



Spring 2019

VOICES

HELPING VOICES BE HEARD FOR 70 YEARS

CHEERS TO 70 YEARS!

Seventy years ago, a speech therapist named **Sarah Barrett** recognized the need for a children's speech clinic after her small Jacksonville practice was unable to provide treatment to all of the young patients seeking help. By collaborating with Jacksonville pediatrician **Dr. Hugh Carithers** and **Junior League** officer **Jane Grey Scott**, Barrett pooled together community resources in order to create the **Children's Speech Correction Clinic**, which opened its doors for the first time on April 19, 1949.

Within two years, the Clinic was able to build operations from four patients treated by a volunteer staff to 139 patients treated by a full-time staff. However, despite such exponential growth, Barrett knew that the clinic was not truly fulfilling its mission due to Jim Crow Laws that prevented African-American patients from visiting. As a result, in 1951, therapists began holding sessions at Jacksonville's first African-American hospital, Brewster Hospital, at least once a week in order to serve all of Jacksonville's children.

In 1964, the Clinic achieved 501(c)(3) status as the "Speech and Hearing Center, Inc.," signaling a new era of expansion. During this time, the Center began construction on integrated downtown facilities, offering additional audiology services, participating in community health fairs, as well as pioneering early intervention speech-language and hearing programs for local preschoolers.

As time passed, the Center frequently overcame challenges presented by local, national, and international events. When gas shortages during the 1970s Energy Crisis prevented many patients from traveling to the Center's main facilities, it opened a satellite location in Southwest Jacksonville for greater accessibility. When the 1980s AIDS Epidemic swept across the nation, staff underwent special training to ensure the Center was able to safely and compassionately treat patients. And when decreased revenue triggered by the Great Recession threatened to forever close the Center's doors, dedicated Board Members and staff fought to keep it alive.

In 2017, after being housed in the same location for more than 50 years, the Center moved to our new, more accessible location with updated facilities and equipment, marking another new chapter in its journey. Seven decades after Sarah Barrett first envisioned a space for children to gain necessary communication skills, the Children's Speech Correction Clinic has transformed into today's Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center---a vibrant organization that annually provides thousands of patients with hearing, speech and/or language disorders the highest quality compassionate care, regardless of ability to pay. We have much to celebrate on our 70th birthday, which falls on April 19!



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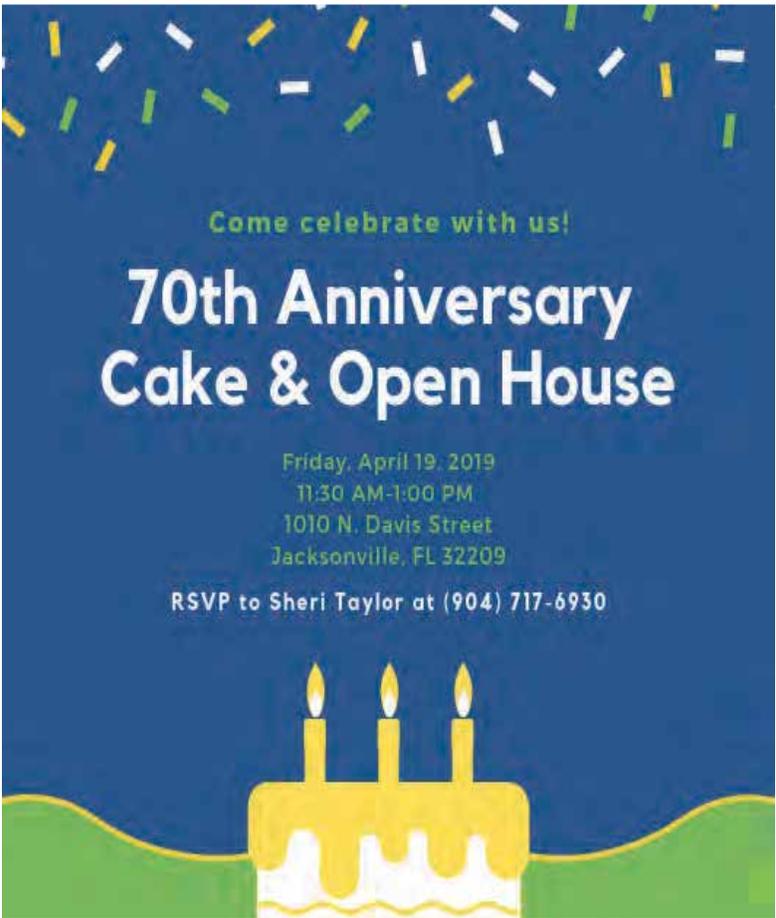
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COMMUNITY HEALTH LEADER LAUREEN HUSBAND, PEDIATRICIAN JOHN WAIDNER ELECTED TO JSHC BOARD

Laureen Husband, EdD, and **John Waidner, MD** were elected unanimously to the Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center Board of Directors at the Board's March 8th meeting.



Husband, who is widely recognized for her contributions in community health circles, is currently the Director of Health Equity & Community Engagement for Volusia County. She was the Director of Healthy Jacksonville for nearly nine years. She has a BA from Berea College, MA in Diplomacy & Socio-Economic Development from the University of Kentucky, and an EdD in Diversity Studies from the University of West Florida. Among other notable affiliations, Husband is part of the distinguished Kellogg Foundation in Public Health Cohort, and a Board Member of the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. Dr. Husband resides in Springfield with Dr. Dan Husband, their two children, and a grandson.



Waidner is the Pediatric Medical Director, Superior Health Plan, for the Centene Corporation and a member of the St. Vincent's Medical Residency Program Pediatric Facility. He maintains hospital privileges at St. Vincent's Medical Center and Wolfson's Children's Hospital. He received his BA in Zoology from Miami University of Ohio and his MD from the University of South Florida. He started his career in service to our country at Naval Hospital Beaufort and Naval Hospital Jacksonville. John and his wife, Dr. Amy Garrett, who is also a pediatrician, live in Fleming Island.

FINFEST 2019 IN A NUTSHELL

Join us for our premier annual fundraiser! Enjoy delicious food and drinks, live music, and a silent auction, with all proceeds benefitting JSHC!

Date/Time: Saturday, May 18, 2019
- *VIP Reception:* 6:00-7:00 PM
- *Main Event:* 7:00-10:30 PM

Place: Timuquana Country Club

Ways To Buy Tickets:
- Purchase online at <https://shcjax.org>
- Call us at (904) 717-6930
- See any JSHC Board Member

Cost:
- *General Admission:* \$100
- *VIP:* \$150

Entertainment: Top Secret Band

Master of Ceremonies: Katie Jeffries

FinFest Chairs: Matt & Seana McAfee

Honorary Chairs: Peter & Nancy Bragan, Jr.; Artis & Enola Gay Gilmore; Mark & Samantha Lowery; and Tom & Kathy VanOsdol

Vacation Trip Auction to Include: Ireland; Iceland; Israel; Thailand; Alaska; Paris-Brussels; Greece-Santorini-Athens-Mykanos; New York; and more!

FinFest Chairs Matt & Seana McAfee

Silent Auction to Include: Beach Condo Package; Porsche Driving Experience; Yacht Trip with Catered Black Sheep Lunch and Wine; Sports Memorabilia and Tickets; Jewelry; Spa Days; and more!

CEO UPDATE: MY TURN AT THE MIKE



Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center turning 70 on April 19th gives us an opportunity not only for reflecting and celebration, but also some healthy dialogue about our future. Northeast Florida is replete with nonprofits with worthy missions that failed to make it to 70. In fact, one list pegs us as the 9th oldest nonprofit with a health/human service mission. Our nation likewise has seen myriad nonprofit speech and hearing centers fall by the wayside. We rank as the 13th longest enduring entity on the National Association of Speech and Hearing Centers list.

That Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center has evolved and persevered since our launch by the **Junior League** as the Children's Speech Correction Clinic in 1949 is in large part the product of a need for services that has grown over time, an ability to attract gifted clinicians and staff committed to providing highest quality of service, philanthropic support from individuals like **Jessie Ball duPont** (and foundations like the one that now bears her name), and the tireless efforts of very engaged Board Members who fought to keep Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center functioning through some pretty lean times.

Partners like **United Way, Florida Blue, Haskell, Ascension/St. Vincent's, Baptist Health, Medtronic, the Arlington Lions Club, and the Jaguars Foundation** have also provided critical support and inspiration.

So what lies ahead? Our aspirations for the next five years include new offerings that rely on increased specialization and deployment of our mobile unit and teletherapy to drive greater accessibility. That's not just my vision, but the outcome of nearly two years of strategic thinking and planning by our Board.

Essential speech-language therapy and audiology services will remain at the heart of our mission. With 46 percent of the preschoolers in Health Zone 1 failing our speech-language screenings last year, and more Baby Boomers (and younger generations) experiencing significant hearing loss every year, meeting those needs remains as a huge challenge...as does finessing the financial formula to accommodate the escalating needs of people who need our help.

With the help of new partners to complement our longtime friends, we take aim at our 75th!

**Mike Howland
President & CEO**



AT THE CENTER OF OUR ATTENTION

From Board Members, to community partners, to Jacksonville royalty, the Jacksonville Speech & Center is no stranger to having exciting visitors! Here are some faces that recently ended up at the center of our attention!



Director Dick Valentine and Basketball Hall of Famer **Artis Gilmore** enjoy festivities at JSHC's Holiday Open House.



New members of the **Junior League of Jacksonville** pose after touring JSHC as part of the Junior League's Landmark Tour of notable community partners. Junior League helped found JSHC in 1949.



Director Eric Weinroth, **Director Bob Whitkop**, and **Chair Elect Lynne Elliot** share lively conversation with **SLP Brittany Mitrick** at JSHC's 5th Annual Culhane's Winter FUNraiser. We are grateful to the Culhane Sisters for their continued generous support.



Director Kirk Brennan and his son, **Cooper**, share some pizza during JSHC's Jaguars Give & Go Tailgate Party on December 2.



President & CEO Mike Howland welcomes representatives from the **Cochlear Americas**. JSHC began offering implantable device services in February 2019.



Mike Howland, **Audiologist Dr. Evonne Long**, and **Director Jim White** receive hearing aid donations from **Arlington Lions Club Member Chris Blackburn**.