



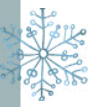
Seasons Greetings.



In 1960 the founders of The Hearing & Speech Center began with a profound belief: that every child deserves to find their voice. It was a mission deeply focused on teaching children with hearing loss to listen and talk. Due to the dedication, passion and generosity of you and our community over these past six and a half decades, we have seen generations of children successfully enter public and private schools, thrive in their careers, and step into their futures with confidence.



As our community has grown and changed, so has the need for our expertise. Over the years, HSC expanded services, recognizing that the gift of communication is one that can be lost, regained, or improved at any age. We have seen the incredible breakthrough when a toddler says their first clear word and we have seen the struggle of the adult who suddenly loses their hearing and can no longer participate in family conversations.



Today, we are formally embracing this broader responsibility. We are proud to announce an evolution of our mission statement that reflects the full scope of our vital work.

Our new mission statement is:

"The mission of The Hearing & Speech Center is to improve the lives of people with varied hearing and speech abilities through treatment and education."



This change is not a departure from our pediatric roots; rather, it is an expansion of our commitment. It means that the same world-class therapy and compassionate care that helped a toddler learn to say "Mommy" can also help an adult find the right hearing technology to reconnect with their family. It allows us to serve the entire person across the entire lifespan.

As we celebrate our 65th Anniversary and new mission statement, we invite you to help us write this next, transformative chapter. Ensuring we can offer support to anyone, twinkle to wrinkle, who walks through our doors.



Your year-end contribution will make it possible to maintain these programs and fulfill our broader mission, directly turning struggle into connection for generations of clients.

I invite you to join our board, friends and our community to celebrate our 65th anniversary by making a special donation.



Your gift ensures that The Hearing & Speech Center remains a place where communication, connection, and hope are always possible. The stories, statistics, and programs you see on the following pages are made possible by the commitment of individuals like you. Thank you for making our 65th anniversary year a success!



Warmest Wishes,



Executive Director



2025 at a glance... So far

SPEECH

- 4658 APPOINTMENTS
- 311 CLIENTS
- AGES 6 WEEKS-19

FAMILY HEARING CENTER

- 5489 APPOINTMENTS
- 1839 CLIENTS
- AGES 0-101
- COUNTIES SERVED IN 2025: 74 KENTUCKY 1 INDIANA

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

- 259 CHILDREN ENROLLED
- \$52,040 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

"I visited the Hearing and Speech Center a few months ago because of hearing loss that was causing me to miss out on many conversations at work and home. I often would not hear exactly what someone was saying and would be embarrassed to ask them to keep repeating. Dr. Pruden did a thorough hearing test and found that most of my hearing loss was at higher frequencies. I went with the recommendation for Oticon hearing aids that were programmed to specifically amplify the hearing frequencies I had loss in. The hearing aids have a "Speech in Noise" setting that helps you to hear the conversations near you, even when there is a lot of background noise. The results of these hearing aids were absolutely amazing! When my daughters are singing soprano, it feels like I am listening in high definition again and can pick up on the nuances and crispness of each note that I had forgotten I was missing. I am able to enjoy conversations with the family at restaurants during ballgames. Thank you to Dr. Pruden and the staff for empathy, great service, and professionalism that helped me recapture the missing moments of life that my hearing loss was causing. I am in your debt and grateful for your outstanding work."

— Robert S



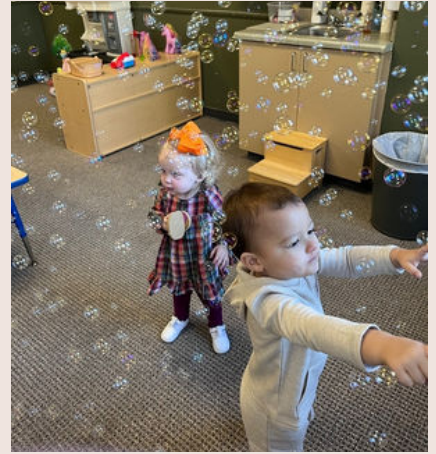
Scan the QR code or return the enclosed envelopment to support sound beginnings!



Welcome Back, Chatterbox!

We are excited to share the beloved Chatterbox Language Building Play Group is officially making its return!

At The Hearing & Speech Center (HSC), we understand that the period between 18 and 36 months is a foundational time of explosive learning and discovery. This is why the Chatterbox Program was created as a special collaboration between our Clinic and Education departments. It's not just childcare; it's a focused social playgroup designed to provide a rich, supportive environment where children can confidently use their emerging speech and language skills with their peers.



Building a Foundation for Future Success

Every session in Chatterbox revolves around an engaging, theme-based activity and vocabulary, crafting a delightful environment that encourages children to reach key childhood milestones. While they are busy exploring and having fun, they are simultaneously building four critical areas:

- **Language and Communication skills:** Through theme-based stories, songs, and finger-plays, we actively support vocabulary growth and development.
- **Social Awareness:** Activities like the welcome circle and center time and creative play foster crucial social skills, helping children learn how to share, play together, and become aware of others' feelings and actions.
- **Cognitive Development:** Early literacy skills are woven into the day through activities targeting letter knowledge and rhyming.
- **Sensory Motor Skills:** Our music and movement sessions help integrate learning with physical coordination.

A benefit of the program is the weekly Tiny Tots Talking sessions led by HSC speech therapists. This specialized program stimulates and increases the auditory pathways of the brain for all participating children, regardless of hearing status, providing the foundation for literacy and school readiness skills.

For more info on our Chatterbox Language Building Play Group, call us at 859.268.4545



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Cheers to 10 years



Dr. Julia Amann,
Audiologist



Holly Cooper,
Speech Pathologist

We are thrilled to celebrate our dedicated team members who have reached their 10-year work anniversaries at The Hearing & Speech Center! Over the past decade, their unwavering commitment and passion have been instrumental in creating countless sound beginnings for those we serve. Thank you for your continued excellence and for being an integral part of our journey. Here's to many more years of success and collaboration!



Eric Williams,
Custodian



Melissa Hatton,
Client Care Manager



Dr. Jinger Pruden,
Audiologist

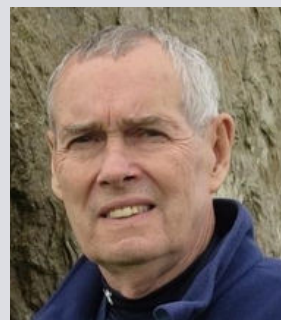
Honoring Lives and Legacies Through Memorial Gifts

- by Marcey Ansley IHSC Executive Director

This year, The Hearing & Speech Center has been deeply honored to receive meaningful memorial gifts made in tribute to loved ones who held our mission close to their hearts- including Betty Straus Smith, Suzanne Mingua, William "Jack" Howell and Dr. Carol Hustedee. These gifts not only celebrate the lives of those we have lost, but also carry forward their commitment to helping children, adults and families across Kentucky find their voices and reach their fullest potential.



Each memorial contribution allows us to continue providing high-quality early learning, speech therapy, audiology services, and family support—ensuring that every individual has access to sound beginnings and brighter futures. We are profoundly grateful to every family who chose to honor their someone special in this way.



A Tribute to a Dedicated Leader



This year, we pause to remember and celebrate the life of Dr. Carol Hustedee, who served as Executive Director of The Hearing & Speech Center (Lexington Hearing & Speech Center) from 1994–2005. It was an incredible honor to be asked to share my journey and memories of Carol during her memorial service this summer.

Here is an excerpt of the words I shared in July: *As many of you are aware, our son, Alex, failed his newborn hearing screening (nearly 25 years ago). Due to my professional connection with Carol, I immediately knew who to call. While she was the Executive Director, she walked the journey with my husband and I during the early years, gave us hope, love and encouragement and has followed Alex's journey over these past 24 years. On behalf of The Hearing & Speech Center, it is*

with deep respect and gratitude that we remember our dear friend and former Executive Director of the Lexington Hearing & Speech Center. For over a decade, she led with grace and an unwavering commitment to the children and families we serve.

In her own words, "The past eleven years have been a wonderful journey for me and I can't say enough of how proud I am of this agency and the incredible staff that work here." That pride was mutual. Under her leadership, the Center thrived in compassion, vision, and integrity. She was a champion for families and a true believer in the power of early intervention and connection. We will carry her memory forward in every child we serve and every family we support.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed in memory of Betty, Suzie, Jack and Carol. Your generosity ensures that their legacies live on through every family we serve.

THE HEARING & SPEECH CENTER

Birdies for Sound Beginnings

GOLF SCRAMBLE

Over \$40,000 raised
for Sound Beginnings!



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FRANKIE NIGHT

Cocktail and Casino Event

Presented By:

Davis H. Elliot Company, Inc.
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Friday, March 6, 2026

7:00pm



Scan the QR code to register!

E-mail brooke.traud@hscopy.org
for more information

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The Rotary Club of Lexington
United Way of the Bluegrass
WHAS Crusade for Children

Grant Highlight: Lexington Lions Club

The Hearing & Speech Center is excited to spotlight our dedicated partner, the Lexington Lions Club, for their generous support of our low-income pediatric audiology program, embodying their motto "We Serve." This commitment makes them an invaluable ally in our work to improve the lives of children with hearing loss. We are honored to recognize not just their most recent grant, but their incredible legacy of support, which spans 14 consecutive years.

For a child with hearing loss, early intervention is critical for successful speech and language development. However, the cost of comprehensive audiology services can be a barrier for many low-income families. The Lions Club's consistent funding directly bridges this gap, ensuring that financial limitations never prevent a child from receiving care. Their support allows HSC to provide services that give children a "sound beginning" in life, accessing the evaluations and technology needed to reach their full potential.

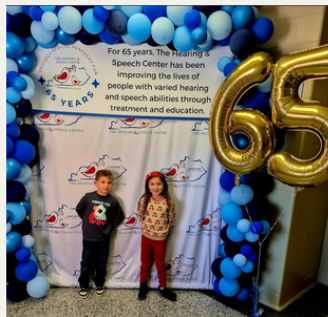


The Lexington Lions Club's long-term partnership is a true testament to their dedication to the Central Kentucky community. Generating funds through efforts like the annual Bluegrass Fair, the Lions Club has consistently proven itself as a powerful force for good. We extend our deepest gratitude to the members of the Lexington Lions Club for their loyalty and commitment.

Save the Date for the Bluegrass Fair: June 4-14, 2026!



THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING
65 YEARS OF
*Sound
Beginnings*



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social media to keep up
with us all year long!



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