



The Treatment and  
Learning Centers  
**TLC**

*a family of services where caring comes first*

## January 2018 E-Newsletter

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### A Message from the Executive Director

TLC would like to wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year! We are confident that 2018 will be another outstanding year. TLC has been a trusted community member for 65 years, and we continuously and actively fulfill our vision of being a highly visible, leading-edge organization with strong collaborative and advocacy relationships, and plentiful resources that support quality programs, staff, and facilities for individuals with special needs. The more individuals that know we are here and ready to serve, the more lives we can improve and possibilities that we can expand.



In this inaugural 2018 issue of our newsletter, we will highlight the 2017 accomplishments made in fulfilling a major piece of our vision; being actively engaged in our community. Each program within our family of services has been successful at immersing themselves in numerous community activities and initiatives to raise the visibility of TLC to ultimately help as many individuals as possible. We are honored to serve the community and share expertise. Seeing those we serve learn, grow, and thrive inspires us every day.

Here's to continued visibility, excellence and service for 2018! Cheers!

Patricia A. Ritter, PhD  
Executive Director, The Treatment and Learning Centers

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### The Katherine Thomas School

Once again, KTS made itself known to the Montgomery County Community as a reputable resource for parents, students,

educators, and therapists. The energy and dedication of the KTS community were evident with the myriad of well-attended events held for helping others.

In January of 2017, Lower-Middle School and High School SLPs completed a **Webinar** entitled "Strengthening the Breadth and Depth of Your Collaboration With School Professionals." Our staff's day doesn't end when the bell rings. Teacher Assistant Joan Morris was honored as the **"Outstanding Staff Member of the Year"** at

a **PCR dinner**. She was honored for her work outside of KTS with adults with developmental disabilities. **Maryland Delegate Kathleen Dumais** visited KTS and was very impressed by the students and staff. **KTS 3rd-8th grade staff and students participated in our annual Day of Giving. The activities included creating hygiene bags, sandwich making, and card decorating. Rebecca Abrahams dropped off all items to Progress Place (a shelter and case management agency in Montgomery County).** In December Shawna Page, Julie Johnson, Karishma Katakia, Maggie Perez, Amy Lauer, Ashley Bergesen, Nicole Wyche and Julia Migliorini gave a **"ROBUST" vocabulary presentation at MANSEF!** We also had two other workshops by school staff at the MANSEF Conference: "Assessing the Effectiveness of Online Teaching Tools in the Special Needs Classroom" presented by David Peal and Matt Vadney and "Smartboard/Smart Notebook 101" presented by Aaron Trulock and Christopher Troy. The workshops were well received and meaningful for those who attended! The Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF) represents more than 90 nonpublic schools throughout Maryland that serve students with a range of disabilities. MANSEF unites a diverse community of educators, professionals and parents to advocate for the needed continuum of services for children and adolescents with disabilities. **KTS gave nine community workshops for parents to educate and empower about a range of hot topics.**



Dr. Ritter and Delegate Dumais

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## The Family Hearing Center

FHC was out and about in the community to help raise awareness and increase knowledge about hearing healthcare. Our Audiology team work to get the word out about FHC's quality, personalized, and comprehensive services for adults and children. The rave reviews from our patients showed that TLC Audiologists are continuously making a positive impact! Our Help Others Hear program provided individuals with free hearing aids thanks to donors who gave so generously to this important program.



Susan Yaffe-Oziel and Dr. Ritter at the ASHA Photoshoot

Most recently, TLC Executive Director, Pat Ritter and Susan Yaffe-Oziel did a photo shoot for **The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)** to promote the profession. FHC's Director, Susan Yaffe-Oziel gave a talk to approximately **50 Asbury Village residents and participated in their Hearing**

Health Fair to talk about our audiology services on site in the villas at Asbury Village, and also visited **Asbury Village's assistive living building** to notify them about our audiology center on Asbury's campus. Over the past twelve month's Susan has had a monthly hearing loss support group at Asbury. In addition, Asbury employees were offered **free hearing screenings by FHC staff**. Many people took advantage of the opportunity. **Kensington Park Retirement Community** were treated to a presentation on "Random Acts of Hearing Kindness." **The Family Hearing Center held a Hearing Healthcare event**, offering a hearing healthcare package including free hearing screenings and ear exam as well as hearing aid demonstration and trial period for those with diagnosed hearing loss. The Family Hearing Center was rated highly in the recent publication of the **Washington Consumer Checkbook** as well as **Healthy Hearing** and **Yelp**. **The Family Hearing Center was named "Top Vote Getter" in the category of "Best Audiology Practice" in the 2018 Best of Bethesda Magazine Readers' Poll.**

## Speech-Language Pathology and Occupational Therapy

Both our Speech-Language Pathology and Occupational Therapy Services shared their expertise and knowledge to many different organizations within the community. Our Outpatient Services staff continuously strive to be at the forefront of all of the innovations, research and therapies in their respective fields, and effectively disseminate their current knowledge to the communities that they serve.



### ARE YOUR CHILDREN EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Following directions?
- Pronouncing sounds or words correctly?
- Using correct grammar?
- Speaking too loudly or too quietly or with a hoarse or nasal voice?
- Frequently asking to have things repeated?

- Struggling with handwriting?
- Difficulty learning new motor tasks?
- Avoiding coloring, drawing or cutting?
- Covering ears with loud noises?
- Always "on the go" or fidgety?
- Bothered by tags in clothing?
- Annoyed by messy hands and fingers?



### FREE ON-SITE SPEECH-LANGUAGE AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SCREENINGS

AT ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

- SPEECH-LANGUAGE SCREENS
- MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017
- SCREENED BY A LICENSED SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

- OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SCREENS
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2017
- SCREENED BY A LICENSED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

RSVP TO CAROL PARENT, [CPARENT@SAES.ORG](mailto:CPARENT@SAES.ORG), BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

THE TREATMENT AND LEARNING CENTERS  
2092 GAITHER ROAD, STE 100, ROCKVILLE, MD 20850  
301.424.5200 WWW.TTLC.ORG

Brigid Baker presented a workshop "Red Flags in Fine Motor Skill Development" to **Bar-T staff** and teachers at **Academy Child Development Center**, and in a professional workshop at **TLC**. Brigid also performed screenings for students at **Geneva Day School**. Together with **Autism Speaks**, Brigid Baker developed a **webinar** for creating sensory-friendly classrooms. Tina Morrissey attended the annual family resource fair of **Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers program** and also presented a **professional workshop at TLC** on "How to Encourage Oral Expression in Young Children." Brigid and Tina together performed screenings for the pre-kindergarten students at **St. Andrew's Episcopal School**. Lia Van Dril raised TLC's visibility with an article in the August issue

## Testing, Tutoring, and Counseling

It was an active and exciting year for Testing, Tutoring and Counseling, whose dedicated staff engaged with the community to meet the great need for excellent, research-based and caring psychological and educational services.

[Dr. Melissa Smith, Director of TLC's Testing and Tutoring Service, discusses teen suicides on WJLA News 7](#)



Dr. Smith on Channel 7

In December Melissa Smith had an excellent interview with **Channel 7 News** about [teen suicide](#). Thank you Sarah Towne for helping out as well in preparing Melissa for her interview. [Melissa Smith presented workshops at The Goddard School including "Anxiety in Preschoolers" and "Trauma, Attachment and Development."](#) In addition to presenting to other organizations, Melissa presented a 2 day workshop to **all KTS educational and related services staff** regarding "Understanding a Psychological Report."

## TLC's Outcomes Service

Outcomes expert staff were actively engaged in the community, educating, advocating, and opening doors for adults with disabilities. The Outcomes staff established themselves as a reliable source of knowledge and expertise in the disabilities field.



Maggie H and Outcomes Staff

Maia Magder presented to the 10 members of the **DORS Wheaton office** on "How working with a Speech-language Pathologist can increase functional communication for DORS consumers in a Vocational Setting". They also discussed additional partnership opportunities. The TLC Outcomes Service nominated Maggie H for the **MACS Achievement Award** due to her efforts to secure employment after having volunteered for the same organization for 12 years. Maggie overcame her fears and anxiety in order to improve her life and, as a result, she has become more willing to try new opportunities and expand her horizons. In [September](#), [TLC Outcomes](#)



Community Service Recognition

attended the annual **Community Service Recognition Reception for Direct Support Professionals and Community Partners**. County and State officials were in attendance. Michele Levine, from the TLC Outcomes Service was honored with an award for the outstanding service she provides to the people she supports, in her role as Community Resource Advocate and Case Manager. CVS's Regional Learning Center Manager, Stacey Butler received an award for excellence as an important Community Partner of TLC Outcomes. Stacey's team of Coordinators, Tammy Gilliam and Erika Bailey were also recognized. CVS has partnered with Outcomes on a summer program for transitioning youth, offering retail training opportunities for these students. Stacey has been a member of the TLC Outcomes Business Advisory Board for several years providing valuable input and working collaboratively for employment outcomes for those we serve.

## Sign up for Summer Camp NOW!

SEVEN WEEKS OF SMALL  
GROUP SESSIONS FROM  
JUNE 25 - AUGUST 10, 2018



EXCITING WEEKLY THEMES!

- ARTS AND CRAFTS
- YOGA
- MUSIC
- OUTDOOR WATER ACTIVITIES
- SPECIAL VISITORS

Current evaluation reports or current IEP are required for admission. Play visits are required for new campers.

Registration Form: [http://ttlc.org/summer\\_programs/registration/](http://ttlc.org/summer_programs/registration/)

More Camp Information: [http://ttlc.org/summer\\_programs/welcome/](http://ttlc.org/summer_programs/welcome/)

### **Little Friends Language and Learning Camp (Ages 3 - 5)**

**M - F, 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm at The Katherine Thomas School (KTS).**

Little Friends Language & Learning Camp is geared toward preschool aged children to enhance early literacy skills while developing communication, social interaction and play skills. A Speech-Language Pathologist and Special Educator create hands-on, exploratory learning based on your child's individual needs. Early learning concepts include language, pre-reading and math skills. Fun camp activities with weekly themes, arts & crafts, water play, playground, music, drama and much more! Bonus - handwriting and fine motor activities led by an Occupational Therapist.

### **OT Option for Little Friends Language and Learning Camp:**

**Morning Movers (Ages 3 - 5)**

**Monday, Wednesday, and Thursdays, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm at The Katherine Thomas School (KTS)**

### **12:00pm - 12:30 Campers bring a lunch and join the lunch bunch**

Looking to jump start your child's day in our Little Friends Camp? Kids will explore our 3 sensory motor gyms with fun obstacle courses & exciting movement stations. Expect kids to experience: core strengthening, increased upper body strength, balance & coordination, & visual spatial & motor planning.

### **Friends Together Camp (Ages 5 - 7)**

**M - F, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm AND/OR M - F, 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm at**

**The Katherine Thomas School (KTS)**

Combining the best of our speech-language and occupational therapy programs, this summer camp program focuses on building skills in communication and social-pragmatic language while addressing areas of sensory processing and motor planning through play. Groups are led each day by both a Speech-Language Pathologist and an Occupational Therapist. Daily fun with our three sensory gyms, playground, water play, arts & crafts, music and more make for an exciting summer! Attend either the morning or afternoon session or pack a lunch and stay for a full day with our daily lunch bunch. Campers must have needs in either occupational therapy or speech-language, but do not have to have needs in both to participate in the TLC camp programs listed above.

### **Friends Interacting Group**

**(Ages 2 ½ - 5)**

**2 ½ hours, call for days/times at TLC's Gaither Road location**

The Summer Interaction Groups are based on a developmental model with the focus on helping children ages 2 ½ through 5 develop and improve communication, social interaction, motor and sensory processing skills. Through our multidisciplinary approach, Occupational Therapists, Speech-Language Pathologists and Psychologists work to improve your child's interaction, communication and peer play skills.

**For more camp information, to schedule a play visit, and if you have questions about registration, contact Lisa Torvik at 301.424.5200 x6923 or [LTorvik@ttlc.org](mailto:LTorvik@ttlc.org)**

**Locations for camps are noted in description above: KTS: 9975 Medical Center Drive \* Rockville, MD 20850 AND TLC: 2092 Gaither Road, Suite 100 \* Rockville, MD 20850**

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