for all things." Maya Angelou

November is a time for reflection, celebration and gratitude. Whether you are a donor, parent, patient or volunteer, thank you for supporting Heuser Hearing Institute. As Thanksgiving approaches, I'm grateful for our community partnerships and expertise of our staff serving children and adults who experience hearing challenges. I'm pleased to share the updates below on what's new at the school and clinic.

In our full-time preschool and kindergarten program, we strongly believe in the importance of the arts as a tool to teach children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Music, dance and art therapy programs are an integral part of the HHLA curriculum. We are hard at work in our theatre class learning the classic story, "Jack and the Beanstalk." Our community partners at the Commonwealth Theatre visit each Friday to teach our students to work together and discover our amazing acting and pretend skills. Every Tuesday, the Louisville Ballet teaches the children flexibility and movement and they are sponsoring an upcoming fieldtrip to *The Nutcracker*! I cannot forget our partnership with the Louisville Orchestra. On Mondays the students meet professional musicians from the orchestra. The musicians introduce them to their instruments. By the end of the year the student know the entire orchestra! Our classrooms are bustling with the sounds of music and laughter, complete with learning and sharing and playground sounds that can be heard throughout the school.

At our clinics, we currently provide hearing and speech services to over 9,000 patients in Louisville and surrounding areas. We recently expanded our clinical speech program in order to serve more children in our community. Half our patients are now under age eighteen. We are also proud to work with several community partners in order to continue our mission. The Weisskopf Center's Combined Medicine/Pediatrics Residents visit the downtown campus weekly for tours and training of the Hearing & Speech Clinic. Our audiologists also provide hearing aids for the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and hearing health services at Norton Children's Hospital's departments of sedation and oncology. These community partnerships and others help Heuser Hearing Clinic carry out its mission of providing quality hearing healthcare to any child or adult experiencing a hearing loss, dizziness, imbalance, or other ear-related problems.

In closing, the month of November wouldn't be complete without me giving a personal salute to our servicemen in honor of Veteran's Day for their dedication to our nation. Finally, I can't wait to eat Thanksgiving dinner with friends and family and celebrate those who mean the most during this festive time of year.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Brett Bachmann, CEO Heuser Hearing Institute



# 2017 Butterflies in Motion Luncheon

Thank you to the generous attendees, sponsors and planning committee for making this year's Butterflies in Motion luncheon on October 3 a huge success! Named the Best Luncheon in 2016 by *The Voice-Tribune*, this event raised over \$190,000 for scholarships for Heuser Hearing & Language Academy students.

Held at the Brown Hotel, this unique fundraiser attracts some of the city's most gracious and creative hosts and hostesses and challenges them to create a movie-themed table while inviting their guests to participate in the theme through their own wardrobe or accessories. Judges Marlene Grissom, Jane Morgan and Chris Radtke had their work cut out for them when selecting the winners in the categories of Best Table Design and the Edith Head Award for best costumes. Congratulations to the Younger Woman's Club for winning Best Table Design for their *Titanic*-themed table and to Lindy Street's *Casablanca* table for receiving the Edith Head Award for best costumes. The event also recognized William H. "Bill" Lomicka with the Spirit of Sug Award, created to honor the memory of the late Sug Schusterman and presented to an individual who exhibits an exemplary spirit of communal giving.

Thank you to the event co-chairs Libby Parkinson and Brad Broecker, Emcee Shannon Cogan, WAVE3 News anchor, and auctioneer Kevin Harned, WAVE3 News meteorologist and to our Producer Sponsors Clarendon Flavors, KentuckyOne Health, Kindred Healthcare, Kosair Charities, Mueller Environmental Designs, Inc., Dan Schusterman and The Sam Swope Family Foundation.

## HARPER'S STORY



When Harper was born, she had a normal hearing screening. She was then diagnosed with bi-lateral craniosynostosis and Muenke syndrome. Muenke syndrome occurs in about 1 in 30,000 newborns and can cause hearing loss. As a result of these conditions, Harper had surgery at six months to open up the bones in her skull to relieve pressure and allow room for her brain to grow. This was a very scary procedure given that she was only 6 months old at surgery. After surgery, she was required to wear a helmet in order to help shape her skull for several months.

Overtime, her daycare teachers noticed that while she would try to communicate, she was not meeting her milestones and her speech was very difficult to

understand. Harper was then diagnosed with moderate to severe hearing loss in both ears and required hearing aids in order to hear certain sounds and syllables.

At age three, Harper enrolled at Heuser Hearing & Language Academy and has truly blossomed. Her mother, Allison, shares the following anecdote. "The moment I walked into Heuser Hearing & Language Academy, I had tears of joy in my eyes as I knew it was going be a perfect fit for her. Harper fit right in and we all fell in love with the school and everything they stand for and have done for Harper. Before she started, she was such a shy little girl, but by the end of her first year, she was a completely different child. She has confidence that beams off her face, her speech has improved dramatically and she is meeting her milestones."





## SAVE THE DATE FOR GIVING TUESDAY

What is Giving Tuesday? It's a national movement on November 28 dedicated to charitable giving, similar to how Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become synonymous with holiday shopping. The goal of Giving Tuesday is to encourage people everywhere to help others and incentivize ways to give more, give smarter and celebrate the great American spirit of generosity through charitable contributions and volunteerism.

# Please save the date, help us spread the word on social media and consider supporting us with an online donation at www.thehearinginstitute.org on November 28!



## HOW THE COLD WEATHER CAN AFFECT YOUR HEARING AIDS

The change in temperatures can affect your hearing aids. If not carefully cared for, the winter months can damage your hearing aids. Here are some tips to help keep that from happening:

- Don't leave hearing aids in a cold car or near a window
- If you're going to be out in the cold, wear earmuffs, a hat or headband over your ears to keep your hearing aids dry
- Invest in a dehumidifier to keep your home and your hearing aids dry in the winter months
- Remove your hearing aid batteries and put the devices in the dehumidifier
- Always keep spare batteries because extreme cold can cause them to lose charge
- Never place your hearing aids on a heater to dry them

If you have questions, or need your hearing aids checked, call Heuser Hearing Institute at (502) 584-3573 to make an appointment or drop by our DuPont office on Friday mornings when walk-ins are always welcome.

# LISTEN UP! PROJECT'S NEWEST RECIPIENT

Congratulations to the latest Listen Up! Project recipient, James Calvert. James, age 36, lost his hearing at an early age. He wants hearing aids to improve his overall quality of life. He received his hearing aids after his mom, Kay, an HHI patient, donated a set of hearing aids she won to her son. James plans to do his volunteer service at Heuser Hearing Institute.



Every year, countless Kentuckians deal with the problems associated with hearing loss and are unable to afford the proper care needed. To help fill this void, The Listen Up! Project provides the opportunity for you or a loved one to volunteer at one of HHI's charitable partners in exchange for credit toward hearing aids. This pilot program has been made possible by a generous donation from Delta Dental of Kentucky's *Making Smiles Happen* program.

James Calvert with HHI 4<sup>th</sup> Year Extern, Courtney Snider.

# Learn more about the ListenUp! Project at www.thehearinginstitute.org.

## 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For more information on the calendar of events, call **(502) 515-3320** or visit **www.thehearinginstitute.org** and click on Event Calendar.

## November 4 | 10 a.m.

#### Walk4Hearing at Beckley Creek Park



Walk4Hearing is a community event that increases awareness about hearing loss and raises money for programs that support local

families, including our Heuser Hearing & Language Academy students. Call 502.515.3320 to learn how to join our team and walk with us and make a difference!

## November 10 | 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Butterfly Society Open House Lunch and Learn at Heuser Hearing & Language Academy

Join the Butterfly Society for an open house for both current members and those interested in learning more. The Butterfly Society was formed in 2009 by the late Sug Schusterman, an influential longtime board member, to cultivate a support system for Heuser Hearing & Language Academy both financially and through good works of volunteerism. The Butterfly Society is open to anyone interested in supporting Heuser Hearing institute as part of a close-knit volunteer community. For more information and to RSVP, contact Shannon Kisselbaugh at shannonk@thehearinginstitute.org or (502) 515-3320.

#### November 18 | 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Quattra Designs Jewelry Show at the Louisville Boat Club



Get a start on your holiday shopping and join Quattra Design for their 4<sup>th</sup> annual wearable art and designer jewelry show featuring the designs of four exceptionally gifted art jewelry designers and metalsmiths: Roxy Lentz, Sharon Major,

Lona Northener and Lesley Rahner Ewald, plus the accessories of Suzanne Spencer, Denise Coonley and Lois Stickler. Take this opportunity to see some of the most desirable, original jewelry creations available, all for the benefit of Heuser Hearing & Language Academy.

### November 28 | all day Giving Tuesday

Help give children in our community the experience of sound and language with an on-line gift on Giving Tuesday.

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