Summit Speech School's Second Annual Listening Expo

Summit Speech School’s Second Annual Listening Expo was held on October 23, 2019. Over 100 attendees with more than 20 vendors were present. Exhibitors included manufacturers of state-of-the-art hearing aids, cochlear implants, remote microphone, and note taking and captioning technologies and services such as NJ Early Intervention, NJ AG Bell, and SPAN. SSS staff demonstrated teaching techniques, how to read audiograms, and simulations of listening with a hearing loss. Attendees included school district Directors of Special Services, Superintendents, Child Study Team members, present and former SSS students, parents and SSS Board members and members of the public.

New this year were representatives from all four NJ Cochlear Implant Centers, (Robert Wood Johnson, University Hospital in Newark, Atlantic Rehab and Hackensack Medical Center) and a room where parents and alumni shared their experiences.

Carly Skibinski, Nursing Intern and SSS Alum, with her mother Renee Skibinski: Carly said, “I got to speak with Cochlear representatives about different ways to use my assistive devices on my unit at the hospital. My assistive devices help me hear through my wireless stethoscope, drown out background noise, and accurately hear what patients and team members say to me.”

Delia Preston and her mother Christine Preston in the Alumni Room: “I loved reuniting with friends from preschool and meeting with new friends who are deaf to learn about what they are doing now — where they go to school, the activities they participate in outside of school and what they plan to do in the future,” said Delia Preston. Parents of all ages felt at home in the Alumni room as well. Christine Preston said, “As a parent of a 10th grader, I was able to speak with former Summit Speech School parents who have already been through the process of applying to colleges. I learned a lot of tips for approaching the college search and the types of questions to ask when scheduling interviews and touring schools. I was also able to share my own experiences with parents of younger students who are just starting their journey in mainstream schools. It was incredibly helpful. Our teenagers even exchanged contact information to stay in touch!”

Beverly Sudler, an adult with hearing loss from Union NJ: “My trip to the Expo was definitely worthwhile! I made a wonderful discovery! My friend, Wayne Riorda of HLAA was demonstrating an App on a cell phone called “Live Transcribe.” My grandson had put that into my cell phone, but I had never used it. What a great gimmick!! Now I will be using it a lot, said Sudler.”

Interactive Exhibits
Learning While Eating

The Preschool students are eating healthy, protein-rich snacks and lunch supplements thanks to a grant from The Junior League of Summit, which is currently focused on community access to healthy food.

“The children really enjoy the new fresh snacks, even though some were hesitant at first,” explained Preschool teacher Lea Marx. “And now we make a point to talk about choosing healthy food as part of our functional language learning during snack and lunch time.”
Rockin’ The Fall Benefit Concert

Summit Speech School’s 3rd Annual Fall Benefit Concert grossed nearly $184,000 on November 2nd. Over 200 people attended the concert featuring Mark Rivera and The Little Big Band playing British Invasion songs. The School also raffled off a British Invasion themed Mini Cooper. Alumna Anne Kleinle, who attends Ridge High School, and her family spoke about our transformative teaching and support.

We thank the Event Chair Cindi Galiher and the Board Development Committee Bill Bori, Susan Rubino, John Thoms, John Tompkins, and Michele Williers for organizing the event.

We appreciate our generous sponsors of the Fall Concert:

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Blair Road Partners
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Cheney Brothers Building
Frazier Industrial Company
The Galiher Family
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Solar Landscape
Sharon and John Tompkins
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Bourne, Noll & Kenyon
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Kathy Gallaher
Prestige Diner
Simonfay Landscape Services
TBS Controls, LLC
We surpassed our goal of $10,000 for #GivingTuesday! Thank you to the five SSS families who shared their heartfelt testimonials and precious family photos to ask for funds for our transformative work with children who have hearing loss. We are grateful to Kristine and Edgardo Bote, Allison and Frank Calabrese, Carrie and Michael Dzikowski, Brian and Jill Roll, and Eileen and Brian Vesey. And thank you to over 60 generous donors!

Energy Efficiency Efforts Give the School a Financial Boost

In 2018 the Board of Trustees took big steps to improve the School’s energy operations and it has paid off. In late 2018, new rooftop solar panels were installed as well as indoor energy efficient LED lighting. These high-tech systems combined with a new, more efficient HVAC system installed in 2019 saved Summit Speech School a very substantial 33% ($51,104) in electricity costs in fiscal year 2018-2019 compared with the prior year.
HLAA Walk4Hearing

Summit Speech School participated in the October 2019 NJ Walk4Hearing sponsored by the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) at Mercer County Park. Over 70 people from Summit Speech School’s team, shown in part in the photo, walked the 5 kilometer route and raised money for Hearing Loss Association of America as well as for Summit Speech School. Families also enjoyed games for kids and a picnic lunch.

The Walk4Hearing is an event where staff members often reunite with alumni. Pictured at left are former Parent Infant Program Director Miriam Esterkis with Giana Thomas and her mother and Gina Thomas.

Summit Area Public Foundation Gives $50,000 to the Parent Infant Program

Summit Area Public Foundation recently awarded $50,000 to the Parent Infant Program. The Foundation’s consistent funding of our crucial early intervention program for three decades has been enormously helpful in teaching children who are deaf or hard of hearing to listen and talk. The Parent Infant Program serves more infants and toddlers in Union County, the Summit Area, than in any other NJ county.

The School received $5,000 from the Rite Aid Foundation during #GivingTuesday. The School is eligible for further large grants because our supporters designate us as their Rite Aid KidCents Charity and round up their change to the nearest dollar at their local Rite Aid store. You can join at kidscents.riteaid.com.

Leading Ear Surgeon Visits SSS

In August, Summit Speech School hosted ground-breaking pediatric plastic surgeon, Sheryl Lewin, creator of the 3D Lewin Ear Implant. SSS was the NJ destination on her nationwide Microtia Meet and Greet Road Trip. She presented her innovative surgical advances in Porous Implant Ear Reconstruction (PIER) for children with microtia. Microtia (small, malformed ear) is often associated with aural atresia (a missing ear canal) and hearing loss. People with Microtia Atresia can hear with bone-anchored hearing aids, which bypass the ear canal and send sound directly to the auditory nerve via bone vibration. Dr. Lewin’s surgical advances in PIER reduce scarring and improve visual outcomes.

Ear Surgeon Sheryl Lewin, third from left, and her Route 66 Microtia Road Trip team at SSS. Executive Director Mary Baumont is second from right.

New hearing aid emoji by Apple
Grace Goodwyn, who posed next to her Preschool photo during the Listening Expo in October, will be attending Villanova University in the fall. Her mom Kim Goodwyn, says, “We are all beyond excited and so proud of her!” Grace is an Itinerant Mainstream Support Program student at Redbank Regional High School, with Lisa Shaffer as her longtime teacher of the deaf. SSS Audiologist, Ellen Hansen, who evaluated Grace’s hearing as an infant, said, “Grace’s success is due to her hard work, incredibly supportive parents, and a host of professionals who always had her best interests at heart.”

Marissa Perrone, Preschool class of 1998, recently graduated from The College of New Jersey with a B.S. in Women Gender Studies and an M.A. with certificates in Elementary Education from K-6 and Deaf Education with oral/aural and American Sign Language communications from K-12. Marissa is working at Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf and is teaching American Sign Language as an adjunct professor at TCNJ. At a graduation party given to Marissa by her family were her speech teachers, Joanne Case and Parent Infant Program Coordinator Nancy Schumann.

Welcome New Preschool Principal
Sue Raymond brings a wealth of teaching/administration experience to our Preschool. She served as school principal for the Parsippany Troy Hills School District for 21 years. Sue also served as Principal in a non-profit private school (K-12) for special needs children and as Assistant Director at Primrose School. Sue is committed to providing an educational and nurturing environment for our students. Sue enjoys running, reading and spending time with her family.

Welcome Back Miriam
Miriam Esterkis has rejoined the School staff as a Development Associate. She had worked for 20 years in the Parent Infant Program, first as an OT and then as Program Coordinator. After a stint at New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, she is happy to be back at SSS. “Summit Speech School is where my heart is,” said Miriam. “I believe strongly in the mission and enjoy its true community of professionals.”

Welcome New Teachers!

Mallory Campbell graduated from TCNJ with a BS in English and a M.A. in Teaching. She previously worked as a classroom Teacher of the Deaf in Bridgeton Public Schools and student teacher in Vineland Public Schools using both Listening and Spoken Language and sign language. Mallory enjoys reading, spending time with friends and family, and baking.

Kerri Hagan graduated from The College of New Jersey with a B.S. in Psychology and an M.A. in Teaching, with certifications in K-12 auditory-oral deaf education and K-6 elementary education. When she’s not teaching, Kerri enjoys going to New Jersey Devils games, baking, and going to concerts.

Jennifer McClory has been a Teacher of the Deaf for more than 10 years. She most recently worked as an itinerant teacher for the NYC Department of Education. She has an M.A./Ed.M. degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, and a B.A. from Carleton College in Minnesota. She enjoys drawing, graphic design, and her 7 year old daughter.

Natalie Palladino is a teacher of the deaf who graduated from the College of Staten Island with a B.A. in Linguistics and a minor in American Sign Language. She then completed an M.S. in Deaf Education at St. Joseph’s University. Her student teaching was at Union Street School for the Deaf in Hackensack, NJ, working with preschool and kindergarten students with hearing loss. In her free time, Natalie helps out with her family-owned mobile dog grooming business and plays with her dog, Storm.
Welcome New Teachers!

Tributes Received: July 1, 2019 thru Jan. 9, 2020.

IN MEMORY OF . . .
Katherine LaMotta Album
Kelly & Michael Album
Giuliana Barbieri
Samantha & Rocky Barbieri
Josephine & John Barbieri
Laura Sheara
Ann & Jeff Sheara
Mary Baumont
George and Stephanie Faison
Kirk and Victoria Posmantur
Abby Berman & Family
Joanna Mintzer & Donald Ferrell
Kathleen & Edward Borrone III
Lillian & Edward Borrone
Mason Bote
Mariana Algarin
Meagan Arceo
Henry Bizianie
Cecilia Bote
Edgardo B. Bote
Kristine Bote
Marco Bote
Krystle Castle
Laura Catherine
Jillian Cruz
Karl Kerlegand
Kristen Johnson Lalam
Dana Marie
Robert Norton
Tricia Pilosi
Lucille Schumann Plank
Susan Raymond
Rem Sek
Riekz Sinprasith
Matt Wagner
Justin Calabrese
Denise Malanga Calabrese
Paul Lavenar
Frank Calabrese
Cynthia Schaefer
Nancy Schumann
Nancy Tagle

IN HONOR OF . . .
Katherine LaMotta Album
Kelly & Michael Album
Giuliana Barbieri
Samantha & Rocky Barbieri
Josephine & John Barbieri
Laura Sheara
Ann & Jeff Sheara
Mary Baumont
George and Stephanie Faison
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Abby Berman & Family
Joanna Mintzer & Donald Ferrell
Kathleen & Edward Borrone III
Lillian & Edward Borrone
Mason Bote
Mariana Algarin
Meagan Arceo
Henry Bizianie
Cecilia Bote
Edgardo B. Bote
Kristine Bote
Marco Bote
Krystle Castle
Laura Catherine
Jillian Cruz
Karl Kerlegand
Kristen Johnson Lalam
Dana Marie
Robert Norton
Tricia Pilosi
Lucille Schumann Plank
Susan Raymond
Rem Sek
Riekz Sinprasith
Matt Wagner
Justin Calabrese
Denise Malanga Calabrese
Paul Lavenar
Frank Calabrese
Cynthia Schaefer
Nancy Schumann
Nancy Tagle

Parent Infant Program
Joan & Howard Rudominer
Pamela Paskowitz
Lillian & Herbert Buehler
Ann & Peter Holmes
Ellie Pine’s Bat Mitzvah
Susan Forster
Delia Preston
Judith Campbell
Phyllis & Peter Flemming
Tommy Raho & Family
Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded
Paul Burrowes
Brendan Canavan
Hailey Gilbert
Jeff Schaerze
Megan Varela
Luke Raymaker
Helen & Guy Raymaker
Matthew Riedinger’s New Job
Dorothea & Robert Riedinger
Benjamin Roll
Mike Chaya
Miriam Esterkis
Anthony Giasone
Lisa Marie Herschi
Sally Kasulanis
Jennifer Klein
Ron McClelland
Bob Perry
Linda Capetta Roll
Bill Maynes Roll
Jack Rubin
JoAnn & Frank Spador
Susan Rubino
Claire Toth & David Dietze
Sophia Ruocco
Mary Beth Hennessy
Owen Sanford
Jill & Joseph Sanford
Courtney & Kelsey Siegel
Helen & William O’Neill
Max Silverstein (from Natalie Rosenthal’s mitzvah project)
Catherine & Paul Rosenthal

IN MEMORY OF . . .
Ismat Ahmed
Nishatul & Syed Shakil
Kathleen Colston
Sally & Clark Valentinier
Capitola Dickerson
Patricia Amyx
Susan O’Mara
Daniel Grijalva
Sharlean Adonis & Omar Grijalva
Donna Hornig
MaryEllen Carroll
Louis Johansen
Alice Johansen
Claire Kantor
Mary Ann & Andrew Aron
Laurie & Stuart Leitner
Piccola Knowles
Mary & Douglas Bowsky
Gerald J. McKitish
Margaret McKitish
Frederick Jr. & Mabel Mills
Pamela Okaly
Ann Polimeni
Kathy & Kenneth Abbott
Elfie & Jamie Eisman

Pamela Ranco
Nancy Tagle & Kelly Thelander
John Caffrey
Joan Zyla
Robert Morton
Gloria Jean Morton
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Pamela Paskowitz, Ph.D.
Edward D. Reeves
Amanda & Steven P. Ford
Thomas D. Jr. Sayles
Katherine & David G. Hartman

Agnes & Joseph Simon & Jean & Joseph Fabian
Diane & J. Malcolm Simon
Marilyn Sobias
Susan & Richard P. Diegnan
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Basilia Spiridon
Dr. Bruce D. Williams, Rev.
Patricia Williams
Clare Yablon
Arthur Terr
Manuel Madrazo
Carmen Madrazo
We appreciate your donations to help our kids!

Philanthropy Tool: Donor Advised Funds

We are happy to talk to you about tools that help you plan your charitable gifts. For example, we have seen an increase in donations through Donor Advised Funds (DAFs), which are like charitable savings accounts. DAFs offer both tax and philanthropic planning benefits in a simple and flexible format. Nationally, donations to nonprofits from Donor Advised Funds have nearly doubled in the past five years, according to the National Philanthropic Trust.

The School’s endowment advisers at RegentAtlantic are experts in charitable giving. To aid our donors in determining effective ways to give, RegentAtlantic is pleased to answer your technical questions and will provide you with a pro bono confidential consultation. Please contact Nancy Tagle, Director of Development, at 908-508-0495 or ntagle@summitspeech.org for more information.

Mark Your Calendar!

- Friday, February 21, 2020
  Family Fun Night
- Wednesday, March 18, 2020
  Parent to Parent Meeting
- Tuesday, April 28, 2020
  30th Annual Spring Benefit
- Wednesday, May 13, 2020
  Neil’s Charity Golf Outing
- Wednesday, May 20, 2020
  Annual Meeting
- Wednesday, October 7, 2020
  Summit Speech School’s Listening Expo