

## From Dawn's Desk

Imagine dinner without conversation. Imagine your child never hearing: I love you. From anyone. Ever. Imagine not being able to talk with a friend, sing along to the radio or hear the telephone ring. Regular everyday things that most of us take for granted.

For many of us, communication is anything but easy. Speech, language and hearing problems affect 1 of every 10 people. The impact is profound at any age, but for kids it's truly an uphill battle. Communication skills are critical to a young child's development. Without help, these children simply don't develop the skills they need to learn, to grow, to become productive.

Columbus Speech & Hearing Center offers help – and hope. We believe communication is what connects people to each other and to the world around them. So when we help someone better communicate thoughts and ideas, we give them a brighter future.

During this season of thanks and giving, I'm grateful for our many generous friends who make charitable contributions that support our programs. Without this support, we would not be able to provide services to everyone that needs them. I was especially touched this week by one of our young donors. For his 6<sup>th</sup> birthday party, instead of bringing a gift, friends were asked to make a donation to Columbus Speech & Hearing Center. What a generous and thoughtful gesture!

As you make your year-end contributions, I hope you'll consider making an online, tax deductible donation to Columbus Speech & Hearing Center. The need is great and every gift matters. Learn more about how our work changes lives at "Why Your Gift Matters."

Wishing you the very best of the season,

Dawn Steason