



New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association

203 Towne Centre Drive • Hillsborough, NJ 08844
(908) 359-5308 • www.NJSHA.org

Contact: Patty Murray
Office: 732-249-6493 Cell: 732-322-9392

2008 NJSHA Award Recipients Honored for Service to New Jerseyans with Speech, Language & Hearing Challenges

APRIL 8, 2008 – HILLSBOROUGH, NJ – New Jerseyans who better the lives of people with speech, language and hearing challenges will be honored by the New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NJSHA) on April 11 during the group's annual convention in Atlantic City (April 10-12).

“Among our honorees this year are people who fight on local, state and national levels for the educational and healthcare rights of those with communication and learning challenges; people who combat the shortage of speech-language pathologists through education and mentoring; people who strive every day to prove that early intervention starting as early as six months of age is critical to lifelong success; and people who ease the lives of individuals with debilitating illnesses and conditions,” said NJSHA President Robin M. Kanis, M.S., CCC-SLP, a NJ licensed speech-language pathologist. “We are proud to honor an impressive group of people who are such strong advocates for advancing the needs of people with communication challenges.”

Program of the Year: Sound Start Early Intervention Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Infants and Toddlers – Mountain Lakes

For fifteen years, Sound Start has provided the highest level of expertise, technology and intervention strategies to help deaf and hard of hearing children develop the linguistic, cognitive and social skills necessary for learning and development. A well-trained team of dedicated professionals including audiologists, speech-language pathologists, teachers of the deaf, occupational and physical therapists, social workers and psychologists develop educational plans tailored to the needs of each child and family preferences. Each year, Sound Start helps about 80 NJ families from diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds, providing family-centered, culturally sensitivity services. Bilingual staff and translators ensure that families fully understand their children's needs and how to facilitate their development. Sound Start proves that early intervention started by six months of age can positively impact the long-term outcomes for children with hearing loss. In 2006, a team of junior high school students, a majority of whom were Sound Start graduates, won the National Academic Bowl in Washington, DC.

Distinguished Achievement Award: Ari Ne'eman – East Brunswick & Washington, DC

An Asperger's autistic, Ari Ne'eman fights for inclusion on personal and public policy levels. He is the founding president of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN) (www.autisticadvocacy.org), a nonprofit advocacy and support organization run by individuals on the autism spectrum. Ari recently challenged an NYU Child Study Center advertising campaign entitled, "Ransom Notes," depicting the diagnoses of Asperger's Syndrome, Autism, ADHD and other disabilities as "kidnappers," holding children ransom. Finding the ads used highly offensive, using negative stereotypes and inaccuracies, Ari orchestrated widespread public pressure that forced NYU to withdraw the campaign. Remarkable on the successful campaign to see the ads withdrawn, Ari commented, "The thousands of people with disabilities, family members, professionals and others who have written, called, e-mailed and signed our petition have been heard. Today is a historic day for the disability community." Ari is a member of the Youth Advisory Council of the National Council on Disability, the New Jersey Special Education Review Commission (SERC), and the board of the New Jersey Coalition of Inclusive Education. Ari studies Political Science and History as a Sondheim Scholar of Public Affairs at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. He was also recently appointed by Governor Jon Corzine to the New Jersey Adults with Autism Task Force, currently serves on the Steering Committee for the Olmstead Implementation and Planning Advisory Council and has previously served upon the NJ Special Education Review Commission.

Distinguished Professional Service Award: Barbara Glazewski, Ed.D., CCC-SLP – Milltown & Union

Dr. Barbara Glazewski, Ed.D., CCC-SLP, is the coordinator of the Graduate Program in Speech-Language Pathology at Kean University where she mentors much-needed aspiring SLPs. She also consults to the Elizabeth Public Schools, helping future SLPs become effective providers of In-Class Collaboratively-Planned speech-language services. Barbara presents professional development workshops to NJ educators on the benefits of collaborating with SLPs. As co-author of the NJ Department of Education's Technical Assistance Document - The Evaluation of Speech and Language, Barbara defined evaluation and eligibility information and guidelines for the effective delivery of speech-language services in NJ schools. A past president of NJSHA and current chairperson of NJSHA's Legislative Committee, Barbara formed a Political Action Committee (New Jersey Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology PAC), strengthening NJSHA's ability to advocate on important professional issues. Barbara continues to advocate for legislation to require general education teacher training to include a special education course, and has participated in efforts to enact "Grace's Law" to secure hearing aids for any child who needs them as well as universal newborn hearing screening. Barbara remains active on NJSHA committees including the School Affairs Steering Committee and the Multicultural Committee. Barbara is also a member of the New Jersey Coalition of Inclusive Education, a member of the Executive Board of the Statewide Parent's Advocacy Network (SPAN), and a member of the American Speech Language Hearing Association's SLP Advisory Council.

Distinguished Clinical Service Award: Lynn (Rhoades) Cerillo, MS, CCC-SLP – Howell & Edison

Speech-language pathologist Lynn Cerillo, specializes in the treatment of Huntington's Disease (HD) at the HD Unit at JFK Hartwyck at Cedarbrook, one of only six such units in the country. HD is an incurable, progressive neurological disorder that wreaks havoc on all aspects of a person's existence, taking away the ability to walk, communicate and swallow. For 16 years, Lynn has been instrumental in creating and facilitating a program of functional real-life activities, which has given residents a strong sense of community as they face life's end. Although typical HD residents initially resist attempts at therapeutic interventions designed to engage them with others, Lynn develops "out-of-the-box" treatments that use recreational activities to address therapeutic needs. For example, Lynn improves patients' functional communication and cognitive skills with talent shows and karaoke concerts, leading her patients through word finding, executive function, pragmatic and articulation tasks. Using card games, bake sales and field trips, Lynn addresses turn-taking skills, recall, critical thinking, expressive language and memory skills while increasing socialization. Lynn also provides diagnostic and treatment services to the adult neurological population for communication and swallowing problems in the areas of tracheostomy/dysphagia management. She has published articles and a booklet in conjunction with ASHA on HD and has presented numerous workshops and lectures.

Honors of the Association Award: Mae J. Balaban, Ed. D. – Tenafly

NJSHA is proud to bestow its highest honor to Mae J. Balaban, Ed.D., who is a licensed in speech-language pathology and audiology, and a certified Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant. A pioneer in language and literacy, Mae has been a steadfast proponent for increased understanding among professionals on the significant relationship between speech-language development and its effects on learning to read and write. She has worked with NJSHA for over 30 years, serving on more than ten committees as a member or chairperson, to unite professionals in language and literacy on best practices for teaching students. In 1991, she conceived and developed the highly successful annual NJSHA/NJIDA (New Jersey Branch of the International Dyslexia Association) Language and Literacy Conference, which has taken place for 16 years. Mae was the founder and director of the Institute for Child Development and Communication Disorders at Hackensack Medical Center from 1966 to 1983. Currently, she is a private practice consultant in speech-language therapy and learning disabilities. She has taught as an associate professor at Montclair State University, adjunct professor at Fairleigh Dickinson and Yeshiva University, and as an instructor at Teachers College, Columbia University. For the NJ Department of Education, Mae helped write the Language Screening Guidelines for children ages 3-5. The Department of Education also funded her research entitled: A Language Intervention for Severely Impaired Preschoolers. NJ Department of Health funded her research: Assessment, Treatment and Follow-up of High-risk Infants.

Distinguished Service Award: Nancy Becker Associates – Trenton

Nancy H. Becker Associates has served as NJSHA's lobbyist for almost 30 years providing crucial government affairs guidance relative to the goals and mission of the association: to protect the rights of all individuals to have appropriate education, health care and peace of mind knowing that appropriate professionals will address their communication needs throughout their life. The significant contributions the firm has made to speech-language pathology and audiology practices have not only improved the professional status of speech-language pathologists and audiologists, but have significantly impacted the lives of those we serve. Nancy H. Becker Associates has helped NJSHA accomplish a number of critical initiatives such as achieving state licensure for speech-language pathologists in private practice, securing passage of the Neonatal Hearing Screening Program, requiring Hearing Aid Licensure for Audiologists, and adding FEES (Flexible Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing) to the scope of practice for Speech-Language Pathologists. The firm currently is working with NJSHA committee members on consumer advocacy and insurance issues regarding payment for speech-language therapy and audiology services.

Volunteer of the Year: Denise Cleary, MA, CCC-SLP – Wall Township & Brick

Denise Cleary is a dedicated NJSHA volunteer whose level of involvement and service to the association has been vital to its mission. As chairperson of the School Affairs Committee - Central, Denise has organized and networked with school-based speech-language pathologists in Central Jersey to develop solutions to school-based issues and provide valuable professional development programs. As a member of the NJSHA School Affairs Steering Committee (SAC), Denise has helped write testimony on special education regulations and write testimony on state licensure and certification. She has also worked on recruitment and retention, workload management, personnel shortages, salary supplements and professional development. Denise always participates in the School Affairs Update session at the NJSHA Annual Convention and has served on the NJSHA Board of Directors. Working as a school-based speech-language pathologist in Wall Township for 29 years, Denise is a union representative for her local teachers association. She has served on the Professional Development Board of Monmouth County and was a past president of the Monmouth County Speech-Language-Hearing Association. She is currently the membership chairperson for the New Jersey Association of Speech-Language Specialists (NJASLS), an affiliate of the NJEA that she helped establish.

What is NJSHA?

The New Jersey Speech-Language Hearing Association (NJSHA) is an organization of New Jersey professionals working in the fields of speech pathology and audiology. The majority members are certified or licensed and have Master's or Doctoral degrees.

What is NJSHA's mission?

NJSHA serves professionals in the fields of audiology and speech-language pathology. NJSHA establishes and promotes high ethical and professional standards and provides programs and services that meet members' needs. NJSHA also advocates for services provided to people by audiology and speech-language pathology professionals.

Photos of honorees available upon request.

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