

# Sunshine Cottage

## SCHOOL FOR DEAF CHILDREN

# Listen

## Fourth & Fifth Graders Take on New Role



*Curious George* and *The Little Engine that Could* spark young minds across our land, but the energy that resounds through our classrooms as our fourth and fifth graders take on a new role is *priceless*. Teachers Danielle Paquin, Rosanne Hernandez, Sandra Ibarra and Meagan Keller initiated a *Weekly Buddy Read* for their students. This opportunity helps to foster everyday communication skills, individual student language goals and interpersonal skills.

Through weekly interactions, the pre-kindergarten students are actively developing Language and Early Literacy skills taken from the *Language Adventure Curriculum* such as: increasing listening comprehension, developing vocabulary and verbal expression, building knowledge of literary forms and increasing their print and book awareness. Teachers facilitate book sharing skills and question techniques while fourth and fifth graders work on word identification and reading fluency as well as vocabulary development. Students



become comfortable with a variety of texts. The *Big's* (fourth and fifth graders) ask the *Little's* (pre-k students) higher level questions and the *Little's* expand their higher level thinking skills in order to appropriately answer questions and engage in dialogue.

By having a '*big buddy*' who reads to them the *Little's* are engaged in one-to-one learning and are motivated to read more. The *Big's* develop a sense of responsibility to care of their young friends and help him/her discover life through reading.

Each Friday every child participating in this program impatiently waits for 1 p.m. to roll around so they can read with their friends. Through new friendships and sharing this time together, the children are bound to develop memories that will last forever.

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Dela and John White

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## MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



Albert Schweitzer, the famous scientist, said, "At times, our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark by another. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who lighted the flame."

I am reminded of the determination and gusto of Dela White who, sixty years ago this year, put into motion the foundation and beginning of Sunshine Cottage. She flew to Los Angeles with her daughter, Tuleta, who was born with a profound hearing loss, to meet with Mrs. Spencer Tracy who founded a program to teach children who were deaf to learn to talk. Tuleta's life changed as a result of the trip and she began a rich, self-reliant and independent life. Dela returned home with the ideas and hopes of starting a school for the hearing impaired and these ideas continue to change children's lives everyday at Sunshine Cottage.

Aren't there times when we are reluctant to accept change? What if Dela had not made the trip? That trip triggered the birth of Sunshine Cottage, a school for deaf children filled with passionate teachers and staff who create an inspirational and motivational road map for personal success through the successes of their students. Seventy-seven employees of the Cottage come from different cultures and communities; the one thing they have in common, however, is a servant's heart, a strong work ethic and a desire to please.... not only the students and the community, but also each other. They have great respect for one another and work effectively in cramped spaces in a spirit of mutual cooperation to get the job done and to make the school a wonderful experience for everyone involved. When people are focused on the common good rather than their own independent interests, viable solutions come easily in the face of many challenges. Optimism, enthusiasm, and a passion for the school motivate staff to adapt to off-site offices, turning closets into office space and moving filing cabinets and equipment in the halls to allow more room for children. Staff members live with the dream of the reality of a new and larger school. *And... it will happen!*

Someone said, "The only thing certain is change!" And, it is happening at Sunshine Cottage. The leadership of Carolyn Walthall and Blane Trautwein has been extraordinary; the school has doubled and programs have been expanded. Architects are engaged with plans to double the school size to give teachers breathing room. A capital campaign will be announced soon. For the Cottage, it can't come soon enough. Spending just one hour at Sunshine Cottage enriches my life and watching the teachers and staff of Sunshine Cottage makes me a better person. It is a school with passionate teachers focused on one mission.... to provide each child with the best possible chance to succeed in the hearing world.

Come visit the school! It will make you believe in miracles. It's a place where miracles happen every day and we need your spark of love and hope to keep this flame alive.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Marietta McCain". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue background.

Marietta McCain  
Board Chair

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED



San Antonio native, Mike Green, attended Churchill High School and Baylor University. He is an Information Systems Project Manager for Valero Energy Corporation. He and his wife, Amy, have been exclusively involved with Sunshine Cottage for the past three years as parents of two former

students; their daughter, Larek, who is hearing impaired, and a son, Hampton, who has typical hearing. Mike served as President of the Parent Teacher Group for the 2006-2007 school year.

John Hansford White III, the grandson of founders Dela and John White, Sr. was also recently added to our Board. Having been around Sunshine Cottage his entire life, Hansford is looking forward to taking a more active role in the leadership of Sunshine Cottage. John and his wife, Amy, have two children; a son, John IV, and daughter, Remy.



## The Sun Shines On...

**Lori Debner** joins us in the classroom as an assistant. Originally from San Antonio, Lori previously worked in childcare for six years. She is married and has three children.



**Lucy Dickens** attended the University of Texas at Austin and received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. With more than 19 years in the classroom, Lucy previously worked at the North Carolina School for the Deaf. With two daughters in college, Lucy and family enjoy time together whenever possible.



**Susan Guadarrama** is from San Antonio and was previously employed at St. Martin Hall Catholic School. Susan has worked in the field of education for seven years. She is married and has a son in college and a daughter at Incarnate Word High School. Susan says, "I am impressed with the wonderful teaching that happens in the classrooms at Sunshine Cottage." She enjoys the small classes and believes having an assistant in every room is quite beneficial.



**Audrey Morrison** is Sunshine Cottage's Audiology Intern. She is originally from Cincinnati, Ohio and has most recently lived in Columbus, Ohio.



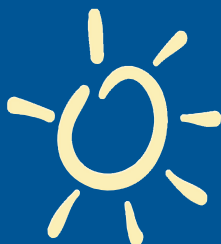
Audrey is currently a graduate student at The Ohio State University and received a bachelors degree in Communication Disorders from the University of Kentucky. She has previously worked at a daycare center for elementary school students.

Audrey made the trip to Texas to work as an audiology intern after her advisor at Ohio State told her about our wonderful program.

**Megan Thompson**, a San Antonio native, is a new assistant for the second grade mainstream classroom. She has spent the last year teaching four and five year olds. Megan says that the Sunshine Cottage friendly environment provides great learning experiences for the children and everyday she is able to apply the tools she learned in college.



**McKenna Sims** is a native Texan who received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Oklahoma and Master of Science degree from Baylor University. She is fulfilling her dream of working with hearing impaired children as this year's Speech Language Pathologist Clinical Fellow.



# Teacher Leads by Example

When Danielle Paquin's family first suspected their daughter was deaf, she was almost three years old. Diagnosed with moderate to severe hearing loss, Danielle received hearing aids soon after diagnosis. She attended a school in Connecticut that was much like Sunshine Cottage. The Capital Region Education Council, now known as Soundbridge, was where Danielle learned to listen and speak. She quickly adapted and was mainstreamed into her home school at the age of five. Danielle used a personal FM System that allowed her to excel academically.

When she was 12 years old Danielle suffered a head injury in a wind-surfing accident, causing complete hearing loss in her left ear. During that time, Danielle relied completely on the hearing aid in her right ear for listening and depended greatly on lip-reading for communication.

When she was 20, she decided to boost her listening ability and receive her first Cochlear Implant (CI) in what she then called her "bad" ear, her left, an ear that had no hearing since the age of 12. Her surgery lasted approximately four and a half hours. Yale University's Dr. John Kveton, who performed the surgery, allowed her incision to heal for almost four weeks before "turning on/activating" the device.

The right ear with her hearing aid had always been her dominant ear up until her first CI, when her left ear quickly took over, relying on the auditory information from her Cochlear Implant. Just a few months ago, at age 27, Danielle decided to have the surgery for a bilateral Cochlear Implant. The second surgery, performed by Dr. Charles Syms III, lasted only two and a half hours and was activated only three days later.

Recent audiological advancements have given so many individuals, including Danielle, an opportunity to take advantage of the incredible wealth of sounds surrounding us. "I feel blessed to be able to go from sitting outside in complete silence, to putting on my cochlear implants and being able to enjoy the



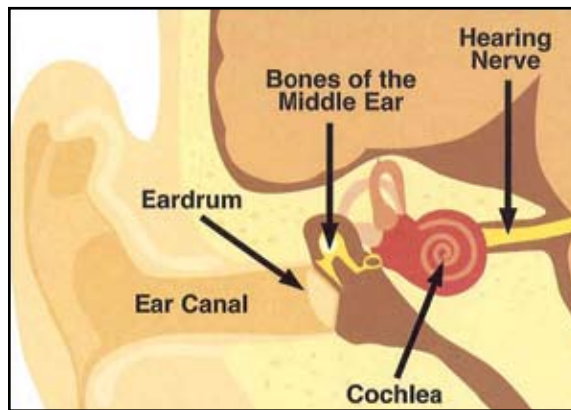
chirping birds and rustling leaves. Every day I'm in awe knowing that by way of Cochlear Implants, I have an opportunity to listen. Listening to the voices of children's laughter, hearing rain hit the windows. These are things I heard well with one CI and a hearing aid, yet having bilateral Cochlear Implants has positively impacted the clarity of these sounds and has enhanced the music the world has to offer."

"Because of my experience with deafness and the decision to have the

Cochlear Implants I am better able to relate and teach students at Sunshine Cottage. I find that both young and older students react positively to seeing an adult or their teacher wearing the same 'stuff' they wear everyday.

We are very lucky and proud to have Danielle on our teaching team.

Actively involved in the National Cued Speech Association and the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing since she was 19 years old; Danielle received her undergraduate degree in Education and Psychology from Roger Williams University and her graduate degree in Deaf Education from Smith College.



## Student Success

Young Sunshine Cottage Pre-kinder, Dani recently received her bilateral Cochlear Implant. You can see from the photos how exciting it is for Dani to hear with both ears!

Much like her teacher Danielle Paquin, her listening is making the rapid advancements and she is excelling.

First, Dani's hearing is tested by having her listen to a series of beeps. Some beeps are very soft and some are very loud. This allows for an audiologist to adjust the processor to the correct reception for Dani.

Dani's second Cochlear Implant allows her to hear sounds from all around her. She is more aware of the direction sounds are coming from and subtleties in both speech and environmental sounds.



## Dear Friends of Sunshine Cottage:

We made these Holiday Cards especially for you! Since its founding in 1947, Sunshine Cottage School for Deaf Children has demonstrated repeatedly that hearing impaired children can lead successful lives in mainstream society. Innovative teaching, early amplification and speech therapy enables us, as hearing impaired children, to live, study and work in the world of sound.

All proceeds directly benefit our children by providing hearing aids, equipment and scholarships, as well as education for our parents.

The ability to talk and express our own ideas to hearing people has opened our future to endless possibilities.

From our hands and hearts, we thank you for your support. We would like to thank our Corporate Community Sponsors who participated in the process of selecting this year's cards.

Valero Energy Corp  
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To order, call (210) 824-0579, ext. 3070  
or order online at  
[www.sunshinecottagechristmascards.com](http://www.sunshinecottagechristmascards.com)

*A portion of the cost of printing has been generously underwritten by Valero Energy Foundation.*



Christmas Morning



The First Christmas



Cowboy Holiday

## October is National Disability Awareness Month

Join Sunshine Cottage along with our Presenting Sponsor Texas Public Radio and 120 other partner organizations and businesses at the Institute of Texan Cultures for AccessAbility Fest to bring resources and recreation to people with disabilities and their families.

The festival is **FREE** and **OPEN** to the public to attend. Children and adults with disabilities and their families are **WELCOME!**

Bring a **PICNIC LUNCH** to enjoy on the grounds of the Institute of Texan Cultures. No glass containers or alcohol, please. **COMPLIMENTARY** water and ice cream or other light snacks will be provided.

Enjoy **ENTERTAINMENT** by performing arts groups featuring people with disabilities and a kid-friendly **FUN ZONE** while gathering resources & information on non-profit organizations and other businesses that provide programs and services for children & adults with physical, mental, sensory & developmental disabilities.

*\*A rain date has been scheduled for November 4, 2007 from noon to 5 p.m. at the Institute of Texan Cultures.*

### What:

A festival bringing fun and resources to persons with disabilities

### Where:

Institute of Texan Cultures,  
"Back 40" Grounds Area  
801 S. Bowie St., San Antonio, Texas 78205

### When:

Sunday, October 21, 2007\*; noon to 5 p.m.

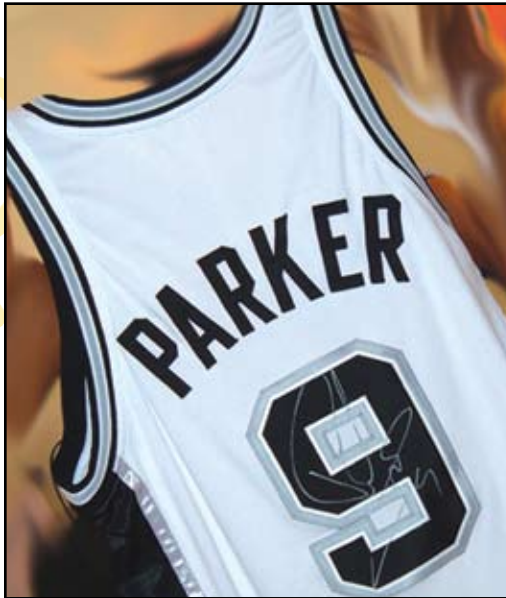
### Why:

To share information, resources, ideas and support between people with all types of disabilities; to highlight organizations and businesses that provide these services; to advance public attitudes, awareness, respect and consideration for the success of persons with disabilities.

# Alumni Scholarship Fund Holiday Raffle

How would you like to own a Tony Parker, autographed and framed 2007 NBA Championship SPURS jersey? Are you looking to purchase a leather jacket at Caliente Harley Davidson with a \$300 gift certificate? Does your little girl keep asking for a hand painted doll house complete with furniture and family? Do you need that special Holiday Santa to decorate the mantle? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you need to participate in our Alumni Scholarship Fund Holiday Raffle!

For the past six years, alumni award the Alumni Role Model Scholarship to deserving students who are participating in our off-campus Mainstream Program. Sunshine Cottage remains committed to a low student to teacher ratio, outstanding educators and the use of cutting-edge technology. This commitment does come with a cost – tuition is \$6,003 per student.



The Alumni are once again determined to provide two scholarships! As part of their fundraising effort they are offering a great opportunity. This year, to increase excitement and participation, they have four great prizes that will be awarded at the Sunshine Cottage Holiday Play on Thursday, December 13 at 7 p.m. at Laurie Auditorium. The cost per ticket is \$5 or three for \$10.

To purchase raffle tickets you can come by the school, call the Development Office at 366-0949, ext. 202, or contact one of our many Alumni who are selling tickets.



Sample 'Santa Bear'



## Proven Rewards

The Alumni Scholarships, established in 2001, are awarded to deserving students who are participating in the Sunshine Cottage off-campus Mainstream Program.

Justin, shown at left, and Armando were the 2006 Alumni Scholarship Recipients.

The scholarship impacts student's lives and helps motivate them to do their very best in school.

# Learning to Sleuth at Schreiner University

by Elizabeth Chavis  
Sunshine Cottage Mainstream Student at Nimitz Middle School



to find out where it came from. Another way we leaned about forensic science is we looked at blood drops. By examining the diameter of the splatters, we could determine how high the drops had fallen and how tall the person might have been who the drops had come from. We used impressions in clay to find out if a shooting

This past summer I attended the National Young Scholars Program at Schreiner University in Kerrville. This program is for high achievers who display leadership skills. I was nominated by my teacher at Nimitz, Mrs. Derlick.

Once I received my acceptance in the mail, I realized the cost to attend the program was more than I could pay for. I decided to send a letter to Sunshine Cottage asking them to help pay for the program. I was happy when I received an e-mail from Sunshine saying they had identified an anonymous donor who would underwrite my tuition.

During the week that I attended the program, I learned about forensic science. Some procedures required that we gather information by using microscopes, for example to look at pollen found at a crime scene. We matched the pollen found at the crime scene with pollen from around the area



had taken place at the crime scene. We found that a cloak was missing; we studied wood markings on the cloak case to determine if a tool had been used to open the case. We used chromatography and hand writing analysis to find out if a note was written by two different people. We researched the case and we did a background check on the staff members and visitors.

Out of this experience I made friends, have more confidence in myself, a better character and better leadership skills. This was an educational and exciting experience.

This is also something I would love to do again, and I hope I get invited back. I would definitely recommend this program to others who like to learn because it is a fun way to learn about yourself and to meet new friends.

I thank Sunshine Cottage for providing the opportunity for me to attend this program.

# *Saying Thanks' to a Great Friend...*

Before Sunshine Cottage closed its doors for summer break, we celebrated in style the 29-year career and retirement of Veronica Hansmann, one of the first teacher assistants hired at the Cottage. Over the years her teaching and leadership skills have been invaluable as she encouraged and trained, with humor and expertise, many new teachers in methods of classroom management and behavior modification. Veronica loves children and guided them at school in a firm, gentle manner. They in turn adored her. A few weeks with Veronica and the quietest child would be talking, the most active calmed down.



Her retirement celebration at La Hacienda under sprawling oak trees was declared by Veronica as the "best party Sunshine Cottage ever had." We miss seeing her in so many ways; her artistic creativity, caring thoughtfulness, and dependability were evident every holiday, every performance, every event, every day. However, we are pleased for her newly found leisure time. As for Sunshine Cottage, Veronica would tell us, "Just get over it!"

*Carolyn Walthall*



## Texas Chapter

Alexander Graham Bell

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL  
ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING



2006 Conference attendees with Keynote Speaker, Justin Osmond.

Save the date for our Texas Chapter AG Bell 2007 Biennial Conference in Dallas this year! The conference will be held at the Baylor University Medical Center, October 26 and 27. The theme, *Advocacy: Planning*

*for the Future* supports the Texas AG Bell mission of advocating independence through listening and talking.

A variety of valuable topics for parents, educators and individuals with hearing loss will be presented.. Nationally recognized authority on the subject of pediatric audiology and children with hearing loss, Carol Flexer, will provide workshops, including auditory brain development and issues considered for successful inclusion.

Additional presentations include informative subjects such as deaf children with multiple disabilities, parenting a child with hearing loss, Cochlear Implant systems, cued speech, listening ideas to use at home, psychological and communication issues with hearing loss, a legal approach to health insurance coverage, creating a culture of listening in public schools, Speech that Works, Resources in Texas for individuals with hearing loss, challenges for the hard of hearing and much more.

Due to the generosity of Dr. Fred Owens, there will be a free buffet lunch on Friday and lunch boxes offered on Saturday to enjoy during the membership meeting.

You do not have to be a member of AG Bell to attend!

Visit [www.agbell.org/tx/](http://www.agbell.org/tx/) or call Leslie Walter, Outreach Coordinator at (210) 366-2302, ext. 205 for more information.

*See you there!*

## IN MEMORIAM



Emily Dowdell Thomas' first contact with Sunshine Cottage came in 1951. Dela White tells of meeting Emily during a parent meeting at McKinley Elementary School. Dela was delighted to meet a trained teacher of the deaf—a rare commodity in those days.

Emily joined Sunshine Cottage as a teacher in 1951, where she taught until retiring in 1967. Emily worked with kindergarten and primary-level students throughout her time at Sunshine. The Cottage was the only school available for children with hearing loss in our area. Many students came from towns all over south Texas.

Emily was a passionate teacher and believed strongly that teaching was a skill learned by doing more of it than by being in a classroom. She always had student teachers in her classroom at Sunshine Cottage. Probably her greatest contribution to the field was modelling teaching skills to deaf education students who passed through her classroom.

Her love of teaching was passed on to her daughters who all became teachers themselves. Her youngest daughter, Lyn Kirkwood, became a teacher of the deaf. She trained at Sunshine Cottage and has worked in the field of deaf education for 32 years.

Throughout her retirement years Emily delighted in receiving the Sunshine Cottage LISTEN publication. She would always read it cover to cover looking for news of former students and old friends.

### Sunshine Cottage Presentations at AG Bell Conference include:

**Bilateral Cochlear Implants – to be Bilateral, or not to be Bilateral? That is the question!**

Presenters: Danielle Paquin and Dr. Charles Syms, M.D.

**Cued Speech and Auditory Oral – Can they work together?**

Presenters: Danielle Paquin and Tony A. Wright

**Speech that REALLY Works!**

Presenters: Monica Dorman, Jessie Ritter and Brandilyn Harper



# Gifts, Grants, Honors & Memorials

received between June 1 through August 31, 2007

## Sunburst

(\$80,000 - \$199,999)

Sunshine Cottage Scholarship Fund

## Sunlight

(\$20,000 - \$49,999)

Anonymous

Elizabeth Huth Coates Charitable  
Foundation of 1992

The Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation  
Roberta Wright Reeves Trust  
The Slick Family Foundation  
The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation

## Sunbeam

(\$10,000 - \$19,999)

Kronkosky Charitable Foundation

## Sun Ray

(\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Mr. Jack R. Chittim

Nathalie & Gladys Dalkowitz  
Charitable Trust

G.A.C. Half Foundation

The Marcia & Otto Koehler Foundation

The Zachry Foundation

## Sun Dial

(\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Mr. & Mrs. J. Robert Brown

Lions Club of Alamo Heights

Optimist Club of San Antonio

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Russell

Mrs. Albert Steg

Sunshine Cottage School for Deaf

Children Parent Teacher Group

Mrs. Tippa Bryant Test

## Sun Dance

(\$500 - \$999)

Dr. & Mrs. Morgan G. Dunne

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Westheimer Agency, Inc.

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## Sunny Day

(\$250 - \$499)

AT&T Federal Political Action Committee

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Jerry Boles, Grona Boles

& Martin Insurance

Scott Martin

Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Lawrence Swan

## Sunflower

(\$100 - \$249)

Anonymous

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## Sunny Friends

(Up to \$99)

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Anonymous

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Mr. & Mrs. Wayne R. Balzen

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Patsy & Richard Warncke

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Mrs. Betty D. Zinn

## In Honor of:

**Lita Anderlitch**

*In Honor of her Birthday*

Mrs. Pat Dalton

**Tabitha Chapman**

*In Honor of her first Birthday*

Anonymous

**Phoebe Lundholm**

*In Honor of her 70th Birthday*

Mrs. Pat Dalton

**Samantha Lynton**

*In Honor of her High School Graduation*

Ms. Sarah C. McLinden

**Marietta McCain**

Mr. & Mrs. William Page, Sr.

**Glenn G. Mortimer**

Carolyn & Walter Walthall

**Mari Pagenstecher**

*In Honor of her Birthday*

Ms. Johanna Rabinowitz

**Jacalyn "Jacque" B. Patton**

Ms. Ellen Blackmer

**Zachary R. Perkins**

Mrs. Michele Greenman

**Kathy A. Robertson**

*In Honor of her Birthday*

Ms. Mari Pagenstecher

**Sunshine Cottage School for Deaf  
Children**

*In Honor of the 60th Anniversary*

Mr. & Mrs. J. Robert Brown

Mrs. C. Ramsey Clinton

Margaret & Terrell Couch

Mrs. Albert Steg

**Margaret "Peggy" W. Walker**

Carolyn & Walter Walthall

**Kurt Warnken**

*In Honor of his Birthday*

Betty Lancaster & Jack Fields

**Dela White**

*(Mrs. John H. White, Sr.)*

Mrs. Bond Davis

Bunny & Wilbur Matthews, Jr.

**Dela White**

*In Honor of Sunshine Cottage's*

*60th Anniversary*

Carolyn & Walter Walthall

**Tuleta C. White**

*In Honor of Sunshine Cottage's*

*60th Anniversary*

Carolyn & Walter Walthall

**Daniela Wiener-Epstein**

*In Honor of her Graduation from Harvard*

Ms. Barbara J. Baer

## In Memory of:

**Mr. & Mrs. Irwin Barth**

Ms. Ethel S. McConnell

**Dr. James E. Bauerle**

Mrs. James D. Sweeney

**Mary Billing**

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne R. Balzen

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# Thank You for Caring!

*In Memory Of... cont'd.*

**Mary W. Eckhardt**  
Mrs. Tippa Bryant Test

**Oscar Ehrenberg**  
W. R. Rainey Family

**Lisa Epstein**  
*In Memory of her June Birthday*  
Ms. Barbara J. Baer

**Pertie Gerles**  
Morales Feed Lots, Inc. - Ernie Morales

**Robert G. Gunn, Jr.**  
Mrs. Thurman Barrett  
Mr. & Mrs. John Thomas Lee  
Mrs. James D. Sweeney

**John Haglund**  
Mr. & Mrs. Keeseey H. Nixon & Family

**A. Roane Harwood**  
Mrs. Scottie Ferguson &  
Kathy Ferguson  
Mrs. James D. Sweeney

**Douglas Hill**  
Irma Randow

**Kathleen L. Hollimon**  
*(Mrs. Peter Hollimon)*  
Luella & Jack Hardie

**Mrs. Jere Clayton Hubbard**  
Luella & Jack Hardie

**Donald Johnson**  
Ms. Kessie Nixon & Family

**Mary Younes Joseph**  
Mr. & Mrs. George Cassebe  
Patsy & Richard Warncke

**Rosie Julian**  
Keeseey & Lucy Nixon & Family

**Margaret Read Haymore King**  
*(Mrs. Creston King)*  
Mr. & Mrs. Marshall T. Clegg  
Mrs. James D. Sweeney

**Zora Lane**  
Lolita & Bruce Reppert

**Edith W. Liebmann**  
Mrs. James D. Sweeney

**Ruben H. Lopez, Sr.**  
Mr. Gary O'Neal

**Leona McFarland**  
Keeseey & Lucy Nixon & Family

**Lillian Maverick Padgitt**  
Mrs. James D. Sweeney

**Annie S. Padalecki**  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Toman

**Patricia H. Parker**  
Mrs. James D. Sweeney  
Mrs. Tippa Bryant Test

**Bobby Pell**  
Mr. & Mrs. Owen H. Zimmermann  
**William R. Rainey**  
Mr. & Mrs. George E. Fischer

**Alfred Ramos**  
Keeseey & Lucy Nixon & Family

**Reggie Roe**  
Mrs. Scottie Ferguson &  
Kathy Ferguson

**Betty Ann Rogers**  
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Thomas

**Audrey Jones Sasser**  
Mrs. James D. Sweeney  
Mrs. Tippa Bryant Test

**Frates Seeligson**  
Mr. & Mrs. George E. Fischer

**William Shomaker**  
Mr. & Mrs. Allen G. Korn

**Earl F. Slick**  
Mrs. Joe F. Grant

**Ella Verne Smith**  
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Thomas

**L. Richard Smith, Jr.**  
Mrs. James D. Sweeney

**Mary "Mel" Eleanor Stuck**  
*(Mrs. Walter Stuck)*  
Mrs. Eleanor S. Jordan

**Dr. Aloysius Peter Thaddeus**  
Mrs. James D. Sweeney  
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Thomas

**Alice B. Walker**  
Ms. Ellen Blackmer

**Jack "Jason" Northington Watts III**  
The Thad Ziegler Glass Family

## Gifts in Kind:

Advantage Sales & Marketing  
Sonia & John Armstrong  
BP Lighting, Sound & Video  
Blue Bell Creameries, L. P.  
Costco Wholesale  
Mrs. Dawn Das  
Ms. Tanya David  
Ms. Mary Johnson  
Marietta McCain  
Ms. Ramona Neidlinger  
Mrs. Vivian Garner Pine  
Southwest Coca-Cola Bottling Company

*Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of names referred to in this publication. If you note any errors, please contact Esmeralda Castillo at [ecastillo@sunshinecottage.org](mailto:ecastillo@sunshinecottage.org) to inform of corrections.*

## Our Past, Our Present, Our Future...

In August of 1997 the Parent Infant Program began the school year proudly with 13 families. Sunshine Cottage had just hired a second Parent Advisor and we were proud of our numbers. Leaping forward ten years, that same roster, for August 2007, shows 43 families!

### Parent-Infant Changes in the last 10 years

- We have tripled our enrollment!
- The Hearing Aid Loaner Program was expanded.
- The Comfort Level Checklist was developed by staff and published.
- A Hearing Aid Scholarship Program was created.
- The Nurturing Program was adopted and implemented.
- The age to receive a cochlear implant has lowered to 12 months.
- *And more to come...*

When Newborn Hearing Screening legislation passed in 1999 it put into motion an opportunity to identify hearing loss in infants at birth. Today our program has five Parent Advisors providing weekly individual therapy to parents of children with hearing loss, birth to three years old.

Although we are living in the moment we are challenged to plan toward the future. Our mission has not wavered – children with hearing loss are learning to listen and talk. Legislation and technology had raised the bar for professionals in the field. The staff at Sunshine Cottage has on their racing shoes! We are developing state of the art curriculum, expanding programs and services, and working with families in a variety of ways. We invite you to join the adventure. It's quite a ride.



## A Learning Adventure at Natural Bridge Caverns

Sunshine Cottage fifth graders were introduced to an underground world of natural beauty and amazement. Students walked a half-mile in the largest and most spectacular show cavern in Texas while listening to a knowledgeable tour guide. They learned of awe-inspiring, ancient formations that have taken centuries to form, such as stalagmites, stalactites, flowstones, chandeliers and soda straws.



Students had a chance to 'hunt' for gems in a sluice. A sluice is a series of troughs leading from a water-filled wooden tower. As the water runs through the troughs, bags of mining "rough" are emptied and sifted through screen trays – the water washes away the dirt, revealing sparkling gems and minerals or even fossils and arrowheads. Students were able to keep whatever they found and compared their gems and minerals to gem identification charts to accurately identify exactly what they found.



**We're Building Brighter Futures**



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