

THE BATON ROUGE SPEECH AND HEARING FOUNDATION

NOW HEAR THIS!

SUMMER EDITION 2009



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Please Join Us!

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

What a fabulous spring and summer 2009 we have had! I hardly know where to start.

Here are just a few highlights of the many exciting things happening at the Foundation:

- May began with the celebration of our **2009 Volunteer Activists** at the annual luncheon held at Boudreaux's.
- We've launched our new **Cochlear Implant troubleshooting program** allowing families who have children with Cochlear Implants to receive services closer to home. Our audiologist, Dr. Natalee Menge, is collaborating with the Hearing Impaired Specialists from the East Baton Rouge School System and Cochlear America on that program.
- **Our playground is being upgraded** to serve as a therapeutic sensory playground thanks to the generous support of the Rotary Club of Baton Rouge, Albemarle Foundation, LaPorte, Sehrt, Romig, Hand CPAs, and Commercial Properties Realty Trust.
- Our summer was action packed with over ninety children enrolled in our group language programs. These families celebrated their children's accomplishments at our **First Annual Family Fun Day** which was held at the Foundation.
- This summer, we also **welcomed some great new staff members** including Trenae' Webb, speech pathologist, Brian Esteve, Ph.D., BCBA, and Natalee Menge, AuD. to our staff. Finally, our Board of Directors, under the guidance of Nick Spreyer of SSA Consultants, has been developing a three year strategic plan for the Foundation, which will guide the BRSHF into its next fifty years of service.

As we enter in to the fall, please look for our Annual Report and Annual Campaign, and consider making a contribution. We would not be able to provide our clients a foundation for communication and social interaction without the generous support of our donors and community partners.

Thank you for helping us bring Ordinary Miracles to Extraordinary People each and every day.

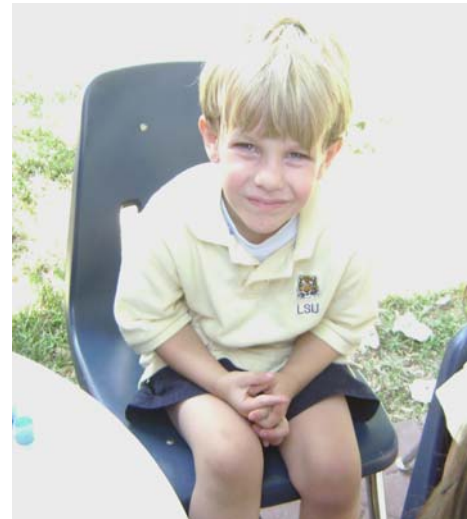
FAMILY FUN DAY AT BRSHF

Our First Annual Family Fun Day, which was held on July 25, 2009 at the Foundation, was a smashing pumpkins success! Not only did we have over 150 people attend, but we were also able to get all of the food and supplies donated! Everyone was able to sit back and relax while relishing the opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments that the children in our speech and hearing programs have made. The children, in particular, enjoyed being able to come to the Foundation for a fun-filled day. They played with their classmates on the playground, in the spacewalk, and at the bubble and water stations.

THANK YOU! We have so many to thank for donating food, drinks, games, and supplies including:

- **Elegant Memories**, who supplied the space walk;
- **Raising Cane's**, who provided chicken fingers, lemonade, and sweet tea;
- **Coca Cola**, who donated soft drinks and water;
- **Jambalaya by Shake**, who supplied the Jambalaya;
- **Truly Free Bakery**, who provided gluten-free cookies;
- **Capitol City Produce**, who donated watermelons;
- **Wendy's**, who supplied ice for the drinks;
- **LSU Football**, who provided the PA system;
- **Wal-Mart**, who donated the supplies needed for bubbles and face painting;
- **An anonymous donor** who provided the children with an assortment of fruits, vegetables, and gluten-free snacks; and,
- **Members of the Quota Club and students from LSU** who volunteered at the event.

It truly was a fun day that the families, children, staff, and volunteers enjoyed! We look forward to having our Second Annual Family Fun Day next year!



Anderson waiting patiently to get his face painted at our Family Fun Day.

NEW SENSORY INTEGRATION PLAYGROUND



Melissa Juneau, executive director, accepts a check for \$20,000 from Commercial Properties Realty Trust so that the playground can be upgraded into a sensory integration playground.

We've been bustling with activity at the Baton Rouge Speech and Hearing Foundation in preparation for our children's return for the new school year in August. One really exciting new development that we are currently working on is an upgraded play space! Our new play space will provide an outdoor sensory integration play area for the children.

Look for additional pictures in our next edition of *Now Hear This!*



Albemarle Foundation employees purchased and installed our new playground surfacing.

I WISH I MAY, I WISH I MIGHT . .

Did you know that the Baton Rouge Speech and Hearing Foundation has a Wish List? Indeed we do, and it's never been easier! Visit www.brshf.org/wishlist.php and click on the Amazon Wish List button. Order what you wish, and Amazon will take care of delivering those items to the Foundation. All Wish List donations are welcome and needed—no matter how great or small! Prefer to shop locally? We'd love to see you! Wish List donations can be dropped off at our Baton Rouge office Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO: HAYDEN'S STORY

We are making a difference in the lives of the extraordinary children that attend our programs everyday, and it is important that we share these stories with you! These stories demonstrate the amazing things—the ordinary miracles—that your donations result in every day here at the Foundation! This is Hayden's Story.



*"The BRSHF has truly been a blessing to our family. When it became evident that our son, **HAYDEN**, was in need of significant help in the areas of speech, language, and social development, I began frantically searching for a program that would meet his specific needs. The program at the BRSHF was the perfect fit for him. The small group setting led by a Speech Language therapist was an ideal situation that allowed the teacher to assess and meet Hayden's individual needs. In addition, the group setting allowed for immediate "real life" practice of the skills being taught. With the aid of classroom assistants, the peer exchange of social language was easily orchestrated and fine tuned. It was the ideal therapeutic preschool setting and was invaluable to Hayden's growth in his overall communication development. His teacher at the BRSHF was experienced, dedicated, knowledgeable and loving. We are forever grateful for the time Hayden spent at the BRSHF.*

It really was an answer to our prayers."

~Sarah, Hayden's mom

SPOTLIGHT ON AUDIOLOGY

The Baton Rouge Speech and Hearing Foundation can serve individuals in the Baton Rouge community that may not otherwise be seen with our Mobile Testing Unit (MTU). The MTU trailer, provided to the BRSHF by the Sertoma Club, allows us to visit assisted living facilities, nursing homes, Council on Aging Senior Days, and health fairs in the Baton Rouge area. I have performed free hearing screenings for hundreds of individuals this past year and have helped educate our community on their hearing needs. Many individuals, especially older adults, depend heavily on their family for transportation. Our MTU trailer allows these individuals the opportunity to have hearing health care services brought to them. Inside the MTU, there is a sound-treated booth and an area for counseling patients; this provides ample space for us to provide quality services to the Baton Rouge community. Over the past year while working at the BRSHF, I have seen firsthand the gratitude of individuals when out in the community, and, with your continued support, these services can be performed for many years to come.



~ Natalee Menge, AuD., CCC-A

ORDINARY MIRACLES FOR EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE

You've Got Mail! We will be mailing our Annual Report and information on our Annual Campaign soon. Please give special consideration to supporting BRSHF and our charitable mission this year, so that we may continue *creating ordinary miracles for extraordinary people!* Remember, no matter what amount you are able to give, every little bit counts, and even the smallest donation can have a huge impact. Here's how you can make a donation:

- Save a Stamp! Give Online! Go to www.brshf.org and click the Just Give button.
- Mail or bring your donation to our Baton Rouge office between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Donate items from our Wish List! We can never have too many Crayolas!



The Baton Rouge Speech and Hearing Foundation's (BRSHF) mission is to increase our clients' capacity to reach their optimum levels of independent communication and social interaction through the use of research based best practices, leading technology, and highly-trained professionals. Current diagnostic and therapeutic services offered at the BRSHF include:

SPEECH & LANGUAGE SERVICES

- Speech/Language Evaluation
- Individual Language Therapy
- Group Language Therapy for Preschool Children

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

- Early Steps Evaluations
- Comprehensive Development Assessment
- Educational Diagnostic Services

AUDIOLOGY SERVICES

- Testing & Evaluation
- Hearing Aids & Assistive Listening Devices
- Specialized Services
- Hearing Protection & Related Products
- Troubleshooting of Cochlear Implants

PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS:

Group therapy combined with Discreet Trial Teaching (Using the principles of Applied Behavioral Analysis)



WE'RE GOING GREEN...AND YOU CAN HELP US!

In 2009, BRSHF resolves to do what we can to sustain our environment. One simple step is to offer you the option of receiving communications from us by email instead of in print. If you would like to begin receiving our print communications by email, just send your name and email address to us at aleblanc@brshf.org.



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Member Agency

Want to know more? Visit us on the web at www.brshf.org!