



MyTherapyCompany Expands: Now Offers Early Intervention

MyTherapyCompany recently acquired Pathways to Speech, a Pasadena-based clinic and early intervention service. This expansion now allows us to offer a wider range of services for our clients. Pathways to Speech works with five regional centers to provide speech and language evaluation and therapy in both the clinic and home settings.

Pathways to Speech employs 17 certified and licensed therapists, with home visits covering the Pasadena, Burbank, Glendale, Los Angeles, San Gabriel, and Pomona areas. Therapists have specialized training in Hanen parent training programs “It Takes Two to Talk” and “More Than Words”, PECS, TEECH, and the Links to Language programs among others.

The clinic offers evaluations and treatment in the following areas: Articulation Disorders, Childhood Apraxia of Speech, Phonological Impairments, Oral-Motor Therapy, Auditory and Language Processing Disorders, Pragmatics (social language) and Expressive and Receptive Language Delays.

MyTherapyCompany president Michael McBurnie has enjoyed a long-time professional relationship with its founder Karen Lumb, M.S., CCC-SLP. Karen worked as Director of Early Intervention for Southern California at Progressus Therapy when Michael ran that company.

Anyone wishing to do early intervention will be able to

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Catalina Island! Photos on Page 3



Teens: Listening More, Hearing Less

By Todd Neale, Staff Writer
MedPage Today

The number of U.S. adolescents with some hearing loss increased by a relative 31% over the past two decades, national survey data showed.

During the 1988-1994 survey period, 14.9% of those ages 12 to 19 had some hearing loss; that percentage had grown to 19.5% in the 2005-2006 period ($P=0.02$), according to Josef Shargorodsky, MD, MPH of the Channing Laboratory at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, and colleagues.

Most of the hearing loss was slight, but there was an increase in the prevalence of mild or greater hearing loss over time (3.5% to 5.3%, $P<0.001$), the researchers reported in the August 18 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

“Interval factors between surveys, such as vaccination against *Haemophilus influenzae* and *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, as well as greater awareness of music-induced hearing loss, may have led to the expectation of no change or a reduction in the prevalence of hearing loss, but this was not observed,” they wrote.

Further studies are needed to determine the reasons for the increase, they wrote, and also “to identify potential modifiable risk factors to prevent the development of hearing loss.”

Shargorodsky and colleagues analyzed data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) from both 1988-1994 (2,928 participants) and 2005-2006 (1,771 participants). All individuals underwent audiometric evaluation.

Over time, there was an increase in the prevalence of both unilateral hearing loss (11.1% to 14%) and bilateral hearing loss (3.8% to 5.5%). Changes were significant at $P\leq 0.003$ for both.

Loss involving high frequencies also increased between the two time periods (12.8% to 16.4%, $P=0.02$), although loss

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Congratulations to Our CFY's!

Congratulations to our Speech Therapists who have finished up their Clinical Fellowship Year!



Nicole Corin



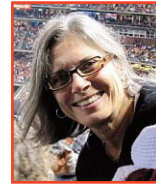
Jacqueline
Gudis



Stacy Johnson



Ashlyn Major



Sue Mennear



Rebecca
Pawlowski



Michele
San Antonio

(Not pictured - Mala Thotopali) We also extend a warm thank you to all the MyTherapyCompany mentors who worked with our therapists over the past 12 months: Shibani Samant, Brittany Sheldon, Meghan O'Brien, Michelle March-Osoria, and Rob Kratz. Great job everyone!

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work through the Pathways to Speech clinic and should contact our new office at 626-793-9444.

Shibani Samant, CCC-SLP, MyTherapyCompany's Regional Manager, will oversee billing and invoicing. Our office manager at Pathways to Speech, Angie Burgueno, can address questions about referrals or administration procedures. (See the sidebar at right.) Any therapy related questions or issues should be directed to Lucy Bloom-Haggerty, our lead therapist for Pathways to Speech.

We are very excited that we can now offer this expanded service and invite all our therapists to take full advantage of Pathways to Speech.

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involving low frequencies did not change significantly. That "may indicate an increase in noise-induced hearing loss," the authors wrote.

In a multivariate analysis, certain variables were associated with variation in the odds of hearing loss.

Females were less likely than males to have any hearing loss in the latter time period (OR 0.76, 95% CI 0.59 to 0.97) and to have high-frequency hearing loss in the earlier time period (OR 0.61, 95% CI 0.42 to 0.90).

A history of at least three ear infections was associated with greater odds of hearing loss in the earlier time period (OR 1.75, 95% CI 1.09 to 2.81), but not in 2005-2006.

Living below the federal poverty threshold was associated with greater odds of any hearing loss in the latter time period only (OR 1.60, 95% CI 1.10 to 2.32), according to the researchers.

"Because much hearing loss is genetic, the role of parental hearing loss leading to poverty is possible, but we do not have data on the parents," they wrote.

The authors noted that the study possibly underestimated the prevalence of hearing loss because children whose hearing aids could not be removed, those who could not tolerate earphones, and those who had cochlear implants were not tested.

In addition, they wrote, because of the cross-sectional

Meet Angie Burgueno at Pathways to Speech

I am the Office Manager at Pathways to Speech. I not only have the privilege of running the office here in Pasadena, but as a parent, I've had the experience of bringing my daughter to one of its regional centers when she required speech therapy. Our experience with Pathways to Speech was excellent. Not only did my daughter improve one hundred percent, but she no longer needs speech therapy. I owe that to the fantastic therapist that worked with my daughter.



Angie Burgueno (seated) with Pathways to Speech SLP Lucy Bloom-Haggerty.

I enjoyed coming into the clinic so much that when I had an opportunity to work here, I was honored and accepted my position as Office Manager.

I have worked for Pathways to Speech for over a year and really enjoy the interaction with the children and their parents. The speech therapists are amazing, and I enjoy working with every single one of them. I look forward to working with all of you at MyTherapyCompany.

nature of the study, causality could not be established for any of the observed relationships.

Finally, the participants' ears were not examined in the earlier survey.

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Our Annual Trip to Catalina Island!

In September a group of 50 MyTherapyCompany employees and their guests enjoyed a full-day excursion at Catalina Island for what has become a delightful annual event. We began at the Long Beach Ferry Terminal where John from Catalina Adventures provided us with our ferry tickets and Sun Day Passes, all the necessary tools for an exciting day at this beautiful resort island.

A somewhat foggy morning gave way to sunshine when we arrived. This year we left earlier and stayed a bit later, giving everyone more time to see the sights.

In the morning, everyone was given a choice of embarking on a glass bottom boat ride or enjoying biking, snorkel-

ing, or kayaking, among other fun activities.

For lunch, our group savored a delicious meal at Steve's Steak House.

The afternoon was filled with popular golf cart tours of the island. With everyone taking off on their own, the golf carts were a fun and relaxing way to visit more of the island and take in panoramic views of the ocean and boats from Catalina's rocky heights. There was also time to walk around, shop, or sightsee.

Most of us boarded the ferry for the return trip at 5:00 pm, but some folks stayed till the last ferry left for the day.

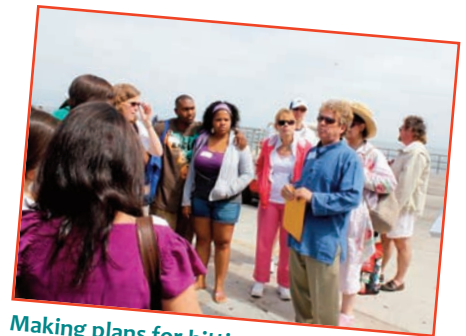
We hope to see you all again next year!



On our way! From left: Ashlynn Major, Nicole Wharton and her fiancé, and Shweta McBurnie.



After an hour-long journey on the Catalina Express, we arrived ready for a day of fun!



Making plans for hitting the sights!



A break for lunch at Steve's Steakhouse. On left: Michele San Antonio's guest, Michele, and Rob Krantz's wife. Right front: Stacy House and her husband, Janet Walatka and her husband.



We piled into Steve's Steakhouse for a delicious lunch.



From left: Johanne Johansen, Kristin Rawlinson, Kathy McNamara, Ticiana DiCarlo, and her guest. On right: Johanne's guest, Rebecca Pawlowski, Jaqueline Gudis, and her guest.



Clockwise from left, second in: Ashlyn Major, Lyn Dee Harrelson, Meghan O'Brien, Meghan Renner, Brittany Sheldon, and Michael McBurnie – plus their guests.



At day's end, from left: Kristin Rawlinson, Johanne's guest, Johanne Johansen, and Rebecca Pawlowski.



There was time in the afternoon for a lovely walk along Avalon Bay.

Helping Others with Our Corporate Giving Program

MyTherapyCompany is committed to donating a percentage of our profits to worthy organizations that educate and protect our environment. Here are three organizations that recently benefited from our donations.

Teaching Children About the Forest

The 10th annual Enchanted Forest, hosted by the Wild Bear Mountain Ecology Center on October 2, drew 1000 children for a day of fun and learning in the Nederland area.



Our Prez doubling as a chef.

The event began with nature activities at its Mountain Ecology Center in Nederland. A five minute bus ride then brought families to the Enchanted Forest at Wild Bear's Mud Lake Open Space, the future home of a proposed off-the-grid mountain educational facility. Hiking along a trail, participants met volunteers dressed as seven different nocturnal forest animals who shared stories of survival and co-existence with humans.

After the hike, families enjoyed a barbeque, Marimba music, performances, magic, and other fun activities at Mud Lake. Michael McBurnie, President of MyTherapyCompany, was on hand grilling veggie burgers and hot dogs to help feed all the hungry nature lovers.

Since 1995, Wild Bear has provided top quality and affordable educational programs for youth and families in the Nederland area.

Supporting Better Food Production

MyTherapyCompany was a corporate sponsor of *Sustainability: Post CAFO*, a meeting hosted October 6 by Jefferson County Farmers & Neighbors, Inc. (JFAN) in Fairfield, Iowa. Jim Braun and Dr. Kamyar Enshayan, two visionary local food advocates, shared with over 400 people how they are developing vibrant and profitable local food systems in Iowa and Illinois.

JFAN is a nonprofit that works to protect the quality of life in Jefferson County, Iowa from the damaging effects of factory farms. They organized *Sustainability: Post CAFO* to show that sustainable agricultural systems that provide

more nutritious food and stimulate local economies can ultimately replace harmful industrial farming practices. Our Fairfield office is located in Jefferson County.

A Win for School Running Programs

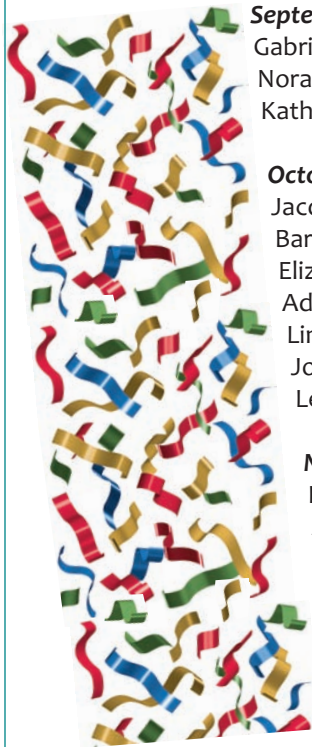
The 29th annual Neder-Nederland Race held on September 12 raised money for track and cross-country programs for local schools. MyTherapyCompany co-sponsored the event, which drew 300 walkers and runners competing in 5K and 10K races. Leslie Seal from our Colorado office volunteered on race day to register participants and to set up for the race. The Neder-Nederland Race augments after-school running programs that were reduced or cut from school budgets.

If you know of a local organization that is worthy of our support, please let us know. We are always looking for groups that we can help.

DON'T FORGET!
You can make extra money with Referral Bonuses!
\$3000 each referral!

Celebrating Our Therapists

Birthday greetings to everyone who recently enjoyed their special day!



September

- Gabriel Keogan, September 6
- Nora Hertsted, September 26
- Kathy McNamara, September 30

October

- Jacqueline Gudis, October 4
- Barbara Oh, October 17
- Elizabeth Huertas, October 19
- Adia McCullough, October 21
- Linda Schulman, October 26
- Johanne Vaval, October 27
- Leslie Seal, October 30

November

- Lucy Bloom-Haggerty, Nov. 4
- Annette Eickele, November 19
- Jennifer Vitrano, November 20
- Diana Au, November 25
- Estrellita Banks-Bordenave, Nov. 25
- Rob Kratz, November 28
- Sheila Merrill, November 29

Happy Birthday everyone!

The MyTherapyCompany.com Newsletter is published by MyTherapyCompany.com, Inc., P.O. Box 537, Nederland, CO 80466
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Toll Free : 866-447-6916
www.mytherapycompany.com
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