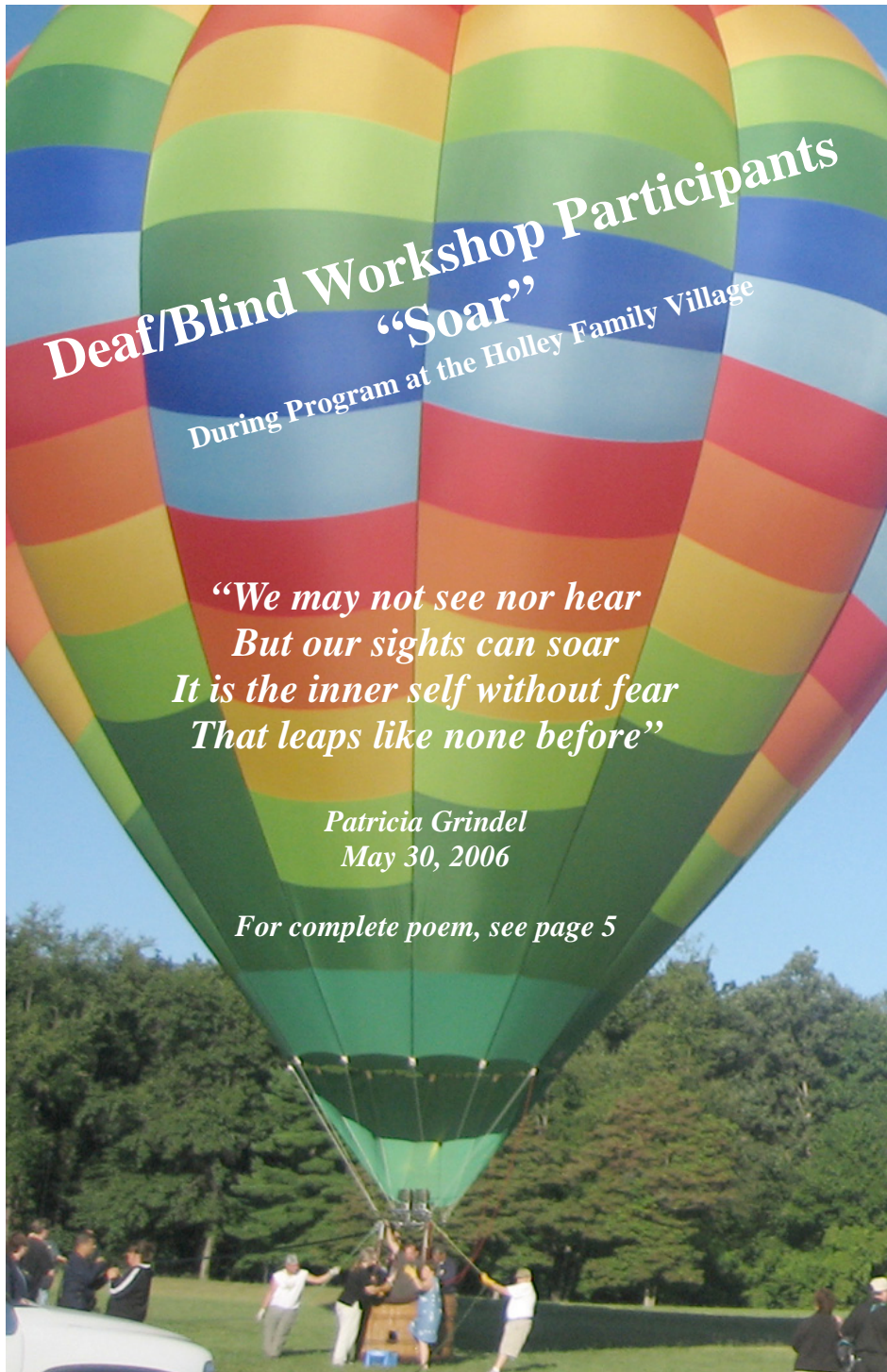




See Hear!

Publication of the Holley Ear Institute

Fall 2006



**Deaf/Blind Workshop Participants
"Soar"**
During Program at the Holley Family Village

*"We may not see nor hear
But our sights can soar
It is the inner self without fear
That leaps like none before"*

Patricia Grindel
May 30, 2006

For complete poem, see page 5

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President's Message

Dear Friends,

Summer is quickly coming to a close and fall is upon us. The end of summer always seems like the end of the year to me. Are the summer programs really over? I find myself starting to pack to go back to the Village on Sunday afternoons. That is the pattern; leave Sunday afternoon and return home Friday evening. Repeat, repeat, and repeat, all summer. Then all stops, now what??.... Summers fly by for me and stopping is abrupt and challenging. Fall will be a good time to reflect on what wonderful people we had at the Village this summer. The Directors, Counselors, Assistants and participants were just so very unique. So many different people from so many different places; New Mexico, Washington, Texas, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Mexico, California and I could go on with more. Each bringing his/her own dimension of work with Deaf and hard of hearing.

There were weeks where I was the only hearing person and I hardly noticed it until an emergency would arise and I had a distinctive role to play. There were a number of these this summer. One such night at 11:30pm I had to call 911 for Emergency Medical Assistance. One of the children had an asthma attack and our nurse felt the child was going into shock. Within three minutes a police car pulled up in front of the Family Village and two officers jumped out and said, "Is one of our kids in trouble"? I immediately recognized them as two of the officers that we had collaborated with from Columbia Township Police Department to run our boats this past summer. A very heart-warming smile went through me as I heard the words "our kids," true ownership. They were a great help all summer and we are thankful for them.

You would be very pleased had you seen all of the activities this summer ranging from "feeding the buffalo" to learning how to read to Deaf children. Your support, whether it is in the form of prayer, volunteerism or financial assistance never goes unnoticed. It is because of you who support us that we can make summer a special time for these families, youngsters and adults. I am very proud of you and the Village that has been created with your assistance. Please know we are always grateful. Look carefully at the pictures within and know these families, these children, are there because of your support.

May He bless you and your families.

Sincerely yours,



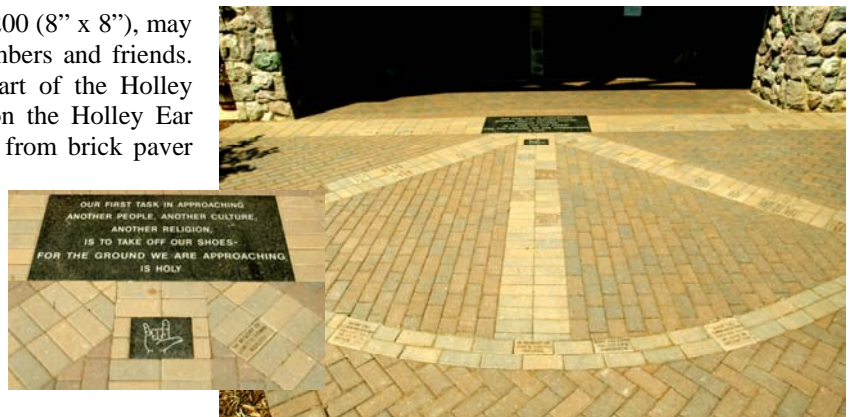
Ardis Gardella
President

BUILDING A FUTURE (brick by brick)

Personalize a brick paver today and become part of the Holley Family Village forever

Pavers, available for a donation of \$100 (4" x 8") or \$200 (8" x 8"), may be engraved to memorialize and/or honor family members and friends. Personal messages will become a lasting gift and part of the Holley Family Village history. Order forms are available on the Holley Ear Institute website at www.stjohn.org/hej. Funds raised from brick paver sales will support the Holley Family Village and its educational and recreational programs for the Deaf, Deaf/Blind and hard of hearing.

For additional information about the Commemorative Entrance project, please contact Gary Stark, Holley Ear Institute Development Officer, at (313) 343-4084 or gary.stark@stjohn.org.



Remember Mason?

On Thursday, April 27, 2006, Mason Frost, 5, who lost his hearing when he was just a few months old, was featured signing "LOVE" on the front page of the Detroit Free Press to help introduce their Summer Dreams program. Since then, Mason and his family have returned to the Holley Family Village for their third Family Literacy program.

Mason's Story

As told by his mother, Janel Frost

Mason was born on August 15, 2001 weighing just one pound and twelve ounces. He was very little, but very strong – strong enough to overcome the many challenges he would face.

Within his first four months, Mason endured six surgeries and received multiple blood transfusions. It was during his first two months of life that we noticed Mason was very sensitive to sound. Shortly there after, Mason was stricken with a severe blood infection. I believe it was this infection or the medication used to treat it that took Mason's hearing. Either way, it really didn't matter, because we had Mason.

As Mason grew stronger and healthier, hearing tests determined that Mason had a moderate to severe sensory-neural hearing loss in both ears. At the age of one, Mason was fitted with hearing aids, which allowed him to hear normal conversation fairly well, but not with complete clarity. Mason was a premature baby prone to viral infections that affected his ears. These infections prevented him from wearing his hearing aids about half of the time during the critical period of language development.

Since Mason, without his hearing aids, could only hear if we spoke really loud and were within three feet of him, our need to communicate as a family lead us to American Sign Language (ASL). Mason immediately responded to ASL. Having communication with our son was a blessing, so as a family we enriched our lives with ASL any way we could. Through Mason's school, we learned about the Holley Family Village and decided to attend their Family Week program when Mason was just two years old. What we learned as a family that week was priceless. We learned many new signs and were able to speak



Romain Blanquart, Detroit Free Press

with other parents who were facing some of the same issues we were. As for Mason, he would just sit and watch everyone sign. There was a look in his eyes that he was taking everything in.

Mason, who is now a happy and healthy five year-old, attends classes for Deaf and hard of hearing children where he continues to learn the English Language and ASL. In addition, he receives speech services and occupational therapy. As a family, we continue to attend the Family Village every summer. With each year, Mason seems to enjoy his time there more and more. The Village gives Deaf and hard of hearing children a place where they can feel it's their own ASL world. You see, for one week out of the year, their language is dominant and we (hearing) must adapt to their world. Because of these experiences, Mason never seems to be troubled by his inability to hear the world around him, he seems to understand his world quite well.

Summer Dreams Update

Thank you to all who supported the Holley Ear Institute by contributing to Children First Summer Dreams. With your generosity, Deaf and hard of hearing children like Mason Frost (featured above) were able to attend a variety of programs designed to meet their special needs, including: Deaf Youth Leadership Week, Family Literacy Weeks, and Art Workshops. Contributions, including matching funds from the Skillman Foundation, helped us realize over 98% of our wish list!!!

Communicating with the Deaf/Blind Presents Unusual Challenges

William J. Rice, MD

Communication is a wonderful thing. It brings us together, presents new ideas and helps us share stories about the people and world around us. Communication is the very essence of life. Most of us communicate with the world and people around us by using our eyes and ears. It is hard to imagine not having these senses. For Deaf/Blind, it is their reality. Deaf/Blind use communication techniques most people have never seen. To help us understand Deaf/Blind communication, let's first see what the term Deaf/Blind means.



Figure 1 - A conversation between two Deaf/Blind individuals

The Deaf/Blind

The Helen Keller National Center for Deaf/Blind Youth and Adults states: "People who are Deaf/Blind have problems of communication, mobility and other daily living skills that are unique and make independent living difficult to achieve. It can be a dark, silent world."

In this sense the Deaf/Blind are alike. However, when we look at the Deaf/Blind population as a whole, we find that each individual is unique and their personal histories are very different. As over 80 different conditions and diseases can cause a person to be Deaf/Blind, the term "Deaf/Blind" doesn't necessarily mean a total lack of hearing and vision.

Some people who are Deaf/Blind are partially "hearing and visually impaired." Some Deaf/Blind are born both Deaf and Blind and are never exposed to our hearing or seeing world. Others, perhaps most common, are born Deaf or with a significant hearing loss and fairly good vision. Gradually they lose their vision to Retinitis Pigmentosa. This type of Deaf/

Blindness is an inherited disease known as Usher Syndrome.

Those born with hearing usually are able to speak, have learned our oral language and perhaps have learned to read brail. Those born Deaf or with a profound hearing loss may have learned sign language, but are unable to speak our oral language. Some Deaf/Blind can see shadows or may have a narrow pinhole area of vision – as if looking at the world through a long narrow tube, so called tunnel vision. Some Deaf/Blind can hear partial speech sounds if using strong hearing aids, but are unable to use speech reading (lip reading) as most hard of hearing sighted persons do. So as a hearing and visual person you might be able to communicate with some of the Deaf/Blind but it would be difficult. In most cases you would need an interpreter.

Communication

It is interesting to watch Deaf/Blind having a conversation. Typically they will be sitting or standing facing each other while holding hands at about chest or shoulder level (See Figure 1). They "write" letters in each other's palms, using the Deaf/Blind manual alphabet (See Figure 2). In conjunction with the manual alphabet, they use a modified sign language, which is tactile instead of visual. They also move their arms and forearms around for certain signs. So, you will see them holding hands, laughing and using facial expressions, but there is no sound and the "speaker" and "listener" may not be looking at each other. If you wanted to enter the conversation you would need two interpreters; one for each Deaf/Blind person.

Each summer the Holley Ear Institute sponsors a Deaf/Blind Workshop at its Holley Family Village. In these workshops, communication gets much more complicated. Deaf/Blind

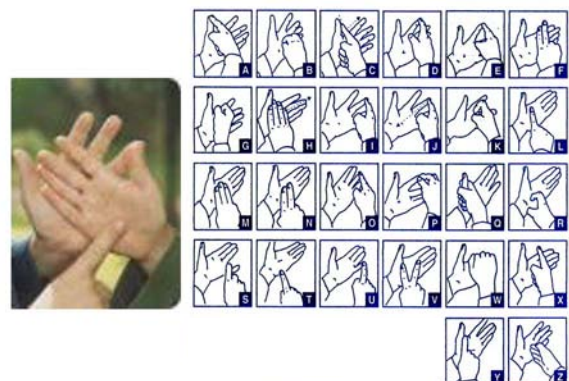


Figure 2 - The Deaf/Blind manual alphabet used with "Hands-On Signing" allows Deaf/Blind to communicate with each other.

participants “listen” to speakers who may be Deaf, Blind, Deaf/Blind or perhaps someone with good hearing and vision. If the speaker is oral (many Deaf/Blind can speak), each Deaf/Blind person in the audience must have an interpreter to translate using the modified sign language. There also needs to be an interpreter for the Deaf in the audience who communicate with regular American Sign Language. If the speaker is Deaf/Blind and does not speak, he or she will need an interpreter to translate the Deaf/Blind signing into speech for those in the audience who are hearing. If the speaker is Deaf, an interpreter may be needed to translate the sign language to the hearing and Deaf/Blind in the audience. To make things even more complicated, each Deaf/Blind in the audience needs two interpreters so they can relieve

each other during the long programs. Usually there are more than twice as many interpreters as participants during these workshops.

Complicated and expensive to run, programs such as these are rare and well attended by Deaf/Blind individuals from all over the United States. The Holley Ear Institute looks forward to not only continuing but also expanding these workshops in the future.

To learn more about the Deaf/Blind the following web sites are recommended: www.deafblind.com and www.deafblindinfo.org.

Deaf/Blind Soar to the Skies



The theme of this year’s Deaf/Blind workshop was "Our Sights Soar to the Skies." The specialized workshop provided lectures and activities for Deaf/Blind designed to foster independence and self-advocacy, recreational activities, including arts and crafts, boating and swimming, and training for sign language interpreters on how to work with Deaf/Blind. Of special significance was that Deaf/Blind participants were able to experience the freedom of flight as they soared to the skies in hot air balloons.

The following poem, written by Deaf/Blind participant Patricia Grindel about overcoming the challenges of hearing and vision loss, was shared on this occasion:



Up, Up And Away

*Life has its ups and downs
Every step of the way
Our smiles and frowns
Tell much about our day*

*Balloons filled with helium
Soar higher and higher
Over fields and stadium
Like a freedom flyer*

*Winds blow giving power
Until they’re out of sight
Over streets and water tower
For they have taken flight*

*We may not see nor hear
But our sights can soar
It is the inner self without fear
That leaps like none before*

*Let our sights soar to the sky
Up, up and away on flight
We’ll soar over mountains high
On freedom’s wings out of sight*

*Patricia Grindel
May 30, 2006*

*Open to families with at least one
Family Literacy Program enh*

**2006
FAMILY LITERACY
PROGRAM
PHOTO ALBUM**



*The Whitlock Bohlman Family
Livonia, Michigan*



*The Corey Family
Royal Oak, Michigan*



*The Devins Family
Romeo, Michigan*



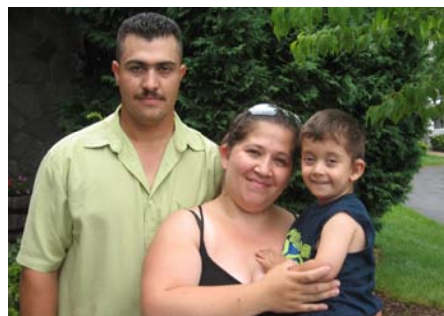
*The Fatigato Family
DesPlaines, Illinois*



*The Frost Family
Troy, Michigan*



*The Goldblah Family
Las Cruces, New Mexico*



*The Gonzalez Family
Farmington Hills, Michigan*



*The Holtz Family
Schaumburg, Illinois*



*The Hunter Stephens Family
Detroit, Michigan*



*The Kozak Family
Taylor, Michigan*



*The Lefler Family
Plainwell, Michigan*

Hear!

*Deaf child, Holley Ear Institute's
enables family communication.*



*The Marshall Family
Rochester, Michigan*



*The Smith Mills Family
Fenton, Michigan*



*The Naegaert Family
Swartz Creek, Michigan*



*The Olsen Family
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan*



*The Rangel Family
West Bloomfield, Michigan*



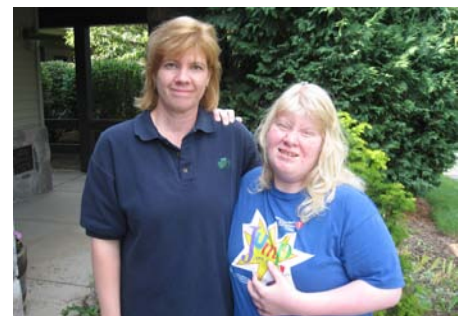
*The Schmidt Family
Homer, Illinois*



*The Schenfeld Family
Oxford, Michigan*



*The Sladovich Family
Royal Oak, Michigan*



*The Smith Family
Ann Arbor, Michigan*



*The Wentland Family
Lynnwood, Washington*



*The Yurek Family
Carmel, Indiana*

2006
**FAMILY LITERACY
PROGRAM**
PHOTO ALBUM

Art with Susan Dupor Kathy Derderian - Art Week 2006 Director

On July 30, 2006, eighteen excited young people walked into the Holley Family Village and into an experience they will take with them for a very long time. They were joined by their wonderful chaperons



Peggy Gelaude, Steven Peterson and Judy Lowrie from Michigan School for the Deaf, local artists Monica and Roman Imielowski and activity/game coordinator Jane Fijal. Our "Three Musketeers" Lucas

VanDalen, Joey Caverly and Jonathan Stec greeted them and put so many smiles on their faces, that at times, they were holding their sides in laughter.

The young people spent five intensive days with Susan Dupor learning methods of printmaking. She challenged their creativity with the different methods of printmaking: Monotype, Collograph, Linoleum and Silk Screen. Susan teaches art at Wisconsin School for the Deaf.

The week was a huge success due to very talented artists and unbelievable assistants who worked late into the night preparing things for each day. They are all to be congratulated!

For this director, it was the highlight of my summer. I drove home with my head spinning with great amount of ideas for next year and could not stop planning when I walked in the door. My husband commented that I was glowing and so I was, as the experience was one I had anticipated for many years. I am already looking forward to 2007, and I know it will be even better.



For Love of the Babies!

Please join us in paying tribute to Holley Ear Institute's volunteers for their service to the Institute, St. John Hospital and Medical Center, the community, and for "living the values." We thank our volunteers for their concern for their community and for giving freely of their time.

When reflecting upon how she got involved with the Holley Ear Institute's newborn screening program, Sue Conti recalled: "I knew I had to try it because I just love babies."

A retired elementary school teacher and administrator, Sue began volunteering with the Holley Ear Institute in January 2004. In addition to screening newborns for hearing loss, Sue is very active at Knox Presbyterian Church in Harrison Township. In fact, it was fellow congregation member and Holley Ear Institute volunteer Thelma Czubak who encouraged her to join.

Because of her eagerness toward community involvement, retirement has not slowed Sue down one bit. She is as busy as ever! Sue and her husband Vito, both retired school principals, have three children and six grandchildren. When not volunteering or spending time

with her family, Sue is an accomplished baker and Master Gardener. Many times, she can be found in the kitchen baking, making candy or outdoors tending to her many gardens.

Of her hobbies, Sue enjoys baking the most, especially around the holidays. "It is so much fun," She recollected. When asked what her grandchildren like best, she replied: "Decorated sugar cookies!"



Baking is one of the many ways Sue brings joy to others, and it is not just her grandchildren's faces that she brings a smile to. When asked what she likes best about testing newborns' hearing, she quickly responded: "Being with the babies, of course." However, Sue truly enjoys bringing a smile to parents' faces when she is able to share the exciting news that their newborn has passed his/her hearing test.

Each year, dedicated volunteers like Sue screen nearly 4,000 infants at St. John Hospital and Medical Center. If you are interested in volunteering to help with newborn hearing screenings, please contact Jill Wells, Manager – Department of Audiology, at 313-343-4046.

Did You Know...

Everyday in the United States, approximately 33 babies are born with hearing loss, making hearing loss the number one disability at birth in America.

Research supports that language development begins right at birth. Babies learn to speak by mimicking what they hear, and if they can't hear they will stop making sounds. Without adequate sound stimulation in infancy, speech and language development will be compromised; later treatment may never fully compensate for this early deprivation. The critical period in which a child's brain has the greatest capacity to develop speech and language is all but over by age three.

Technology Update:

Hearing Aid Compatibility with Cell Phones

By Glenn Clippard, MA, CCC-A

Hearing aid users often hear an oscillating or buzzing sound when using cell phones that makes mobile phone use difficult or even impossible. This interference is caused from the constant pulses of the mobile phone's digital signaling and can be visualized as a kind of Morse code between the mobile phone and the cellular receiving towers.

A cellular phone conversation is transmitted over a wireless network using radio waves. The radio waves emitted by the cell phone are called radio-frequency (RF) emissions. These RF emissions create an electromagnetic (EM) field around the phone's antenna. This EM field has a pulsing pattern and this pulsing energy is what is picked up by a hearing aid's microphone or telecoil circuitry and perceived as an annoying buzzing sound. In addition, because the technology for transmitting calls over a wireless network differs depending on the service provider, the interference generated by these various technologies has different characteristics and change the amount of interference a hearing aid user may experience. Finally, hearing aids using telecoils may experience another form of interference called "baseband magnetic interference." This originated from the cell phone's backlighting, display, keypad, battery and circuit board and can occur in addition to potential RF interference.

Whether a phone is hearing aid-compatible depends on the date when cell phone manufacturers and wireless service providers are required to be in compliance with the 2003 FCC timetable for the development and sale of digital wireless telephones that are hearing aid compatible. In 2005, hearing aid compatible cell phones were rated "U3 or M3." For 2006, mobile phones are hearing aid compatible if they are rated "U3T or M3T." In general, the greater the distance between the hearing aid and the phone's electronics, the less potential there is for interference to be experienced by the hearing aid wearer. So, people with in-the-ear (ITE) or completely-in-the-canal (CIC) hearing aids tend to experience less interference than people with behind-the-ear (BTE) instruments, and newer, digital hearing aids are generally more immune to interference than older, conventional analog hearing aids.



Audiologist Glenn Clippard

Become a HEAR-O, Donate Your Old Hearing Aids

The Holley Ear Institute in conjunction with St. John Audiology, is now accepting hearing aid donations for the Starkey Hearing Foundation's Hear Now Program. Many hearing aid wearers, family members or other support personnel do not know what to do with hearing aids once they are no longer needed or used. Your donation gives unwanted hearing aids a second life by helping those who cannot afford them. Starkey will send an acknowledgement letter directly to the donor for tax purposes. Please note that it is the donor's responsibility to determine the value of the contribution. For further information, please contact Jill Wells, Manager – Department of Audiology, at 313-343-4046.

Congratulations Sister Sylvia on 30 Years!



Congratulations to Sylvia Dimeck, SSJ on her 30 years of service at St. John Hospital and Medical Center. Sister Sylvia began working at St. John Hospital and Medical Center in July of 1976 at the invitation of Sister Verence McQuade. During that time, she worked in Emergency and scheduled Admitting for 4 years. This was followed by 14 years with the Fontbonne Auxiliary. When the Holley Ear Institute was in need of full time clerical assistance, Sister Sylvia was there to help. We thank Sister Sylvia for sharing her time and many talents with us to help grow the Holley Ear Institute and its ministry to the Deaf, Deaf/Blind and hard of hearing. May God continue to bless her for her service and dedication.

Calendar of Events - 2006/2007

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
September 13, 2006	Council Meeting	Grosse Pointe Yacht Club
December 1, 2006	St. Nicholas Party	The Grosse Pointe Club, Grosse Pointe Farms
May 9, 2007	Council Meeting	Mack Office Building, Conf. Room C
June 14, 2007	Celebrate America	To be announced
June 24 – 29, 2007	ASL Week	Family Village – De Sales Center
July 1 – 6, 2007	Family Literacy Week I	Family Village – De Sales Center
July 8 – 13, 2007	Family Literacy Week II	Family Village – De Sales Center
July 15 – 20, 2007	German Deaf Exchange Week	Family Village – De Sales Center
July 22 – 27, 2007	Religious ASL Week	Family Village – De Sales Center
July 29 – August 3, 2007	Deaf Youth Leadership Week	Family Village – De Sales Center
August 5 – 10, 2007	Art Week	Family Village – De Sales Center
August 15 – 18, 2007	Deaf/Blind Workshop	Family Village – De Sales Center
August 27 – 31, 2007	Volunteer Week	Family Village – De Sales Center

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The Holley Ear Institute, a non-profit organization founded in 1993, is a consortium of medical and non-medical professionals, as well as volunteers including: doctors, teachers, religious leaders, and support technicians. The Holley Ear Institute shares a close relationship with St. John Hospital and Medical Center. The mission of the Institute is to assist the Deaf, Deaf/Blind and hard of hearing and to provide services and programs aimed at improving their quality of life.