Lexington Hearing & Speech Center

a sound beginning

Communication Connection

Winter 2010

a new home for sound beginnings

Read all about LHSC's new home on page 3

In this Issue:

Letter from LHSC Board Chair

Information on LHSC's New Home

Mission Moment

Expanded Services

Excerpt from the LHSC-Kids Blog

Pledge Form

www.lhscky.org

A message from LHSC Board Chair – King Offutt

Dear Friends:

As you know, Lexington Hearing & Speech Center has provided 50 years of amazing accomplishments and sound beginnings in Central Kentucky. Recognizing that effective communication skills are key to every aspect of our lives, LHSC has never wavered from our original mission of teaching children to listen and talk.

Since 1960, LHSC has worked diligently to change the lives of children with hearing, speech and language delays by providing each of them with the educational, therapeutic and family support services they needed to achieve their own communication goals. Now as we wrap up a year-long celebration of our golden anniversary, the staff and board are already working to ensure that our next 50 years is as productive as our first!

But we can't do it without you; our Central Kentucky friends and neighbors. It is your support that made it possible for the Lexington Deaf Oral School to evolve into the Lexington Hearing & Speech Center and to grow our campus on North Ashland Ave. And it is your support that will make it possible for LHSC to grow again and move to our new home at 350 Henry Clay Blvd.

With your help, LHSC will open its doors in the Summer of 2011 to more children than ever before. Because of you, we will be able to continue serving the diverse communication needs of children from across the Commonwealth with hearing, speech, and language delays or disorders.

No gift is too small to make a difference in the life of a child, so I thank you in advance for your support and for creating sound beginnings that last a lifetime.

With sincere appreciation,

King Offutt

Lexington Hearing & Speech Center (LHSC) has a new home. LHSC, which has been a staple of Central Kentucky's nonprofit community since it was founded in 1960, began as a preschool to teach children with hearing impairments to listen and talk. Today, LHSC is a statewide leader in serving children with communication delays and disorders. LHSC's therapeutic preschool, clinical and day care programs are renowned throughout the region.

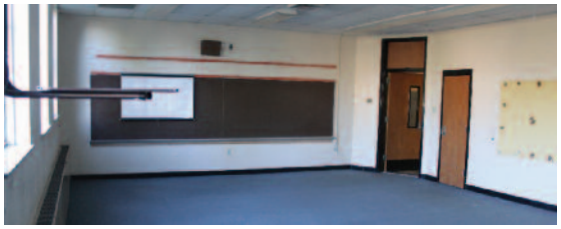
LHSC's Buildings and Grounds Committee, Executive Committee and key members of the staff began the process of thoroughly researching the physical condition of the Center's buildings and programmatic needs more than a year ago and determined a new building would be the most cost-effective way to provide an environment capable of delivering the highest quality programming for LHSC students and their families for years to come.

LHSC has purchased the 70,600 square foot facility at 350 Henry Clay Boulevard for $1.6 million and with your continued support will then reinvest an additional $750,000 updating the buildings to create an optimum environment for children with a variety of speech and language delays and disorders.
The most important benefits from this move will be:

1. Increased space. Currently the number of programs that can be offered is severely limited by LHSC's size constraints. In the new building, service capacity will be expanded more than 37% percent.

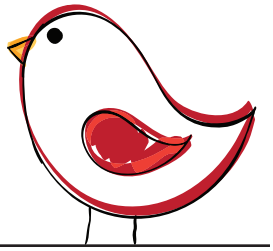
2. Enhanced and additional programs. Our new home will enable new and enhanced programs, such as a therapeutic preschool curriculum for autistic children, a parent's day out program, on-site occupational therapy and an exciting school-aged summer program.

3. Increased Accessibility. Incorporating state of the art technologies such as infrared classroom audio systems and smart boards will increase teaching time and the quality of services provided. Likewise, upgrades such as an elevator and additional bathrooms, will create a more efficient, child-friendly facility.



In order for LHSC to realize this dream and minimize the debt burden on the school's operating budget, we will have to raise as much of the $2.35 million project cost as possible. The capital campaign will continue throughout the coming year or until the Center reaches its goal.

LHSC Changes Everything



"This program has affected our lives in every way, from big things to the littlest of things, everything is different now," says Kristy Smith, "everything is better now."

Seven-year-old Bryson and his family first came to Lexington Hearing & Speech Center for a hearing test in early January. They had recently moved from North Carolina to Central Kentucky and during Bryson's first few weeks of kindergarten it became evident that there was a problem.

Bryson was born prematurely and experienced many medical problems including a birth defect called Apple Peel Atresia, a condition in which the small and large intestines are not connected. And while this was corrected through surgery, it meant Bryson would spend his first three-and-a-half months of life in the hospital. So much energy was spent on their first child's emergent medical concerns that the Smith Family hardly noticed something else was wrong.

As he grew, Bryson would fail several types of hearing screenings but then he would pass others. Doctors diagnosed fluid behind the eardrums and he got tubes -- several times. When that didn't work, he was fitted with hearing aids but they didn't seem to help much. By the time he started preschool, Bryson's speech was developing but it was, as described by his mom, "mushy and hard to understand."

Now in kindergarten, his parents reported he was having major difficulty understanding and following his teacher's directions. He would leave whole words out of sentences and most troubling of all, Bryson was not getting along with others at school. Thankfully, Bryson was about to meet a doctor who would accurately diagnose his hearing loss as something known as auditory neuropathy and immediately refer him to Lexington Hearing & Speech Center for evaluation and counseling as a cochlear implant candidate.

Auditory neuropathy is a hearing disorder in which sound enters the inner ear normally but the transmission of signals from the inner ear to the brain is impaired, causing sounds to fade in and out. A child with auditory neuropathy may appear to hear things one day and not hear the next. It is hard to imagine how confused and frustrated Bryson must have felt having sounds come and go randomly when others were talking to him.

Bryson's parents came to LHSC to talk about his candidacy for a cochlear implant and meet with the implant staff who evaluated Bryson and counseled his family. Expectations were discussed but the outcomes were unclear due to the auditory neuropathy, and there were financial concerns as well. In the end, Kristy and Chris knew what they wanted for their son -- he needed the implant.

Bryson received his surgical cochlear implant at the end of February at University of Kentucky Medical Center and after a month of recovery, his implant was turned on and programmed at LHSC in early April. That day changed everything.

Several years have passed since Bryson received his implant. He still comes to Lexington Hearing & Speech Center one hour a week for therapy and receives hearing evaluation and reprogramming sessions once every four to six months. Bryson's speech, language and hearing abilities have increased significantly, but most of all the Smith family's quality of life has improved. As mom explains, "The overall stress level of communicating with Bryson has decreased and it makes every other part of our daily lives just that much easier to handle."

LHSC What We Do:

New Autism Programs Coming Soon!

One of the most anticipated aspects of LHSC's new home is the additional space, which will mean increased capacity to add much needed programming to an already stellar line up of services. These programs will eventually include on-site occupational therapy, a summer program for school-aged children and a parent's day out program.

Another exciting addition to our programming is a new classroom devoted to preschoolers with autism and similar developmental delays that exhibit autistic tendencies. Because these children experience the world in their own unique way and learn differently than other preschoolers they require additional teaching techniques that specifically aid in their attention for learning.

Preschoolers that fall within this spectrum can vary in symptoms and severity making preschool and care placements difficult, if not impossible. For students that are unable to integrate into traditional preschool and kindergarten classrooms, the addition of this class will mean these preschoolers will have the early intervention needed to become lifelong learners.

LHSC's Focusing Friends Preschool Class will have a small student-teacher ratio and students will receive individualized attention from a teacher who is trained to work with preschoolers with autism and autistic tendencies. Like all of LHSC's Preschool classes, the curriculum will focus on understanding communication and use of language skills as well as social interactions.

This and all of the new programs will greatly enhance LHSC's ability to fulfill our mission of teaching children to listen and talk.

Simple gifts create a lasting legacy with LHSC

A charitable bequest is a simple way for almost anyone to create their own lasting legacy by supporting Lexington Hearing and Speech Center's mission of teaching children with hearing, speech and language impairments to listen and talk by providing them with high quality therapeutic, educational and family support services.

If you do not have a will or if your current plans are in need of updating, now is the perfect time to organize your estate plans to include LHSC. If you already have a will, you can simply ask your attorney to draft an amendment to include LHSC in your existing will.

A bequest will enable your legacy to live on at LHSC. It may be used to help a struggling family with a child's tuition or it might be used to make a major purchase which strengthens our facilities for generations to come. Regardless, it will be used to continue ensuring that no one has to be defined by their communication delay or disorder.

859-268-4545 • lori.shepherd@lhscky.org • www.lhscky.org

An excerpt from LHSC-Kids Blog:

"Time stands still best in moments that look suspiciously like ordinary life." — Brian Andreas

My life is ordinary, nothing special. I get up each morning, I go to work, I go home, I go to bed and wake up and do it all over again. To an outsider, my life does look pretty ordinary. But, in that ordinariness, there is something very special.

I get up each morning and I go to work with the most inspiring children and the most amazing women. These amazing women do everything they can, every day, to help make the lives of children more educational, more inspiring, more fun, and more special. They help shape and mold, teach and encourage, and love the children with every fiber of their being. I am extremely proud to work with such brilliant and extraordinary women.

These children aren't just any children, either. These are the most talkative, knowledgeable, funny group of kids. When I started working at LHSC four years ago, the kids changed my life. These children (your children) make me smile on a daily basis. They make me laugh, they pat my back when I seem sad, they become my own personal cheerleaders when we're doing something fun. Because of your children, I have the greatest job…I get paid to play.

Four years ago I fell in love with the kids, the staff and the LHSC family. I couldn't be more grateful for finding such a warm, wonderful, inspiring place to go each day. I am truly thankful to be a part of the LHSC family. Thank you for allowing me to play!

Sincerely,
Abby Wills
Assistant Day School Program Director

Connect with LHSC:

Blog:
www.lhsc-kids.blogspot.com

LHSC's Website:
www.lhscky.org

Lexington Hearing & Speech Center

LHSCKY

Lexington Hearing & Speech Center's Building Campaign

DONOR INFORMATION *(Please type or print)*

Last name: _____ First name: _____ MI: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Home phone: _____Business phone: _____

Email: _____

PLEDGE INFORMATION

I (we) hereby contribute cash and/or assets to the ***LHSC Building Fund***.

I (we) pledge a **total** of $ _____ amount enclosed $ _____ remainder pledged $ _____

I (we) wish to have this donation spread over: ❑ 1 ❑ 2 ❑ 3 year(s) ❑ other

CONTRIBUTION FORM

I (we) plan to make my (our) contribution in the form of:

❑ cash ❑ check ❑ charge ❑ stock ❑ property ❑ other _____

For stock transfers or property donation, please contact LHSC at 859-268-4545

Please charge my credit card: ❑ Visa ❑ MasterCard

Credit card number: _____ Exp. date: _____

Authorized credit card signature: _____

Please bill me beginning: _____ and thereafter: ❑ monthly ❑ quarterly ❑ yearly ❑ other _____

My gift will be matched by: _____ *Company/Foundation/Family*

❑ Matching gift form enclosed

Gifts in kind: _____

DONOR RECOGNITION

Please use the following name(s) in all acknowledgements: _____

❑ I (we) wish to remain anonymous

Pledges may be sent to:
Lexington Hearing & Speech Center / 162 North Ashland Avenue / Lexington, KY 40502

LHSC, a private 501(c)3 nonprofit agency, is governed by a 19 member Board of Directors and supported by 8 Lifetime Advisory Members. LHSC operates with an annual budget of over $2.1 million providing both clinical and educational services for individuals with hearing, speech, and language impairments and their families – which in 2009 served over 1,200 people throughout Kentucky. LHSC is staffed by 25 full-time and 7 part-time employees and dozens of volunteers annually – all of whom represent the diverse population of the people it serves.

All gifts are tax deductible as provided by law.
Thank you for your gift!

Lexington Hearing & Speech Center

For questions and information on gifts or naming opportunities please call 859.268.4545 or to make a pledge online go to lhscky.org

Lexington Hearing & Speech Center

162 N. Ashland Ave.
Lexington, KY 40502

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #850
Lexington, KY

Learn, volunteer, donate at

www.lhscky.org

We are looking for LHSC Alumni

Are you an Alumnus of Lexington Deaf Oral School or Lexington Hearing & Speech Center? If you or your child has ever been enrolled in our preschool, our day school or has received services from our clinic, you are an alumnus. As we continue to plan the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of LHSC, we need your help to track down five decades of graduates, parents and friends.

Please call or email us at alumni@lhscky.org or 859-268-4545 and give us your most recent contact information, when you were here and how we can reach you to include you in the many exciting events and celebrations planned throughout the year. You can also help us find your classmates by letting them know we are looking for them too!