

## Generous Supporters of NMTSA in 2007

During 2007, we at NMTSA were both surprised and honored at the outpouring of financial support we received from our client families, community members, and friends and family members of both our clients and our staff. NMTSA has developed the following donor recognition policy which is designed to recognize each and every donor within the following gift structure:

\$25	Circle of Friends	\$5,000	Empowerment Donors
\$100	Communication Partners	\$15,000	Fellowship Donors
\$500	Facilitating Relationships	\$25,000 +	Visionary Supporters
\$2,000	Promoting Independence		

### Visionary Supporters

Bob & Karen Hobbs

### Empowerment Donors

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ITT Technical Institute

Ryland Group Inc.

### Promoting Independence

Future Digital Imaging

Genworth Financial Asset Management Inc.

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### Facilitating Relationships

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Fender® Guitars

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### Circle of Friends

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Bulldog Group

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### Other Supporters

Karen Alford

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### About NMTSA...

NMTSA has been providing music therapy services to individuals and their families in the Phoenix metropolitan area since 1982. In 2001, following 20 years of providing home and community-based services, NMTSA opened a clinic in central Phoenix. The clinic allows NMTSA to serve more families, to provide a center for support and networking opportunities for families, and to specialize in Neurologic Music Therapy (NMT). In 2007, NMTSA moved into a larger clinic and expanded its offerings to include a literacy-based elementary education program called Assuming Competence Today (ACT).

# Functional Cadence

The Rhythm of NMTSA

Celebrating **27** Years of Serving the Phoenix Community!

### Upcoming Programs

**April 12th**

*Competency-Based  
Communication Groups*

**April 19th**

*Competency-Based  
Communication Training  
Level 1*

**May 3rd**

*NMT Parent Training*

**May 10th**

*Competency-Based  
Communication Groups*

**June 7th**

*Competency-Based  
Communication Training  
Level 2*

### Quotable Quote

*"If I could snap my  
fingers and be  
nonautistic, I would not.  
Autism is part of what I  
am."*

*—Temple Grandin,  
"Thinking in Pictures"*

Check out our  
website at  
**www.NMTSA.org**

**Contact Us**  
Phone: 602-840-6410  
e-mail: info@nmtsa.org

### **A New Year, A Renewed Sense of Thanks**

by Suzanne Oliver, Executive Director

As we head into the New Year I want to take the time on behalf of myself and the entire organization to thank all of you for your confidence in and support of NMTSA over these last twelve months. This past year has been an incredible journey as we just passed the one year anniversary of moving into our new clinic (1/27/07) and opening our elementary education program-the ACT Program (2/5/07). It has been a busy year as we settled into our great physical space, and adjusted to our nonprofit status and our first full year of receiving donations. The community's support of our service has been overwhelming. First of all, to all the families who bring your children here week after week -thank you for working with us to maximize your child's potential. We could not achieve the results we do without your commitment and diligent participation in the process. Thank you.

To all of our generous donors, we could not be where we are right now nor move towards where we are going without your support. This was our 27th year of serving the community, but our first *full* year of functioning as a 501 (c) 3 company. Your response to our needs in financial and in-kind donations was outstanding. Thank you for your patience with us as we responded as quickly as possible to the overwhelming number of donations and developed our donor recognition policy. I have been able to directly thank many of you while others I have not. Please consider this a deep and personal thank you for partnering with us. We have always prided ourselves in the ability to do much with little revenue. Your contributions this past year allowed us to do more, fund growing programs, begin new ones. We are very excited to move forward toward even greater endeavors this year. Your contributions will allow us to do so. Our unique contributions to the community are being increasingly recognized, and training and education is being requested from all over the state. We are grateful to provide quality treatment and education due to program participants and donors such as you. So please know whether it is an in-kind donation of scotch tape and batteries, or a large corporate donation, all of your efforts allow us to further our mission and educate the public on best practice for persons with autism and other neurologic disorders. Please carefully read this newsletter and acknowledge those who have contributed to our company's growth. If you have not yet made a contribution, please consider a contribution of time or resources to assist us in maximizing the potential of children and adults with neurologic impairments throughout the state. I look forward to meeting and talking with you, whether it is in the waiting room or at one of our trainings or functions. Thank you for partnering with us!

### **Staff Announcements**

Kudos to therapists **Carolyn Estrada**, MA, MT-BC, NMT Fellow and **Michelle Hardy**, MT-BC, NMT Fellow for completing and earning their *second* Neurologic Music Therapy Fellowship Training. As you may recall, all Neurologic Music Therapists are required to participate in the Robert F. Unkefer Fellowship Training following the NMT initial training. Then one must return every five years bringing clinical video clips for peer review in order to maintain one's Fellowship status. We congratulate Carolyn and Michelle for their quality practice of NMT.

For more information on NMT please see the article "Your Therapist and NMT" found in our Parent Empowerment Center.



By Dena Reany, ACT Lead Teacher

Writing Affirmations is a time in the school day when we take a moment to think and reflect on something we appreciated about ourselves, another student, or staff member that we should be proud of. We read them aloud each day in music and then hang them on the "Affirmation Wall" for all to see. As you can see our students are VERY thoughtful and poetic!

*"Love is the change we need"*  
- Max

*"Today I feel hope for the future"*  
- Aaron

*"The best thing is learning"*  
- Sheridan

*"Feel happy for less support and to be independent"*  
- Alan

*"Really happy today"*  
- D'Mico

*"Today is very fun, really hopeful"*  
- Alyssa

*"Today I really open the door to just change"*  
- Collin

*"Love to work with you, You help me"*  
- McKenna

## Symphony of the Southwest & NMTSA: Partners in Music

Join NMTSA and the Symphony of the Southwest in the final concert of the season, "Mother's Day with Leroy Anderson", on May 10 at 2:30 p.m. This light classical program featuring familiar tunes by American composers is sure to put a song in your heart! By buying your tickets through NMTSA by April 25, you will save 25% off the regular ticket price and the symphony will donate 25% back to NMTSA to help fund our community programs. This special matinee is a great opportunity to experience a live concert with your whole family, and tickets start at just \$15 each. SSW Concerts are appropriate for all children, and special accommodations can be made to help make the experience fun for everyone! Ask your therapist for a brochure with complete ticket information, or contact **Amanda Ferguson** at [aferguson@nmtsa.org](mailto:aferguson@nmtsa.org) or (602) 277-8610 x 2 for more information or if you need special accommodations.

## NMTSA begins its Clinical Internship Program

by Michelle Hardy, MT-BC, NMT Fellow

NMTSA is pleased to announce the start of our first Neurologic Music Therapy Internship! As you may know, a degree in music therapy involves both four years of coursework followed by a six-month clinical internship before being eligible to sit for the board certification exam. Perhaps you have noticed a new, friendly face around the clinic—please welcome **Sabra Follis**! She will be with us for six months to develop her skills and knowledge through observations and hands-on experiences with many of your children. Here's a little background on Sabra:

Sabra grew up in a small town in Arkansas, where she enjoyed participating in sports, music, and theater. She started a Musical Theater degree at Oklahoma City University, but two years later, after working in physical therapy in a children's hospital, decided to transfer to a degree in Music Therapy. Sabra completed her coursework in music therapy at Colorado State University in Fort Collins last spring. She moved to Phoenix in early January to join us at NMTSA for this internship opportunity. She looks forward to learning from all of the therapists and working with many of the great families here at NMTSA.

## NMTSA Welcomes New Staff

Throughout its 27 years, NMTSA has found that the key ingredient to providing quality services is seeking out qualified and talented music therapists from across the nation. NMTSA would like to sincerely welcome the following individuals who have joined our team, and bring their own strengths and talents to our clients.

### Erica Funderburk, MT-BC, NMT

Originally from Colorado, Erica received her bachelors degree in music therapy from Colorado State University in 2006. She completed her clinical training requirements (six month internship program) at the VA Hospital in Topeka, Kansas working with US Veterans in geriatric, chronic and acute psychiatric and neurological impairment units. Prior to joining the staff at NMTSA, Erica worked as a Music Therapist with children with developmental disabilities here in the east valley in community-based settings. Erica joined our talented staff in June 2007, and brings compassion and commitment to our team.

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### Sarah Studebaker, MME, MT-BC, NMT

Originally from Oklahoma, Sarah received her bachelor's degree in music therapy from Southern Methodist University in 2004. She completed her clinical training requirements at The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research in Houston, Texas working with individuals with neurological injuries and disorders. Sarah received a Masters of Music Therapy from the University of Kansas in 2007. During that time, she worked as a graduate teaching assistant in the music therapy department. Prior to working with NMTSA, Sarah worked as a music therapist for the East Central Kansas Cooperative in Education, where she served children with developmental disabilities in a school setting. Sarah joined our talented staff in August of 2007, and brings to our team both outstanding musical skills and a thirst for research.

### Kaihsun Tai, MA, MT-BC, NMT

Originally from Taiwan, Kaihsun received her equivalency and master's degree in music therapy from the University of the Pacific in 2006. During her master's program, she worked as a graduate research assistant to the chair of the music therapy department. She completed her clinical training requirements at the Hartvigsen School in Salt Lake City, Utah working with individuals with Autism and students with special needs. In addition to English, Kaihsun also speaks Taiwanese, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish. Prior to working with NMTSA, Kaihsun worked as a music therapist for Nelson Pediatric Therapy, where she served children on the Autism Spectrum and individuals with special needs. Kaihsun joined our talented staff in November of 2007, and brings an observant and skilled eye to our team.

**Welcome Erica, Sarah and Kaihsun!!**

## NMTSA and its Supporters

by Rebecca E. Norton, MT-BC, NMT Fellow - Public Relations Coordinator

When NMTSA earned its 501 (c) 3 non-profit status in March 2005, we recognized that it was a new beginning for the 24 year-old company. What we could not have realized was how truly blessed we would be to have so much support from client families, staff families, and perfect strangers within our community. Now here we stand, approaching our third year as a public charity and at a loss for just the right words to properly illustrate our gratitude to all those who have offered their time, talent and resources in order to help fulfill our mission. Instead we would like to introduce you to a few of our 2007 supporters, and then list each and every person that made a contribution in 2007—my guess is that you will be impressed with the numbers. While we cannot share the stories of each donor, my hope is that these few will help you realize how much good and generosity is truly in the world today.

**Bob & Karen Hobbs** have supported NMTSA through two generous donations to our ACT Program Scholarship Fund. Mr. & Mrs. Hobbs are both active philanthropists in the community, and, like many of our supporters, heard about us from a friend of a client at NMTSA. As the story goes, the Hobbs have employed the grandmother of a current ACT Program student for the last 25 years, and watched as the student grew, received the Autism diagnosis, and went from school to school in search of the education program that could provide for the student's needs. When they heard that this student would be attending a new competency-based education program with NMTSA, they jumped on the chance to "do something where [they] could see the amazing results" first hand. The Hobbs' generosity has allowed the distribution of two full scholarships, and as Mrs. Hobbs described, it is wonderful to "see the results of your fruit." We and the students of ACT are truly grateful to Bob & Karen Hobbs.

**Chris & Cheryl Butterworth** have been supporters and advocates for NMTSA since their son Collin, now eight years old, began receiving services when he was 20 months old. According to Cheryl, NMTSA's services have been the "single most important therapy." When asked why they support NMTSA, Cheryl used several adjectives to describe the people at NMTSA, including "dedicated, caring, respectful of the kids, supportive, [and] genuine." This past fall Chris idealized, created, and organized a raffle, Win a TV for Autism, in order to fundraise for NMTSA. He spent many hours networking and soliciting donations to be raffled, as well as sitting in front of grocery stores and pizza joints selling tickets. We are grateful for the Butterworth's continued support and creativity.

**Deb Delp's** son Travis has received music therapy services at NMTSA for the last 3 ½ years, and Deb has been one of our most frequent and generous supporters for just about as long. In Deb's words, "[NMTSA] is just the most wonderful thing that has ever happened to us." Deb, her husband, and their company have answered many of our donation drives, giving supplies, items, money, a digital camera, even our precious washer and dryer. Deb says that they support NMTSA because "otherwise I would never know what I know about Travis. I wouldn't be able to talk with him like I do now." Thank you Deb for all that you do.

**Many thanks to all of our 2007 donors!**