

hear ME now!

Maine's only oral deaf education center...

January 2010



Yet another year has flown by and it is time again for us to begin planning our annual ski race. We certainly don't wish a short season to Maine's most beautiful time of year but recognize there is a lot of work involved in organizing this event and we hope we can count on your company to sponsor this year's race. Our 8th Annual "Break the Sound Barrier" Benefit Ski Race is scheduled for March 7, 2010 at Shawnee Peak.

Your continued sponsorship of this great event gives children who are deaf or hard of hearing the opportunity to learn to listen and speak without the use of an interpreter. This model of deaf education is supported through cochlear implant and digital hearing aid technologies. We continue to provide oral deaf educational services at the homes and schools of children, as well as from our new location on Mackworth Island in Falmouth.

A couple quick reminders:

- Your sponsorship counts two-fold! We are fortunate to have a private foundation that matches dollar-for-dollar any sponsorship monies we receive.
- Hopefully you or a member of your company had a great time on the slopes at last year's race. It's a great way to say thanks to your employees or have fun yourself!

Full details of the sponsorship program are included in this mailing. Each team member receives a full day lift ticket and a complete buffet lunch.

We hope you accept our invitation to become a sponsor of this year's ski race. Please select which sponsorship level best suits your needs and **return the completed Sponsorship Form and check by February 1, 2010 to:**

hear ME now!
Tracey Cox
Executive Assistant
PO Box 896
Portland, ME 04104-0896

If you have any questions, please contact me or a member of the committee. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela Dawson".

Pamela R. Dawson
Executive Director

Enclosures

8th Annual "Break the Sound Barrier" Benefit Ski Race for *hear ME now!*

Summit Sponsorship \$5,000 (Plus a match of \$5,000 gives hear ME now! \$10,000)

The Summit Sponsor receives:

- Up to 4, four member teams. Each team member receives:
 - ~ A commemorative fleece
 - ~ Full day lift ticket and buffet lunch
 - ~ Commemorative event t-shirt
- Your company name & logo prominently placed on:
 - ~ The banner displayed the day of the race
 - ~ The t-shirts given to more than 200 race participants
 - ~ All printed materials and advertising for the race including the *hear ME now!* website

Alpine Sponsorship \$2,500 (Plus a match of \$2,500 gives hear ME now! \$5,000)

Alpine Sponsors receive:

- Up to 3, four member teams. Each team member receives:
 - ~ A commemorative fleece
 - ~ Full day lift ticket and buffet lunch
 - ~ Commemorative event t-shirt
- Your company name & logo prominently placed on:
 - ~ The banner displayed the day of the race
 - ~ The t-shirts given to more than 200 race participants
 - ~ All printed materials and advertising for the race including the *hear ME now!* website

Snowfields Sponsorship \$1,500 (Plus a match of \$1,500 gives hear ME now! \$3,000)

Snowfields Sponsors receive:

- Up to 2, four member teams. Each team member receives:
 - ~ A commemorative fleece
 - ~ Full day lift ticket and buffet lunch
 - ~ Commemorative event t-shirt
- Your company name & logo prominently placed on:
 - ~ The banner displayed the day of the race
 - ~ The t-shirts given to more than 200 race participants
 - ~ All printed materials and advertising for the race including the *hear ME now!* website

Timberline Sponsorship \$750 (Plus a match of \$750 gives hear ME now! \$1,500)

Timberline Sponsors receive:

- 1 four member team. Each team member receives:
 - ~ Full day lift ticket and buffet lunch
 - ~ Commemorative event t-shirt
- Your company name & logo prominently placed on:
 - ~ The banner displayed the day of the race
 - ~ The t-shirts given to more than 200 race participants
 - ~ All printed materials and advertising for the race including the *hear ME now!* website

Terrain Sponsorship \$500 (Plus a match of \$500 gives hear ME now! \$1,000)

Terrain Sponsors receive:

- Your company name & logo prominently placed on:
 - ~ The banner displayed the day of the race
 - ~ The t-shirts given to more than 200 race participants
 - ~ All printed materials and advertising for the race including the *hear ME now!* website

Yes! We want to help children with hearing loss learn to LISTEN and SPEAK!

1. Choose your level of Sponsorship

- Summit Sponsor - \$5,000
- Alpine Sponsor - \$2,500
- Snowfields Sponsor - \$1,500
- Timberline Sponsor - \$750
- Terrain Sponsor - \$500

Company Name

Sponsorship Contact Name

Address

City

State

Zip

E-mail

Phone

2. Team Information Contact

Team Information Contact

E-mail

Phone

3. Please mail your completed Sponsorship form along with your payment to:

hear ME now!
Attn: Tracey Cox
PO Box 896
Portland ME 04104-0896

For more information or questions, please contact Tracey at
207-781-6288 or via email at tcox@hear-me-now.org

‘Where children with hearing loss learn to listen and speak’

Our vision is that *ALL* deaf and hard of hearing children can have the option to learn to **listen** and speak to their parents, family, friends and teachers without the need for sign language interpretation.

hear ME now! currently offers a variety of programs and services to work toward our vision. Our programs include:

- **Infant / Toddler Program** (ages 0-3).
- Regular **Music Programs** which include a preschool music class and a partnership with the Portland Symphony Orchestra’s Kinderkonzert Series.
- **Consultation Contracts** with 17 school districts throughout Maine
- Specialized **“Summer Camp”** program that facilitates the development of self-advocacy and hearing loss awareness for early elementary school students.
- **Individualized listening and speech therapy** to those (including adults) who request it.

Future Programs being planned for implementation for the coming year include:

- The reopening of our state licensed **Early Childhood Program** (ages 3-5). This complete preschool program provides intensive exposure to our Auditory Oral curriculum. One of the most unique aspects of this program is that it is an *inclusive* classroom: hearing children are enrolled with deaf children. This model helps our children with hearing loss to distinguish and understand spoken language from a variety of sources.
- An **Oral Deaf Family Literacy Program**. Published research shows that early intervention is a critical component in establishing strong language and literacy skills that can improve a deaf child’s opportunity to reach their highest potential. A well established link exists between literacy levels, educational attainment and employment opportunities. Research also indicates that deaf children who are learning to listen and speak through an auditory based education CAN achieve at or near their grade level language and reading skills.
- Through expanded **Outreach Services** **hear ME now!** will have the opportunity to provide *all* deaf and hard of hearing children in Maine with the **option** of Oral Deaf Education, allowing them to learn to **listen and speak**. A proposed outreach team will provide the necessary supports for children with hearing loss in the traditional classroom setting though an exciting combination of direct service and technology based distance learning.

When the parent of a deaf or hard of hearing child chooses the option of oral deaf education at **hear ME now!** they have the opportunity to experience the following benefits for their child and family:

- The expertise of the **hear ME now!** staff who have the highest level of training, experience and certification in Listening and Spoken Language in Maine;
- The opportunity for their deaf child to learn spoken English as their first language. This foundation prepares the child to begin building strong literacy skills that will contribute to a successful transition to a traditional classroom in their own community by age six;
- A core philosophy that focuses on the whole child to support each child’s self awareness, self knowledge, self advocacy and future success;

At **hear ME now!** a deaf or hard of hearing child can learn to listen and talk with their parents, classmates and friends, understand the spoken language of their classroom instruction without the use of an interpreter, and have the opportunity to contribute to the life of their class, school and community.