



Heartspring

DIALOGUE

Fall 2019



Dr. Martin Palmer,
founder of the Institute of
Logopedics, now Heartspring

On the Cover

In 1934, Dr. Martin Palmer had a dream to help children with disabilities achieve their potential. Today, we continue his legacy through life-changing services that help provide hope to children and their families.

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Our Values



Excellence



Celebration



Leadership



Service



Possibility



Integrity

Ways to Give

The mission of Heartspring is to help children with special needs grow and learn on a path to a more independent life. Your donation will provide hope to children and families both locally and around the country.

- **Donate**
- **Recurring Giving**
- **Legacy Giving**
- **Memorials and Honorary Gifts**
- **Workplace/Employee Giving**
- **Matching Gifts**
- **In-Kind Gifts**
- **Corporate Partnerships/
Event Sponsorships**
- **Volunteer**
- **Shop**

For more information on ways to give, contact Director of Development Stacie Williamson at 316-634-8816 or swilliamson@heartspring.org.

[Heartspring.org/support](https://heartspring.org/support)



Our Story

Founded as the Institute of Logopedics, Heartspring has been a leader and innovator in creating hope and opportunity for children with special needs and their families for 85 years. Heartspring provides a wide range of services and therapies through the Heartspring Residential and Day School, Pediatric Services, and Autism Services to meet the ever-changing challenges of children with special needs.

The **Heartspring School** is a residential and day school serving children with developmental disabilities from across the country.

Pediatric Services offers outpatient therapy services to children from birth to 21.

Autism Services provides services and resources for children and families impacted by a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Heartspring is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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A Legacy of Hope

Eighty-five years.

That is how long we have continued Dr. Palmer's legacy of creating hope for a fulfilling future for children with special needs and their families.



Since 1934, the Institute of Logopedics, now Heartspring, has been led by a group of intelligent, passionate, and dedicated individuals who have served on its board – and through the history of Heartspring, the board of trustees has been a steady constant of support, guidance, and growth rooted in expertise and leadership.

The root of our success lies in the passion and dedication of our employees. And as we look to the future, we honor the extraordinary work that Heartspring staff do every day – thanks to their care, commitment, and compassion, we carry the legacy into our future to continue growing, expanding, and serving more families.

I cherish the power of our history in helping us look ahead.

Through innovation, excellence, and leadership, we are committed to continuing leading the legacy to help create an inclusive, productive future for children with special needs and their families.

Mike Flores

*Heartspring Board of Trustees Chairperson
Assistant Director, School of Accountancy
Wichita State University*

New Look. Same Mission.

We are skill builders, purpose finders, and life changers.

Over 85 years, a lot changes. At Heartspring, this is no different.

We changed our name. We changed our location. We changed our logo (several times).

But one thing hasn't changed, our dedication to our community and the families we serve.

We are committed to celebrating firsts. First words. First steps. First friends.

As we reflect on our 85th year, we look

for ways to honor Dr. Palmer's legacy of hope. In this Dialogue, we commemorate the past through three stories of the lives impacted by Heartspring. We know these stories are just three of the hundreds of thousands of lives changed over the last 85 years.



Thank you to Julianna and her family, Brandon and his family, and Garret for letting us share their stories.

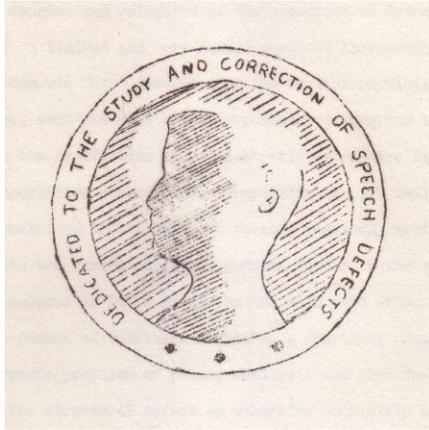
Rachel Mayberry
Heartspring Director of Marketing



The new Heartspring logo honors our past and looks to the future with hope - hope for each child, family, employee, and supporter whose life will be impacted by Heartspring. It reflects our vision of creating hope and opportunity that changes the lives of children with special needs and their families.

The logo in its entirety embodies each child who enters our doors. The heart in the center represents the family at the core of each child's life. The navy heart pours into the child and family in the way Heartspring employees dedicate themselves to improving the lives of the children we serve. And finally, the tricolored heart at the bottom symbolizes the support of our community, which has served as our foundation since the beginning.

All of these parts – the children, families, employees, and supporters – make up Heartspring. The blending of these elements reflects the blending of our hearts and lives: we are forever changed because of each other.



**INSTITUTE OF
LOGOPEDICS**



Heartspring's Logo Through the Years

In 1993, the Institute of Logopedics changed its name to Heartspring to reflect the growing number of services it provides to children with disabilities. "Heart" represents the basis of love for life and "spring" represents the season of new beginnings. Although the name changed, the mission has never wavered.

Celebrating an 85-Year Legacy



Heartspring is founded on the fourth floor of Jardine Hall as the Department of Speech Sciences at the University of Wichita.

Camp Logos opens just outside of Augusta, Kansas. Camp activities included crafts, fishing, swimming, hiking, and horseback riding. Each activity is specially designed to incorporate speech and language skills for growth and independence.



1934

The Department of Speech Sciences and the Flo Brown Memorial Laboratory are officially named the Institute of Logopedics.

1940

A new wing and chapel were added to make more space for classrooms, a library, speech training, and research. The chapel was funded by Sigma Alpha Sorority.

1961

1962

After more than 30 years, the Institute's facilities are in need of major renovation. A \$3 million capital fund drive, the first in 20 years, is launched.

1981

The Institute of Logopedics changes its name to Heartspring to reflect the growing number of services it provides to children with special needs.

1993

Heartspring relocates to a new campus in northeast Wichita. The new home enables expanded programs and improves effectiveness to meet the needs of children that Heartspring was previously unable to serve.



To improve autism awareness in the community, the Heartspring CARE Program begins.



Heartspring launches its Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) program to give students the skills they need to be employable.

1998

The Heartspring School Workshop is opened in April offering real-life work experiences for students as they gain skills necessary for their future employment.

2003

Heartspring starts offering cochlear implant mapping for children with profound hearing loss.



2007

2013



2016

Heartspring celebrates the completion of its Expanding Possibilities campus expansion with a new group home, a cafeteria expansion, an outpatient services addition, and a new CIE and Music building. These new spaces allow Heartspring to serve more children and shorten waitlists.

2019





Therapy Through Music: Where Melody and Possibilities Synchronize

11-year-old Julianna's autism spectrum diagnosis wasn't always easy – and the challenges it came with hindered her ability to express herself and connect to her musical gift.

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy has helped Julianna gain independence in all areas of her life.

Most musicians devote years of practice to learning and mastering music. But to 11-year-old Julianna, music is an innate language she has known since birth.

As a savant piano player, Julianna was born with the unique ability.

“She has always had the raw talent,” says Jelena, Julianna’s mom. “Music has always been her gift.”

This gift was part of Julianna’s Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis, but for many years, her gift remained dormant and undiscovered due to severe behaviors.

At the time, Jelena was alarmingly concerned for her daughter’s wellbeing. Julianna struggled communicating and had elopement behaviors.

“I was scared to death to take her to the grocery store,” Jelena states. “She was a danger to herself.”

Jelena struggled keeping Julianna safe, and naturally, her lack of safety was not conducive to any kind of safe space for creative expression.

Julianna always had a special affinity for the piano – but due to her behaviors, she couldn’t sit, take directions, or even put her fingers on the piano without experiencing a behavioral meltdown.

But after Julianna began working with Heartspring Director of Autism Services Allyson Bell, her world began to change.

Like a new seed waiting to be sowed, Julianna needed a safe, nurturing environment in which she could blossom – and Bell knew exactly what

to do to make this change.

In order to help Julianna gain independence and decrease her self-injurious behaviors, Bell knew that she needed to plant a new seed, and music had to be part of therapy. After all, music was an intrinsic language Julianna understood and used to interpret her world.

By Bell working with a music teacher to integrate Applied Behavior Analysis strategies into music lessons, Julianna quickly learned the finger placements on the keys, and before they knew it, she was playing her own compositions.

“Julianna took off like a rocket with Allyson,” says Jelena.

Soon, the notes became her words, the scales became her sentences, and entire melodies became her stories.

With joy in her eyes, Julianna learned to connect her creative force to the piano keys, channel her musical visions, and play her own unique compositions.

“Julianna loved the piano from day one, so we used it as a reinforcer in therapy,” says Bell. “There is pure talent in her.”

Beyond finding independence, through Heartspring’s Autism Services, Julianna unlocked an endless freedom of creative expression.

“Music is her therapy,” says Jelena. “if it wasn’t for Heartspring, Julianna would not have the musical outlet she has today.”

This is a solicited testimonial.

In My Students' Shoes: A Paraeducator's Life Journey

From the moment he took his first steps as a child to the moment he first stepped into a classroom on his first day of work, Garret Huebert has carried a deep, meaningful connection.



Heartspring paraeducators have unique, diverse life stories.

Some explore career options while going to school. Some make a mid-life career change. Others claim to have been drawn to the organization after hearing about the amazing breakthroughs children achieve daily.

But Lead Classroom Paraeducator Garret Huebert's journey with Heartspring began more than 40 years ago.

When Garret was born at 32 weeks, he only weighed five lbs. With a tiny head the size of a baseball and severe birth complications, he was so small and frail that his mother, Joyce, used a drawer instead of a bassinet to keep him safe.

Due to his premature birth, Garret was born with Cerebral Palsy, a condition that defined his life and shaped his destiny.

"My family doctor said I would be wheelchair-bound for the rest of my life," claims Garret, with a sharp, tenacious look in his eyes.

This was a heavy burden to carry.

Before he could talk, Garret began a journey of painful surgeries to correct deformities in ligaments and improve range of motion.

In her commitment to find her son the best of services, Joyce came across the Institute of Logopedics (now Heartspring).

"I remember driving down Opportunity Drive with my mom and seeing the big building in the middle of campus," says Garret. "That's where I had therapy."

Garret continued physical therapy at the Institute several times a week. He recalls the joyful spirit of the staff and the warm welcome he received every time he stepped into the therapy room.

Soon, his wheelchair was replaced by braces and corrective shoes, and before he was six years old, he took his first independent steps – a moment that left a deep impression in Joyce’s memory as the first time she saw her son be “free.”

“I grew up never knowing I had a disability,” states Garret. “But I know if I didn’t have this experience, I wouldn’t be helping kids at Heartspring today.”

Through the struggles of Cerebral Palsy, Garret found his life purpose – a purpose that brings him joy, hope, and fulfillment: helping children see beyond their disabilities.

Garret remembers and reflects, “I get it. I know what it’s like to be in their shoes and be misunderstood and treated differently.”

Today, he walks down the hallways of the Heartspring School with a cheerful smile and lively sparks in his eyes as students greet him with enthusiasm.

One may never imagine the hardships Garret lived despite the happy, hopeful, and optimistic energy he exudes every day. But the powerful spirit he had as a child now prevails to help children break “free” from the burdens of their diagnoses.



In his role as a paraeducator, Garret helps students with autism and other developmental disabilities learn, grow, and find independence.

Heartspring: A Home Away from Home

At Heartspring, Brandon found a passion for service to his community.

Let me tell you my son's story.

By the time Brandon was 13 years old, we knew he needed specialized guidance, education, and life skills' training in order to succeed in life. Although we lived in central Illinois, Heartspring was the best residential setting for him.

Was this an easy decision for us? No. Brandon had just turned 13. But in our hearts, we knew he needed Heartspring's environment, appropriate challenges, and professional assistance.

When Brandon arrived at Heartspring to move in, it was a day filled with many emotions: a warm and welcoming environment, happiness for the opportunity, and tears, hugging, and saying good bye.

While at Heartspring, Brandon focused on job readiness and transitional skills.

Our entire family will always be thankful for Brandon's opportunity to be a part of the Heartspring family. Through Heartspring, he continues to be the best person he can be.

Sincerely,
Mary, Brandon's mother

“Heartspring prepared me for my current career opportunities: a Page at the Illinois State Legislature and a volunteer at Memorial Medical Center and The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.”

- Brandon

Right: Brandon arrived at Heartspring in 1996. By the time he graduated in 2003, he also received a high school diploma from Wichita North High School.



**“As a person with autism,
I learned an important
fact: everyone is different.
Everyone must accept and
respect the differences.”**

- Brandon



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AUTISM CARE WALK!

Saturday, April 25, 2020
Benefiting local children impacted
by autism and Heartspring's Autism
Services program

AutismCAREWalk.org



pedalfest
heartspring pediatric services

Saturday, August 22, 2020
A bike ride benefiting children
with special needs at Heartspring
Pediatric Services

PedalFest.org