

Speaking Out!

Founded in 1967 to serve New Jersey's children who are deaf and hard of hearing and their families.

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 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!"



**Interactive
Exhibits**

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."



Speaking Out!

Winter 2020

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Our sincere appreciation to Paul Lavenhar of PL Communications for his generous donation of design and production of the school's newsletter.

Speaking Out is a publication of the Development Office. Every effort for accuracy has been made. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

Editor: Kathy Abbott
kabbott@summitspeech.org
www.summitspeech.org

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."



Robert, Mason, Victoria and Chris eating veggies



Cooper talking and snacking



Sheila Dye, new weekly music teacher



Victoria and Chris with Travelin' Tumblers



Gunnar decorating for the holiday



Jose at Halloween



Jevanah, Avery and Emily during the New Providence Police visit

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.



Mark Rivera and Student Speaker Anne Kleinle



Board member Scott McBride, Heather McBride, Andy Stirk, Anthony Mahajan, Joe and Karyllan Mack



Mike and Leslie Minsch



Delia Preston, Anne Kleinle, Christine and Sarah Kate Preston, Joanne Kleinle, and Nancy Schumann



Maria Lopez, Pat Thoms, Board Chair John Thoms, Paula Savage



Rosemary and Scott Becchi and Board Member Lisa Delano and John Delano



John Galiher, Sr., Brian Siegel, Brian Beattie



Greg Vasallo, Rob and Jill Pierce, Sue Vasallo, Board Member John Tompkins, Kathy O'Connor



Dr. Bruce Levinston, Dr. Chris Hunt, Margaret Hunt, Roxanne Levinston

We appreciate our generous sponsors of the Fall Concert:

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GIVING TUESDAY

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!



Mason



Justin



Garrett



Benjamin



Tierney, Seamus,
and Emer

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.



Aerial View of SSS solar panels and new HVAC, Photo by Solar Landscape.

Save the Date

**Summit Speech School's
30th Annual Spring Benefit Luncheon**
Tuesday, April 28, 2020
 Canoe Brook Country Club, Summit NJ

Master of Ceremonies
 JeanAnn Morgan-Lifitin

Presenter
 Laura Schrott
 #1 New York Times Best Selling Author
 An Invisible Thread

Student Speaker
 Jeffrey Plump

For more information please contact Nancy Tagle
 908-508-0495 or ntagle@summitspeech.org

Save the Date!

May 13, 2020
**Neil's 18th Annual
 Charity Golf Outing**



Vinny Delguercio, Nick Dipaolo, Neil Kleinwaks, Steve Kiessling

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.



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.

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.

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.



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

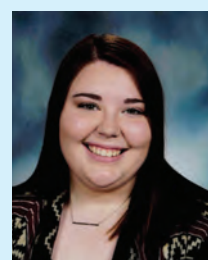
Sue Raymond brings a wealth of teaching/administration experience to our Preschool. She served as school principal for the Parsippany Troy Hills School District for 21 years. Sue also served as Principal in a non-profit private school (K-12) for special needs children and as Assistant Director at Primrose 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.

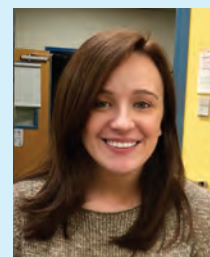


Kerri Hagan graduated from The College of New Jersey with a B.S. in Psychology and an M.A. in Teaching, with certifications in K-12 auditory-oral deaf education and K-6 elementary education. When she's not teaching, Kerri enjoys going to New Jersey Devils games, baking, and going to concerts.



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.



Tributes Received: July 1, 2019 thru Jan. 9, 2020. Gifts to our Tribute Fund are a thoughtful way to recognize an anniversary, remember a friend, associate, or relative while providing needed support for the children we serve. An acknowledgment is sent to the person or the family of the individual recognized. Your name and the purpose of the gift will be known, but not the amount of the gift. Your gift is tax deductible. *Note: Minimum tribute donation is \$25.00*

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Laura Sheara

Ann & Jeff Sheara

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Samantha DeMarco's 22nd

Birthday

Margaret DeMarco

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Christopher Deguzman

Cody J DeGuzman

Lynne Ares

Marti Barrow

Carrie Donato Dzikowski

Beth O'Brien Elmo

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Tommy Raho & Family

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Paul Burrowes

Brendan Canavan

Hailey Gilbert

Jeff Schaetzle

Megan Varela

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Matthew Riedinger's New Job

Thanks to SSS

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Simon

Melanie Simon & Mark Flinn

Carly Skibinski

Patricia & John Sebok

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The Children of SSS

Gisela & Udo Koch

Tristan Tabije

Cleotilde Salanga

The Parent-Infant Staff

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John Thoms & His Years of

Service to SSS

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Caiden Tyler

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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 toParent 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