Fifteen years ago, The Hearing and Speech Agency (HASA) launched the Communicating Hope campaign to raise the funds needed to move from St. Paul Street and build a state-of-the-art facility that was safer and better suited for children and adults with communication challenges. That dream became a reality and, thanks to your support, we’ve now called 5900 Metro Drive home since 2004.

As we approach the 90th anniversary of HASA’s founding, our most important goal is to ensure the sustainability of the organization for many more decades. With the full support of The Board of Directors, I believe that the best way to build a solid foundation for the future is to pay off the remainder of the mortgage on this building, which will provide a reduction in operating expenses that could be used directly for programs and services.

Our capital campaign donors know that our former building on St. Paul Street, while owned outright, had many problems that were insurmountable, unacceptable and unfixable for the needs of our students and clients. The State of Maryland, area corporations, many generous foundations, board members and individuals supported the campaign and helped HASA move to a facility that was custom-designed for children and adults with specialized communication needs. Now that we’re here, we want to ensure that we’re making the best possible use of donor dollars.

This new Communicating Hope campaign is established for the purpose of paying the loan that is callable on May 1, 2016. The balance on October 16, 2015 was $1,123,980 and is secured by the land and the building constructed on it: The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Hearing and Speech Agency (HASA). Loan payments and covenants reduce the flexibility and security of the organization moving forward.

Paying off this loan will free up approximately $240,000 of working capital during the following year and a sizable amount each year after the loan is paid. The elimination of this debt would enable HASA to reinvest in programs, services and have increased stability into the future. While it is recognized that the greatest satisfaction comes from helping change a life through better communication, the satisfaction of giving a capital contribution comes from securing the ability to change many lives into the future.

Please consider a capital gift as a lasting way to help thousands more reach their communication potential. As we celebrate our 90th anniversary, please join me in a gift to ensure that HASA is here for at least 90 more.
On November 19, 1926, Dr. Olive A. Whildin sat down with a group of colleagues and members of the community in the first meeting of the Speech Reader’s League of Baltimore in order to address the needs of the hard of hearing in the area. Almost 90 years later, the organization that grew from her vision is exploring the past in order to look to the future.

The Hearing and Speech Agency is in the midst of hosting a series of open houses called The Voice and Vision Series where former students, employees, volunteers, and others share their stories and mementos in order to build a richer and fuller archive as HASA enters its 90th year in 2016.

So far, HASA’s Voice and Vision Series has seen the return of former Gateway students, students of ASL, and former employees, including former Educational Director Holly North who remembers her time at The Hearing and Speech Agency with fondness; “It was like a family here; everyone was always supportive.”

September saw the first of the Open Houses during the International Week of the Deaf where an interpreter from HASA’s Centralized Interpreter Referral Service provided interpretation for a former student of Gateway who explored page after page of picture slides from the early 1970s, picking out the pictures of himself and his classmates. In October he returned with memorabilia of his own, such as his memory book with pictures from his days at Gateway, as well as his bookbag and lesson books. HASA was fortunate enough to get copies and pictures, which were then filed into its newly-formed archive.

The event series is one of the ways HASA is ramping up for its 90th anniversary celebration in 2016. The goal is to preserve the history of the organization as it looks to grow in the future. Be on the lookout for stories and artifacts from our archive on social media and for our upcoming VIBE 16: Speakeasy, a roaring twenties gala to be held in May.

If you have any mementos or pictures from HASA’s earlier days, please consider sharing them with us to help preserve our history. For more information, contact our Communications and Community Engagement Manager at edickerson@hasa.org or (410) 318-6780.

October 30 was Picture Day at Gateway School. All of our students looked wonderful!

HASA celebrates the International Week of the Deaf in September.

The Gateway Parents’ Association hosted the annual Fall Social in October. A good time was had by all.

October 30 was Picture Day at Gateway School. All of our students looked wonderful!

Communicating Change: July saw the start of something new at HASA as it launched its presence into the blogosphere. Communicating Change is a blog that highlights all the types of communication we celebrate here at HASA. The blog aims to educate and to advocate, providing musings and information on subjects such as hearing health, developmental milestones, sign language, professional communication, and many more. “We have three primary contributors to the blog, but anyone affiliated with HASA is welcome to submit a post,” said Director of Development & Communications Tammy Black. So far, the
NEW CHILD-CARE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED!
Are you looking for a child-care solution for your preschool-aged child? We are now accepting young learners for an exciting new program. Call (410) 318-6780 for more information.

BREAKING GROUND: RESEARCH AS THE FUTURE OF PRACTICE
The Potomac Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (PCRID) hosted its annual conference in Baltimore this year on November 7 and 8. HASA Interpreters Lisa Weems and Denise Perdue worked tirelessly co-chairing the event, titled “Breaking Ground: Research as the Future of Practice.”

AMAZONSMILE
Use AmazonSmile while doing your holiday shopping and HASA will receive .5% of your purchase price as a contribution! For details, visit smile.amazon.com.

COMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR
HASA will be honoring Jeri Hessan as the Communicator of the Year at VIBE 16, held on May 13, 2016. Jeri served on the Board of Directors for more than a decade, served on three different VIBE planning committees (chairing the event twice) and is helping to build a foundation for the President’s Advisory Council. Congratulations to Jeri!

2015 ANNUAL REPORT
The 2015 Annual Report is now available online at www.hasa.org. For a printed copy, please contact the Development Office at (410) 318-6780.

WINTER ASL CLASSES
Registration for Winter ASL classes is now open! Call (410) 318-6780 or visit hasa.givezooks.com/events/asl-classes-winter-2016.

VISIT US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

COMMUNICATING CHANGE
blogging team at HASA has covered topics ranging from autism to hearing loops, from charitable giving to sign language classes. “With our recent big social media push, it just makes sense to maintain a blog where we can educate and connect with our constituents,” said Communications and Community Engagement Manager Emily Dickerson. With dozens of blog posts so far, HASA’s renewed online presence is giving it an edge and providing relevant information that we encourage readers to share. To read Communicating Change, visit www.hasa.org/blog and make sure to keep up to date with our most recent posts. If you’re interested in contributing to the blog, please email Emily at edickerson@hasa.org or Tammy at tblack@hasa.org.

GIVING
Your generosity is greatly appreciated by the 4,000 infants, children and adults served by HASA each year. Please consider supporting our work through:

- check
- credit card
- recurring gift
- memorial/honor gift
- gift-in-kind
- matching gift from your company
- endowment gift
- online donation
- will/bequest
- gift of stock

All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.
For more information, contact Tammy Black, Director of Development & Communications at (410) 318-6780 or tblack@hasa.org.

Designate HASA through your workplace giving campaign:

- #051 UNITED WAY
- #8051 COMBINED CHARITY CAMPAIGNS (CITY & STATE)
- #67475 COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

The Clinical Services Program began the transition to Electronic Medical Records in October.

HASA attended the 25th anniversary celebration of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act in Baltimore.
SAVE THE DATE
MAY 13, 2016
VIBE ’16

A Roaring Twenties Gala
SPEAKEASY
to benefit The Hearing and Speech Agency

1926-2016
The Hearing and Speech Agency
90 YEARS