



## Warren Center receives United Way's Partner Agency Award

The Finale of the United Way was especially grand this year because the Center received the agency award.

The Center not only had a campaign with 100 percent employee participation, but we also run three programs supported by the United Way including pragmatic skills group, early language development in children and the Regional Hearing Aid Bank, that provides hearing aids for those in need. For programming information contact the Center at #941-2850.



Chair of the United Way campaign John Rohman with Warren Center Executive Director Mary Poulin

## Calendar of Upcoming Events



May 5-30 Collecting gently used items for Annual Yard Sale

May 31 8am -2pm Yard Sale With WKIT 101.3pm

Free Hotdog and Soda giveaway  
Red Sox Ticket giveaway

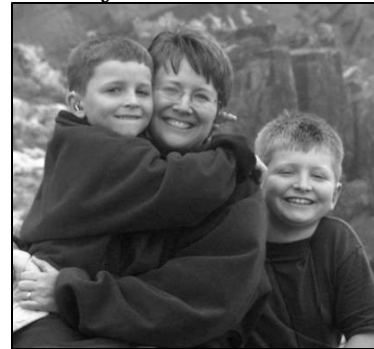
### **May is Better Hearing and Speech Month**

Lecture Series on Speech given weekly in May at the Bangor Public Library. Look for topics in the next newsletter.

**COOKBOOKS-** For sale at area outlets and at the Warren Center. \$8.00 a piece. Call #941-2850 to purchase a cookbook.

## A Mom's Voice

By Deb Pinkham



"Mom & Dad - 1, Hearing loss - 0"

This is what my older son said after using his new earphones for the first time. For anyone who has tried using traditional earphones with a stereo, CD player, or an MP3 player, you know what a hassle it is with hearing aids. The earphones might or might not fit over the hearing aid and even if they do, they're probably not comfortable to wear.

So, you take out your hearing aids and just wear the earphones which means you have to turn the volume up so high to hear the music that everyone around you can hear it too. This was Nicholas's predicament.

As part of our quest in life to help our boys have as normal, or mainstream a childhood as their peers, we bought Nicholas an MP3 player for Christmas. He loved it! We knew the earbud earphones that came with it would be useless for him so we bought him some over the ear earphones which were marginally better but were in no way a good solution.

Mom's Voice continued on back page

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



When people think about speech-language pathologists they most likely will think about working with speech sound correction, children who don't talk, or folks who have had strokes or brain trauma. I want to take this time to explain a few other areas in which speech-language pathologists can be effective when working with clients. One of those areas is social pragmatic language. Social pragmatic language is what a lot of people would call, "everyday conversation". Unfortunately, for those children who have high-functioning autism, Asperger's syndrome, or a non-verbal language disorder the art of small talk or conversation can be an almost painful task.

Every summer Warren Center speech language pathologists put together groups and work with middle school and high school age students in order to assist them in improving their social pragmatic skills. During middle school and high school, when peer approval and acceptance is crucial, the ability to make small talk and jump into and out of conversation is an important skill to master. People who are unable to understand or make sense of this skill often struggle to get along with others. Making and keeping friends can be too big of a challenge for these students to attempt. Skills targeted by the group include starting and stopping conversations, maintaining topics, and how to interact with others. We also discuss figurative language and the understanding of body language.

The Social Pragmatic Group will run for the ten weeks of summer for two one-hour sessions per week. The group would consist of up to 6 students, a speech-language pathologist, and a group aide. If you have any questions or have a child that you would like to refer for this program, please feel free to call The Warren Center at **941-2850**. I would be happy to discuss the program with you.

## It's as easy as 1, 2, 3

The Warren Center has received a \$6,229 grant from JTG Foundation to replace our Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) Test System.

The new OAE Test System is a fast, automatic handheld instrument for testing newborn babies, children and adults. Several test protocols are available. Actual test results along with a pass or refer indication are on the display as well as in print from a thermal printer making it simple to add to charts and forward to physicians.



Even if you can't speak you can have your hearing checked with our new OAE Test System.

## New Staff Members

### Tammi Pickering



Tammi is the Warren Center's new front office Secretary. She attended the University of Maine, and majored in Creative Writing with a minor in Education. She is one semester shy of her degree. She

lives in Bangor with her husband, two children and her Newfoundland dog Sable. Tammi enjoys reading and writing in her spare time.

## 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.

## **Thanks For Donating to the Warren Center December 2007-January 2008**

### **Annual Fund**

Aimee Smith & Tracy Harding, Robert Russell, Nathaniel & Virginia Putnam, Barbara & Denny Beers, Edward Farwell, Leonard & Renee Minsky, Anonymous, Sheldon Goldthwait, Sonny & Joanne Miller, John Schroder, Margaret Baillie, Robert Stairs, Judith Cuddy, Cynthia Lee, Richard Gwinn & Fran Vogt, Richard J. Warren, David Rier, Mary Parker, Calvin & Dot White, Susan Rizza, Shawn Yardley, Barbara Beckwith, Richard Harnum, Rachel & Kermit Bailey, Robin Foster, Annegrete Eastman, Cyr Bus Lines-Joe Cyr, Joshua Treat, III, Celia Gray, Elna Campbell-Wade, Lunder Foundation, Mary Arell, Jean Deighan & Glen Porter, Stephanie Cotsirilos, Frank MacGuire, Jeffrey Hjlem & Doris Harnett, John Simpson, Peter & Shannon Cook, Ruth Ellis, Marilyn Macleod, Samuel Lipman, Geraldine Knight, Edward Campbell, Norman Minsky, Fred Brown, Clyde & Trudy MacDonald, Clayton McGuire, Cifton Eames

### **Grants**

JTG Foundation

### **ReHAB**

Pamela Keefe, Doris Cronkite, Doris Cicone, Gail Leland, Robert Decker, Abby Parker, Betty Smickle, Russell Todd, Fay Fitzherbert, Alpha One, Murry Simmons, Frank Ring

### **Wish Mittens**

Michael Haggerty, Darnel Nadeau, Robin Foster, Deborah Pinkham, Darlene Bickford, William Jost, Julie Doughty, Jennifer Lufkin, Steven Edgecomb, Julia Cote, Norma Williams, Dawn Corbett Hughes, Katie Chase, Dianne Witcomb, Antwan Wright, Heather Buck, Brigit Harris, Lisa Hall

### **In Kind Donations**

Robin Foster, Nancy Hinckley

## **Annual Meeting Held December 13th**

The Warren Center for Communication & Learning announced at its annual meeting in December the organization's restructuring. The restructuring is part of The Warren Center's long-term strategy, which includes a commitment to providing excellent hearing and speech services for the residents of greater Bangor.

"We have spent several months undergoing a very thoughtful and comprehensive review of our operations," says Jim Nason, board chairman. "Our goal is to maximize efficiency while providing quality service to our consumers. We are committed to continuous improvement and preparing ourselves to readily adapt to future changes in our business environment."

The restructuring encompasses the two director's positions. Previously, Administrative and Programming were split into two equal positions. As of the annual meeting in December Mary Poulin assumes the position of Executive Director, while MaryBeth Richards steps into the role as Associate Director.

Mark your calendar for next year's meeting scheduled for **Thursday, December 11, 2008.**

## **WISH LIST**



Games: Mr. Bucket, Lucky Duck, Drop and Roar Dinosaur, Simple Puzzles, Don't Break the Ice, Puzzles for 5 to 8 year olds. Office Supplies: index cards, file labels, file folders, white board markers, rubber cement. Other items: diapers, diaper wipes, hand sanitizer, monetary donations for the ReHAB program to repair donated hearing aids for those in need.

**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



## Why can't I wear the tiny invisible hearing aids that my sister wears?

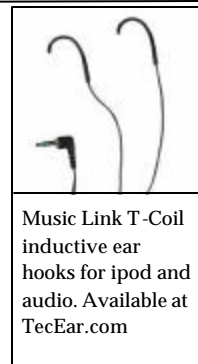
This is a question that comes up in conversation when counseling people about hearing loss and the best amplification options for their needs. Although technology continues to improve over time and there are many new products available to help with not only the sound quality but also the cosmetic appeal of hearing aids, size ultimately does matter. A good rule of thumb, go with your audiologist's recommendation. The more the hearing loss the larger the instrument needs to be to provide you with adequate amounts of power. Wearing a hearing aid that is smaller than is recommended can cause a multitude of problems but the most obvious will be constant feedback. Although your hearing aids may seem more flattering, the annoying squeal that follows you around will ultimately make your amplification use very obvious. Hearing aids should be fit so that they have enough power for your hearing loss today but also take into consideration change over time. They are an expensive purchase and leaving "room to grow" will help them to last longer and will make you and your pocket book happier!

*Written by Warren Center Audiologist Dr. Amanda Samoluk, CCC-A & Dr. Kim Starkey, CCC-A*

**Mom's Voice continued from page 1.**

Our next step was an online search which lead us to **TecEar.com**, a simply wonderful site that offers a range of earphones and other tech equipment designed FOR people with assistive listening devices. We ordered the over the ear "hook" style earphones.

They have a slim design and fit between the hearing aid and the side of the head. With a push of a button on the hearing aids, the music travels from the MP3 player to the hearing aids. Nicholas says they are great because he can finally listen to his music comfortably without disturbing anyone else (which makes Dad and I happy)! We're also pleased that the volume can be at a low setting, preserving his residual hearing. This technology is wonderful!



Music Link T-Coil inductive ear hooks for ipod and audio. Available at TecEar.com

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