EVENTS & COMMUNITY

As a 96-year member of the central Ohio community, we’re honored to continue to have staff participation in local fundraising and community events such as:

- DSACO Buddy Walk, Leeds Farm Autism Harvest Festival,
- Columbus Commons Family Fun Day, and many more.

We’re also pleased to host our own signature events with generous support from our board and corporate and community sponsors:

- Great Communicators Golf Classic (May)
- Halloween Hop (October)

MANAGEMENT TEAM

James O. Dye, MSW, LISW  •  President & CEO
Karen Deeter  •  Director of Operations
Heather Pliskin, M.A., CCC-SLP  •  VP & Director of Speech Services
Chelsey Craig  •  Director of Development & Major Gifts
Julia Felts  •  Director of Careers for People with Disabilities

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OUR MISSION:
To unlock potential for individuals with communication and vocational challenges through all stages of life.

OUR VISION:
To be the recognized leader providing personalized service and caring attention to help the people we serve achieve their full potential.

2018 Annual Report
Celebrating 96 wonderful years in the community!

OVER 8,000
INDIVIDUALS
SERVED IN 2018

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Connect with us:
Dear friends,

In 2019, one of our priority focus areas was to broaden the scope of our Early Detection program, which provides speech-language and hearing screening services, to include areas identified as low-income or high-poverty neighborhoods. We chose these areas as several recent reports have shown kindergarten readiness levels lag state averages by 14%. Studies have consistently shown a disparity between early language development in children of lower income families as compared to their more affluent peers. Additionally, the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders reports that nearly 1 in 12 children ages 3–17 has a disorder related to voice, speech, language, or swallowing and that about 2 to 3 out of every 1,000 children in the United States are born with a detectable level of hearing loss in one or both ears.

It was our belief that children with speech-language or hearing loss may have been going undetected, and untreated, in these areas. Due to generous grant funding from the SafeTite and AEP foundations, we were able to partner with 24 preschool and daycare centers to provide an additional 531 speech-language and hearing screenings. Our results were concerning; of the 531 screenings, we have found, so far, that there is a 27% failure rate on the speech-language screening and 24% failure rate on the hearing screening. In short, we feel we have uncovered a need within these communities for a more structured approach to the identification and treatment of communication disorders in young children. Our work is obviously not done, and we look forward to partnering with you to expand our partnerships and our ability to serve all impacted by communication disorders.

Sincerely,

James O. Dye, MSW, LISW
President & CEO

Meeting Joan

Joan began coming to see Dr. Emily Kirkendall in our Audiology department in January 2018. As someone who had been told for years by her family that she may benefit from hearing aids, Joan’s experience here has been nothing short of life-changing. “This whole experience has changed my life,” says Joan. “It’s such a wonderful thing to be able to hear the things I didn’t know I was missing. I can hear the birds, I can hear my turn signal. I can eavesdrop! It’s just such a blessing.” Perhaps the best part of healthy hearing for Joan? Phone conversations that now last one hour instead of two. Sometimes it’s the small things that make the real difference.

Meeting Hallie

Hallie started receiving Speech services at the Center when she was 19 months old. Growing through many groups and programs until age 14, she credits her experience at Columbus Speech & Hearing Center for her academic success today. At 18 years old, Hallie is set to graduate high school and pursue college at Ohio Dominican University on academic and athletic scholarships to study Exercise Science and play collegiate soccer. “Columbus Speech & Hearing Center has impacted my life a lot by giving me the tools I needed to succeed in school. I couldn’t have achieved what I have achieved without their support,” says Hallie.

Meeting Sebastian

Sebastian has spent his life caring for others. In fact, his degree and previous work experience is in Human Services, where he worked with individuals living with disabilities. Born with cerebral palsy, Sebastian has had to overcome many of his own challenges. Through his work with CPD, he landed a great opportunity. Today, you can find him working at the reception desk at Columbus Speech & Hearing Center! Sebastian says, “I have learned a lot since starting this job. The people I work with have been great and so supportive!"