Austin Speech Labs September 2015 E-Newsletter          View this email in your browser



# September 2015 Newsletter

2014 was a year of phenomenal growth for Austin Speech Labs, and that trend continues as we make our way through 2015. This is the first in a series of electronic newsletters sharing our stories and successes with the Austin Speech Labs community.



## Music Therapy

In July of this year, we welcomed Brieanna Rocha to our team. Brieanna is a board certified music therapist. She received her Bachelor's of Music from Berklee College of Music in 2012. In addition, she is a credentialed neurologic music therapist, and received her certification from the R.F. Unkefer Academy, under the direction of Michael

## Caregiver Program

In March of this year, we piloted our Caregiver Program. After years of dedicated focus on our stroke survivors, we have discovered the importance of the other critical role in recovery: the caregiver. The program will include, patient education and training as well as meetings for sharing and support.

Elizabeth Joiner M.S. CCC/SLP, LCSW, will lead our first meeting on October 5. She will be discussing the importance of caregivers learning to care for themselves. Elizabeth has been practicing speech pathology for over 25 years, as well as facilitating a stroke support group at St. David's for over ten years. It is with much experience and knowledge that she'll be leading our first group meeting.



## One Word At A Time

Thaut in 2013. Bri comes to us with experiences working with stroke, traumatic brain injury, and spinal cord injury survivors.



## Know the Signs

In May of 2015 Dr. Van Rea, a retired Radiologist, graciously spoke to a crowd of over 300 people at our annual event, One Word At A Time. Dr. Rea was asked to speak about what it means to be a caregiver since his wife, Willeda, suffered a devastating stroke in December of 2012. Two months after Dr Rea spoke at our event, those roles would change. This time, Willeda would be the caretaker and Dr. Rea would lose his words. Like every morning for the past thirty years, Dr. Van Rea, turned to his wife, and attempted to say, "I Love You." His wife took one look at him and rushed to the phone to call their daughter and contact EMS. Sometime during the night

Austin Speech Labs annual event, One Word At A Time, was held on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The event was a huge success and we were so fortunate to have Dr. S. Claiborne Johnston as our keynote speaker.  The evening was a celebration of hard work and perseverance by our clients, and a commitment to continued research and growth by our organization. Thanks to everyone that attended and continue to help us spread our mission. Click here for more information about the event and to recognize our incredible donors and sponsors.

**One Word At A Time**

## Important Dates for 2015

- Boot Camps for 2015
  - Sept. 8th - Oct. 30th
  - Nov. 4th - Dec. 18th
- Caregiver Program
  - Oct. 5th (12-1 pm)
- End of the year celebration
  - Nov. 15th (11 am)

of July 7th, 2015, Dr. Rea suffered a small stroke causing aphasia and slurred speech. If not for the quick thinking of his wife and daughter, the effects could have been devastating. Dr. Rea had only a short stay in the hospital and, fortunately, much of his symptoms have resolved. And in the words of Dr. Rea himself, The Lone Ranger Rides again...



## Amplify Austin

Austin Speech Labs was thrilled to be part of the third annual Amplify Austin campaign in March of 2015. Thanks to our loyal donors and a matching grant of $4,900 by St. David's Foundation, we were able to raise over $19,000. The donations will provide over 1,500 hours of free therapy to our clients. We can't thank you enough for helping us reach our goal and spread our mission. We would also like to thank Cheryle Locke for opening her doors to family and friends of Austin Speech Labs the night of the event.

**Amplify Austin**