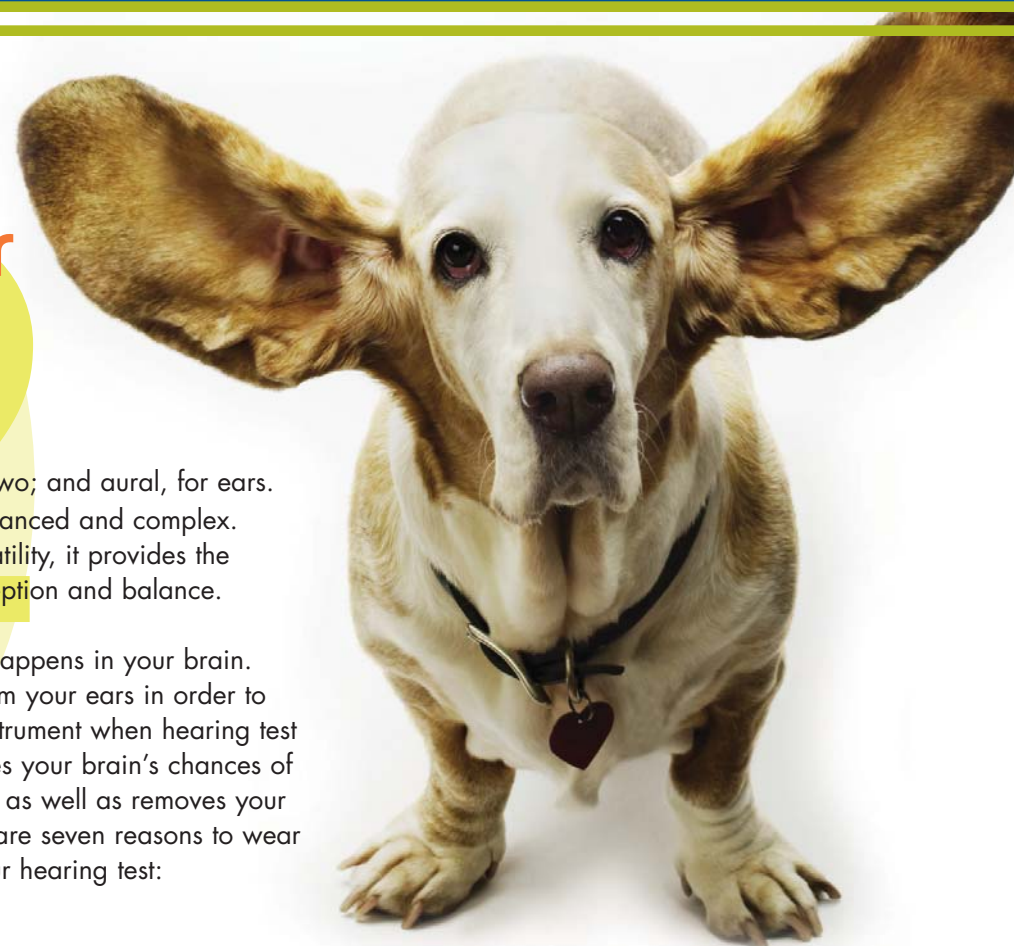


# Seven Reasons You Hear Better with Two Ears



**It is called binaural listening:** bi, for two; and aural, for ears. The human hearing mechanism is very advanced and complex. With all of its amazing accuracy and versatility, it provides the listener with space perception, depth perception and balance.

Hearing does not happen in your ears, it happens in your brain. Your brain requires reliable information from your ears in order to decipher sound. Using just one hearing instrument when hearing test results indicate that two are needed reduces your brain's chances of hearing and understanding by 50 percent, as well as removes your ability to perceive depth and space. Here are seven reasons to wear two hearing instruments if indicated by your hearing test:

- 1. Less power needed when two hearing instruments are worn.** When your ears work together, lower volume settings are required for comfortable hearing. You will experience greater efficiency and clarity with two hearing instruments as compared to monaural listening. The benefits are that loud sounds are more comfortable and listening is less stressful.
- 2. Stereo listening gives depth perception.** Anyone who has enjoyed music in stereo, compared to mono, knows the difference. Mono makes all sounds seem shallow, flat and unnatural. Your brain has the ability to hear in stereo but to do so requires that sounds be delivered by both ears. Not only are sounds more natural, they can also be understood more clearly.
- 3. Detecting sound direction saves embarrassment.** A listener with only one hearing aids is always wondering "where is that sound coming from?" when someone speaks. Hearing with two ears gives you the ability to know sound direction. Binaural listening gives the listener a sense of location and the ability to locate sounds from all directions.
- 4. Good manners takes two ears.** Individuals with one hearing aid may be considered rude because they tend to ignore the speaker on their unaided side. In business and social situations binaural hearing instruments can be your best ally for being the best listener possible.

- 5. Give your brain what it needs for auditory intelligence.** The two halves of your brain work in harmony to give you an auditory image. Just as your brain converts the two images your two eyes see into a single picture, the same special perception happens with your two ears. It is the different signal each ear sends to your brain that makes this perception possible. The ears' sound signals travel up the brain stem via complicated pathways. Some cross over and eventually stimulate the opposite side of the brain. Others stimulate the same side. These complex patterns of stimulation make up auditory intelligence. If the two halves aren't sharing their signals, auditory intelligence is reduced. Binaural hearing instruments help the ears get the messages to both sides of the brain, thus increasing your auditory intelligence.
- 6. Two ears hear better in noise.** Whenever several people are talking at the same time, such as in a restaurant, it becomes more difficult to understand the one person at the table with you. The listener with one hearing aid hears all of the voices blending together. Voice discrimination in noise is difficult with two ears and becomes impossible with only one. Binaural hearing instruments give the best advantage to hearing in noise.
- 7. Quality of sound is better quality of life.** The majority of hearing instrument users who have worn both binaural and monaural hearing instruments report a significant difference in sound quality. The majority of people who now use binaural hearing instruments will tell you that listening with two aided ears is the best way to fully enjoy the world we live in today. The advantages of superior sound over the burden of persistently poor sound should not be underestimated. Seize the opportunity to enhance your listening quality, should your test results indicate two hearing instruments are needed.

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**Contributors to The Sounds of Laughter**  
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**MAYOR DECLARES**  
**National Stuttering**  
**Week for Jacksonville**  
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# 2007 Helping voices be heard for more than 56 years VOICES



## inside...



**2** New president writes inaugural message



**3** Lee family benefits from new hearing aid.

## A Night at the Ritz Inaugural Fundraising Event, "Sounds of Laughter" A fun time for all

On May 18th, 2007, the Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center (JSHC) had a fundraising event, the first in recent memory. Over the last two years, the Center has been working to renew its standing as the best place to receive evaluations and treatment for hearing, speech and language disorders on the First Coast. With a 58-year history of excellent service to our communities, the Center's staff and board recognize that little is known about what we do, who we are and where we are located. The "Sounds of Laughter" Silent Movie Reception and Awards Ceremony succeeded in going a long way toward rectifying that situation, while at the same time providing an enjoyable evening for 150 guests. The event, which will be our annual fundraiser, was held at the lovely Ritz Theatre and LaVilla Museum and included



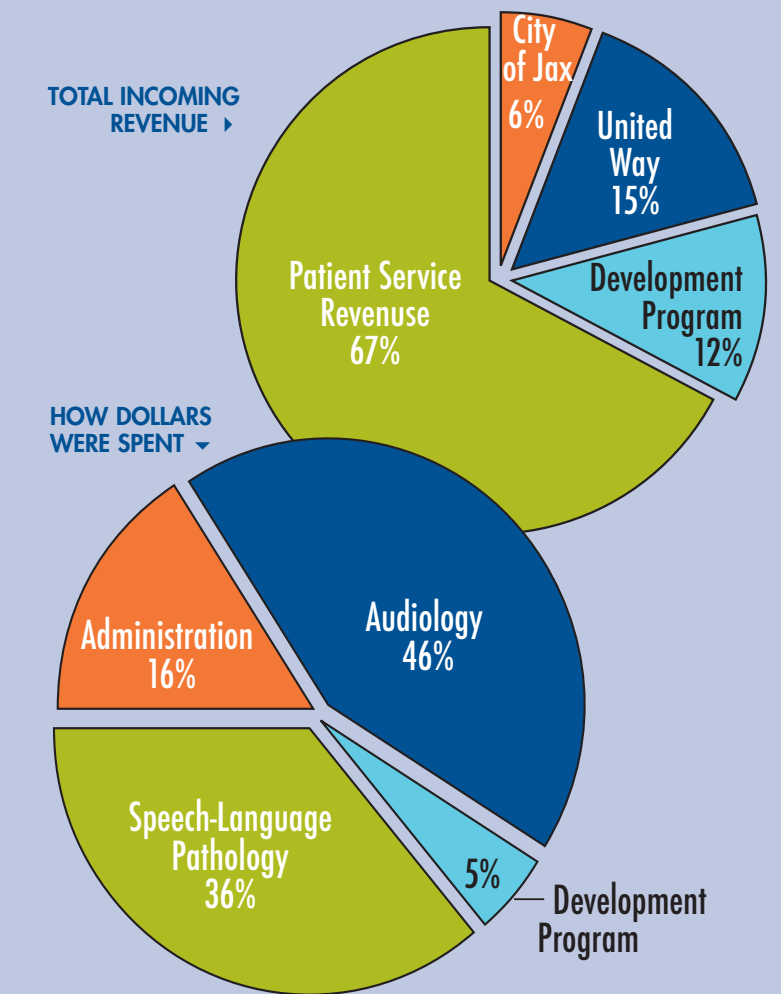
Former Mayor Ed Austin and guest Sarah Ryder.



JSHC Staff on the evening of the event.

hors d'ouvres from Biscotti's, a complementary wine and martini bar, continuous music provided by the Stevens Quartet, and several video screens provided by Sights and Sounds, Inc., with continuously playing silent movies. Many of the JSHC staff were in attire of the silent movie era to add to the festivities. The silent auction was a huge hit and our drawing, a weeklong stay at a beach front cottage in

Maine, was also a big success. We were fortunate to have Charlene Shirk join as the Mistress of Ceremonies and she presented awards to four of our best friends, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, the City of Jacksonville Public Service Grant Program, The United Way, and Graphics Afoot Design Studio.



## Program Highlights

<b>AUDIOLOGY PATIENTS</b> .....	2350
Children .....	592
Seniors .....	780
<b>SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY PATIENTS</b> .....	450
Children .....	446
<b>LOW-INCOME PATIENTS</b> .....	63%
<b>HEALTH FAIRS ATTENDED</b> .....	14
<b>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS SCREENED FOR SPEECH/HEARING</b> .....	451

## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT Mike Bagdonas Gets A Gold Star!

The Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center Suffers Roof Leak, Board Member Mike Bagdonas Comes to Rescue

This past spring, the Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center had rain damage to its downtown building. After a heavy rain the roof leaked causing damage to the walls, flooring and ceiling. Mike Bagdonas, a member of the board of directors and owner of Arcon (Architects & Design), came to the rescue. He subcontracted work to bring the building back to workable standards. Mr. Bagdonas also had all of the materials donated by the subcontractors, such as the drywall, roofing materials, carpet, and paint, as well as the time that it took to complete the job.

Mr. Bagdonas has not stopped there. He has already drawn the plans to remodel the Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center's bathrooms, along with giving the lobby a facelift and painting the exterior of the building. The Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center would like to Thank Mr. Bagdonas for all of the work that he does as a board member and for his continued commitment to helping us help others.



Lee family benefits from new hearing aid.

## Increasing the Quality of Life of an Alzheimer's Patient and Her Family

Nettie Gray Lee is an 89 year old Alzheimer's patient who was diagnosed four years ago. She is currently living in St. Catherine's Assisted Living Facility, where she has been for almost two years. Before then, she lived with her family for approximately nine months. After a while, it became too much on everyone and the family decided that she needed to be in a facility where she could receive professional care.

understanding what Beverly was trying to do, unable to communicate what she needed.

Mrs. Lee's visit to the Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center was prompted by a visit to her Ear, Nose, & Throat specialist. At this visit Mrs. Lee's daughter was told that the loss of hearing was all a part of the disease and to basically "deal with it, nothing more could be done." Needless to say, that answer was not good enough for Beverly, so she decided to look into other options. Beverly took her mother to a larger name brand hearing aid supplier where they were told that hearing aids would cost approximately \$10,000.

performed hearing evaluations and Mrs. Lee was fitted for hearing aids. According to Mrs. Lee and her daughter Beverly, her quality of life has improved significantly. Mrs. Lee is now able to communicate with her family more effectively. Whereas before, many times she would just go along with whatever was being said because she could not understand, she can now contribute to conversations and make decisions about her own care. "Things will never be the same as they were with my mother, because of the Alzheimer's, but at least now we can talk about and smile on our memories together. Before she got the hearing aids it was not possible."

"It was a blessing that a friend referred us to the Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center. For the first time everything was explained and Mom wasn't scared. We had a good visit." Fenja Mattson, AuD.,

## Message from Beverly Jackson, Board President



The Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center continues its' dynamic expansion of services to advance our vital mission of providing compassionate hearing and speech services to everyone in the community.

The Board of Directors and the Staff of the Center have worked together to achieve success upon success over the last twelve months. Bob Nozza, Executive Director, has increased our financial resources by creating referral alliances in addition to securing additional grants from the DuPont Foundation, Uptown Civitan Club and CSX Transportation, Inc. for the purchase of clinical equipment and other enhancements to patient services. Dr. Fenja Mattson earned her certification in Tinnitus Therapy making her the only audiologist providing these much needed clinical services in N.E. Florida.

On May 18, 2007, we hosted our first ever gala—"The Sounds of Laughter"; a silent movie reception and awards ceremony to benefit the Center. It was hugely successful thanks to the combined efforts of the Staff, Board, Volunteers and benefactors from the Jacksonville community. The Ritz Theater and la Villa Museum was standing room only and over \$35,000 was raised.

Over this next year the Speech and Hearing Center will be faced with challenges as well as opportunities. We must insure that the Center has sufficient funding to support its mission and the staff and resources to answer the increasing demand for our services. The Board of Directors invites you to stand with us in support of the Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center.

Beverly Jackson  
Board President

## Message from Robert Nozza, CEO



As you read on in this Newsletter and Annual Report, you will see that we provide the highest quality of care, with the most highly educated and credentialed

professional staff, to those who need us the most. The collective term for the disorders we identify, diagnose and treat, "Communication Disorders", affect every aspect of an individual's life. Speech and language delay in a young child, if left untreated, results in delays in literacy, cognition, school achievement, self esteem and others. Likewise, hearing loss can affect not only speech and language, but awareness of the world we live in by limiting access to incidental information most of us take for granted. Adults with communication disorders face obstacles in employment as well as in family and social interactions. Because so many of our clients are underinsured, uninsured and/or on government assistance, we are one of only very few resources for services. While many of our longstanding and loyal clients have private insurance or means to pay for services, most do not. Our mission is to serve everyone who comes to us, so we need help from our funders and donors to continue providing the kind of care we do. Thank you to all those who have helped us in the past. Hope to see you at the next "Sounds of Laughter!"

Robert J. Nozza, PhD  
Clinical Director and CEO



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Fenja Mattson, Au.D., CCC-A  
Liz Pearson, M.S., CCC-A

### Speech & Language Pathologists

Sharon Kesler, B.S., CCC-SLP  
Lynda Papale, M.S., CCC-SLP  
Betsy Summerlin, M.S., CCC-SLP  
Rachel Whorton, M.S. CCC-SLP

The Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

## MAYOR DECLARES

## National Stuttering Week for Jacksonville

According to the Stuttering Foundation of America, stuttering affects approximately three million people or 1% of the nation's population. It affects four times as many males as females and typically surfaces in childhood. Stuttering is most commonly thought of as the repetition of sounds and words, but also includes the prolongation of sounds and/or the blockage of airflow during speech. A person who stutters may exhibit one or more of these characteristics when speaking. While the external factors of stuttering can be seen and heard by others, the internal factors often have an even greater impact on the person who stutters. Avoiding words and situations, dealing with anxiety related to speaking, and coping with the social stigma related to stuttering can make communication challenging on a daily basis. Speech-Language pathologists can help people who stutter speak more easily, increase their confidence when speaking and communicate more effectively.

The Jacksonville Chapter of the National Stuttering Association's Adult Stuttering Support Group was established in October 2002. This Fall marks the fifth year of connecting adults who stutter in the Northeast Florida area. Monthly meetings at the downtown location of the Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center (JSHC) offer an opportunity for those attending to express themselves in a safe and supportive environment. The group serves as social outlet, educational resource and an outreach to the community. During this year's National Stuttering Awareness Week, members of the group met with Mayor John Peyton to discuss stuttering and it's impact on the lives of people who live in the Jacksonville area. Mayor Peyton recognized the contributions of JSHC and the Jacksonville Chapter of the NSA and declared the second week in May as Stuttering Awareness Week in our city.



Left to Right: Bob Nozza, Clinical Director and CEO of JSHC; Robert Demers; Mayor John Peyton; Amy Wylie; Robert Wellington

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center is committed to providing the highest quality professional and compassionate care to all individuals with hearing, speech and/or language disorders in our community.

### Editors

Karen Estella Smith  
Bob Nozza

### Writers

Staff

