

# Warren Center



Winter 2009

## VOTE FOR US!!!

Help us receive a \$5,00 grant from the Bangor Savings Bank Foundation. So we can help the communities we serve. Your vote helps us matter

**Bangor Savings Bank**

**You matter more.**

more. In March Bangor Savings Bank Foundation will give a total of \$100,000 to 68 non-profit organizations in Maine. Just by being listed on the Community Matters More ballot we will be given \$1,000. However, the eight organizations that receive the most votes March 2 will each be awarded \$5,000 grants. Pick up a ballot at the Warren Center, Bangor Savings or vote online at

**www.communitymattersmore.com.** Please vote for THE WARREN CENTER FOR COMMUNICATION & LEARNING. **Thanks.**

### ART OF COMMUNICATION

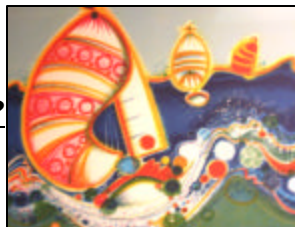
#### What is all the art on the walls of the Warren Center?

For the next year art work is being displayed in the halls and offices of the Warren Center.

For every \$100 you donate during the 2008-2009 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN your name will be placed in a drawing. During the month of July one person will win a beautiful piece of artwork.

Call to set up an appointment to see the art work.

**Don't miss a chance to help the Warren Center and add to your art collection.**



## Calendar of Upcoming Events



May 4-29 Collecting gently used items for Annual Yard Sale

May 30 8am -2pm Yard Sale  
Live with WKIT 101.3pm

**May is Better Hearing and Speech Month**

## A Mom's Voice

By Deb Pinkham



As parents, we advocate for our children so they receive what they need such as proper health care and an appropriate education. Teaching our children to advocate for themselves is an important part of raising our children to be independent.

When children are in elementary school this may take the form of teaching them to notify the teacher when hearing equipment is not functioning properly or having them responsible for giving the equipment (microphone, trainer, or FM system) to the teacher at the beginning of the school day and putting it away at the end of the day. First and second graders are able to take responsibility for equipment if it is kept in an accessible and consistent location in the classroom. (They will need reminders in the beginning of the year, and the teacher should double check to make sure all equipment is stored correctly).

By fourth or fifth grade, most children are able to transport equipment safely from class to class. Middle schoolers involved in school sponsored activities such as debate team, math club, drama, music, or sports need to be able to safely transport needed equipment and explain its use to coaches or activity leaders.

As children grow older they can begin to take more responsibility for their hearing equipment at home as well as at school by

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## From the Associate Director **MaryBeth Richards**



As a speech-language pathologist, I am often asked what causes speech problems, why do some kids have more difficulty talking than others, and why is it so important to seek help for these problems before children go to school.

Research has shown us that all children are born “wired” for language. Parents will recall that the first moment that their child looked into their eyes was shortly after birth, and many mothers will confirm that they felt that their baby recognized their voice immediately. Children start learning from the first moments that they arrive. Many factors can impair a child’s ability to master language; these include hearing ability, environment, behavior, and individual differences. Some children just need some special help to overcome their speaking disorder. Parents should also know that they are not to blame for your child’s delay in speaking. Every child is different, and their learning style is part of their uniqueness.

If you have any concerns about your child’s speech, please consider having an evaluation. Our speech-language pathologists can answer your questions and help your child get any services that they

### **Thank You For Donating to the Warren Center**

#### **Annual Fund**

Leonard & Renee Minsky  
Jeanne Jacobson  
Robert Stairs  
Pauline Barron  
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#### **Grants**

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The Rite Aid Foundation

#### **ReHAB**

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Thomas Calder  
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Debbie Courtney  
Charles Campbell  
Raymond Wheeler  
Joan Gagnon  
Jerry Jordan Opticians  
Norman Letarte  
Sheldon Goldthwait  
James Gardner

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### **New Staff Member**

#### **Milt Blake**

Milt Blake is the Warren Center's new front office assistant. As our office has gotten busier we have found that we needed an extra set of hands. Milt assists both in audiology and speech services setting up appointments, and maintaining files. He joins us after 20 years in the military. He began his military career as a jet mechanic and then cross trained to become a medic.

### **Ways of Giving**

With each gift of money, time, or in-kind donations our supporters are making a difference in the lives of thousands of Mainers. There are many convenient ways to lend your financial support to the Warren Center’s Annual Fund. All are tax-deductible. All will support the work we do throughout the year — and for years to come.

- Donate a gift of **stock**.
- Give an **in-kind** gift.
- Give a **commemorative gift**
- Enroll in your employer’s **workplace giving program**.
- **Volunteer** your time.



## Annual Meeting Held Dec. 11th

The Warren Center for Communication & Learning held its annual meeting in December. At that time the new employees were introduced to the board of directors including Audiologist Alison Settele, and Front Office Assistant Milt Blake who came on board at the end of 2008. The Warren Center's Executive Director Mary E. Poulin emphasized the Center's continued commitment to providing excellent hearing and speech services for the residents of greater Bangor.

Mark your calendar for next year's meeting scheduled for **Thursday, December 10, 2009.**

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### CAN YOU LEND A HAND ?



New Lobby and audiology waiting area chairs with arms for ease of elderly clients.



Repair erosion at base of roof drain



Carpet for the front office 14 · X 14. Installation. Carpet donation.



Scrape and repaint wooden outside trim of building (front and parking lot sides only; back and other side of building have vinyl trim.



Replace 2 windows in the lobby measuring 42 X 48 with vinyl windows to help prevent drafts in the waiting area.

If you are a service group or maybe you are an individual who can help us with these projects. Please give Executive Director Mary Poulin a call at #941-2850. Thanks.

**Mission Statement:** The Warren Center for Communication & Learning provides evaluations, therapies and technologies in the areas of speech, language development and hearing to the children and adults of Eastern and Central Maine.



# Ask The Audiologist

## Are annual hearing test really necessary?

Annual hearing tests are a great way to monitor your hearing levels as well as your word recognition ability. Word recognition is how clearly you perceive the words. Some people have the same hearing loss for ten years while others diminish gradually over time. Some people have hearing that stays the same but their ability to understand words is decreasing over time. An annual hearing test helps you to monitor the change in your hearing and can help your audiologist to adjust your hearing aids to best meet your needs. If the audiologist notices a plateau or no significant changes in your hearing they may recommend more time between tests.



*Written by Warren Center Audiologist Dr. Amanda Samoluk, CCC-A, Dr. Kim Starkey, CCC-A, & Alison Settele, M..S.P.A., CCC-A*

*con't pg 1* cleaning the earmolds, putting the hearing aids in a dehumidifier, and by replacing batteries on a regular basis. (My sons are 10 and 12 and are learning to perform these actions, but they need reminders. Daily reminders, in fact)!

Part of me doesn't want to think about high school and then the world beyond. My sons taking care of themselves without my constant oversight is a scary proposition, for me but probably not for them. Then again, that is why their dad and I have worked with them to be independent and advocate for themselves.

**Deb Pinkham serves on the Warren Center's Board of Directors and is a teacher at the Mary Snow School in Bangor.**

*Donations con't pg 1*

### **Wish Mittens**

- Sharon Jackiw
- Heidi Plourde
- Julie Edgecomb
- Cindy Henderson
- Deborah Pinkham
- Anonymous
- Tammi Deering
- Julie Doughty
- Krisit Grant
- Peggy McPike
- Maria Clark

THANK YOU!

### **Your Annual Campaign Donation at work:**

Early childhood intervention exists to help children aged birth through five who have communication disorders. The goal is to help children overcome diagnosed speech communication disorders in the critical period of their early development so that they may enter the public schools ready to learn without the need for further speech therapy.

Help your neighbor donate today