



HeartSpring DIALOGUE

Fall 2021





Our Story

In 1934, Heartspring was founded as “The Institute of Logopedics,” a nonprofit organization in partnership with Wichita State University. Our early service model prioritized children experiencing speech, hearing, and mobility challenges. Located on a beautiful 35-acre campus in Wichita, KS, Heartspring is now known as one of the most groundbreaking therapeutic schools and pediatric service centers in the world.

Heartspring serves children and young adults with multiple intellectual and developmental needs, such as: living with autism; challenges with speech, language, or communication; challenges with mobility and other motor functions; a limited ability to regulate stress and distress; and other pediatric healthcare complexities.

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

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On the Cover

At Heartspring, JoJo found her voice. Read about her journey on page 8.

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A Letter from Karina

This past year was a challenge for all of us. The global pandemic caused us collective grief, separation, and loss. But it also brought us perspective, gratitude, and a different kind of connection. One that reminded us how much we love the sound of each other's voices, the expressiveness on faces, and the power of a simple hug. The last two years have been unlike any we have experienced in our history and we are emerging stronger and more resilient than ever. The goals of last year remain resolutely in place, and the progress we made has reminded us again and again who we are and why we serve the way we do.

Our goals continue to focus on those relationships that best support our children: our staff, our families, and our communities.

- **Staff Strategy:** We introduced policies that supported the staff experience, increased our compensation structure, amplified our diversity and inclusion framework, and positioned us for future growth.
- **Family Strategy:** We introduced the first Heartspring Family Advisory Council in order to learn from the wisdom of our family members and incorporate their feedback into child serving policies, recognition events, family mentoring, and public policy priorities facing our field.
- **Community Strategy:** We worked closely with our Heartspring Endowment and Heartspring Foundation to create a more meaningful relationship, honor the stakeholders who have supported us for sixty of the last 87 years, and to build a new structure that will be fundamental to expansion this year and beyond.

Our Heartspring children and families live with complex intellectual and physical needs. Their lives often include navigating multiple challenges and competing priorities. That journey can be complicated, lonely, and discouraging. It is our job to make that journey some of the best moments and years of your lives. In addition to offering world-class education and best practice therapies, we authentically and consistently care about the children and families in our school and outpatient services.

If this was ever clearly evident, it was these past two years. No matter what was in our way, we showed up day after day offering care and dedication given in love. That is who our staff are. They are the spirit of Heartspring, and I remain honored to serve every one of them and every one of you.

Karina Forrest-Perkins
Heartspring President and CEO



Meet Dr. Kenny Bui

Heartspring Chief Operating Officer

We'd like you to meet Dr. Kenny Bui, Heartspring's new chief operating officer (COO).

Dr. Kenny has 15 years of experience in different elements of product management, project management, and engineering and is a globally seasoned and values-driven manufacturing business leader. His most recent position was as global program manager at Johnson Controls, Inc., the world's leading manufacturer and provider of digital solutions. His global experience has taught him the importance of diversity of thought and opinion, which he contributes to his roles as a board member for the Institute Supply Management (ISM), KANSEL, and Child First: CEO Kansas Inc.

With a Doctorate of Business Administration focusing on



Business Management from California Southern University, Dr. Kenny has a passion for learning. He is well-versed in organizational change management, emotional intelligence, visionary leadership, and conflict management catalysts. Since 2016, he has been an adjunct faculty member at Friends University.

In September of 2019, Dr. Kenny returned with his family to Wichita from having spent three years in Independence, MO. Kenny spends his free time with his family, visiting relatives, fishing, and attending professional training like Kansas Leadership Edge or conferences hosted in Wichita and the surrounding areas.

Please welcome Dr. Bui if you see him around Wichita!



Shem Hatfield

VALUES AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR

Heartspring's 2021 Values Ambassador of the Year, Director of Training and Development Shem Hatfield, leads the Heartspring mission with positivity and purpose.

Since he began his career at Heartspring in 2012, Shem has had a positive impact on all individuals who have crossed his path. Having started his career as a school paraeducator, Shem learned the value of service – a value that, today, as a leader, he exemplifies for others.

With a smile on his face, Staff Trainer Kyle Harvey reflects on the ways Shem has inspired him to grow. “He has taught me so much about the value of service,” he states. “He has taught me about coming up underneath people to lift them to better their situation.”

But to Shem, service does not stop at helping those around him every day – to him, the desire to be of service springs from a growing passion to propel the Heartspring mission forward.

“You can see that every decision that he makes is about how people are going to be impacted by the mission,” mentions Heartspring President and CEO Karina Forrest-Perkins.

One day last April, Shem was found working away on a sewing machine in his office. When asked about his project, Shem explained he was creating

a prototype for new safety gear to test in the Heartspring School.

No matter the task and without thinking twice, Shem always makes himself available to help the organization. He is the first one to sign up to volunteer at Heartspring events, aid employees when their teams are short-staffed, and even design and make safety equipment for staff.

Shem also helps create leaders. With a passion for the Heartspring mission, he runs leadership training sessions and devotes time to help teams better their dynamic with compassion and care.

“He will sit down with anybody and have a conversation with them to let them know how they can improve while improving the lives of everyone around him,” says Employee Relations Specialist Roxy Ramsey.

We congratulate Shem on his nomination, and we thank him for his invaluable dedication to our mission.

“You can see that every decision that he makes is about how people are going to be impacted by the mission.”

*Karina Forrest-Perkins
Heartspring President and CEO*

ad • vance • ment:

the process of promoting a cause or plan



The Heartspring mission has stood the test of time largely because of the support of our community. The meaning of community, as it relates to Heartspring, has also expanded throughout time. Not only do we consider Wichita and surrounding areas as our community, but we also have community members - families and supporters - across the plains of Kansas and throughout the United States. As we continue to plan for our present and look ahead to the future, we ensure the makeup of our team structures do the same.

For many years the Heartspring Development and Marketing Teams have operated as close division partners while also operating independent of each other. **Moving forward, the two teams, now referred to as the Philanthropy and Marketing Teams, will be the pillars of the newly formed Advancement Team.** We are excited to continue the advancement of the Heartspring mission through long-standing, fresh, and innovative connections. We look forward to leaning into those who have been instrumental to our success while inviting others to join.

Like the growth of the Heartspring mission, the goals for the Advancement Team will continue to evolve. We are committed to elevating the life-changing impact made possible by our incredible employees. Together, we strive to advance into a future in which all children achieve their greatest potential.

I am grateful for your support, and I am honored to lead the Advancement Team.

Stacie Williamson

Vice President for Advancement
swilliamson@heartspring.org



Meet Sam

Director of Marketing

Meet our new director of marketing, Sam Anderson. Sam is a familiar face to Heartspring. She worked as the communication specialist from 2015-2018.

She left Heartspring to gain experience as the director of communications at Newton Public Schools where she built up the department and implemented new communication strategies.

Sam is a KU graduate who loves reading, playing board games, and enjoying the Wichita food scene.



Meet Mandy

Director of Philanthropy

Join us in welcoming Mandy Fleming to the Heartspring team!

As the Director of Philanthropy, Mandy will continue building relationships and sharing the Heartspring mission within the community while working to increase support through friends and funds for the families we serve.

You will most often find Mandy attending her children's sporting events, spending time with family, or in the Target or Starbucks lines.

Ways to Give

The mission of Heartspring is to help children 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**

End your year with the warm feeling of generosity by sharing your treasure with the children of Heartspring on Giving Tuesday or as part of our End of Year Giving campaign. This year is even easier with text-to-give. Make your impact by texting HEARTSPRING to 56651.



For more information on ways to give, contact Director of Philanthropy Mandy Fleming at 316-634-8797 or mfleming@heartspring.org.



Give today at [Heartspring.org/hopeful](https://heartspring.org/hopeful).

A Dance of Connection: JoJo's Journey

Many will say that dance is a universal language that can tell stories, express emotion, and share ideas.

The art of language, however, is also a dance.

Though the give-and-take of communication did not come naturally to her, four-year-old Josephine had an energetic dancer within ready to move and synchronize with those around her.

At a young age, Josephine, who is endearingly known as JoJo, encountered a tough obstacle many take for granted: the ability to speak.

JoJo's mother, Emily, recalls how heartbreaking it was to see her daughter spin alone with the thoughts, needs, and emotions she desperately wanted to convey.

"When she was a year and a half, she started regressing," remembers Emily. "She stopped using words, and she started

grunting and using her hands for communication."

But as soon as JoJo began speech therapy at Heartspring, the heartbreak slowly began to fade.

"It was hard at first," states Emily. "She was so scared, timid, and anxious, and she wouldn't let her therapist touch her or be near her."

JoJo's therapist knew exactly what she needed: a little guidance, a little alignment, and a thoughtful, compassionate approach.

Not too long after JoJo began therapy using flashcards and a communication book, something magical happened.

"I'll never forget, she was a little past two years old," recalls Emily. "She pulled some flashcards, and she started reading full sentences in her tiny little voice, and I was blown away."

JoJo's speech therapist discovered that she had hyperlexia, an ability to read at an extraordinarily advanced level.

Word after word, JoJo began to find her voice, express herself, and sway to the rhythm of connection.

"The day she didn't need her communication book anymore will always be a special memory to us," asserts Emily, as she smiles with gratitude and joy.

Now it is JoJo who invites other children to flow with language and embrace their self-expression. She reads to her classmates during story time, she is a role model for her peers, and she befriends any person who crosses her path.

JoJo's journey is a graceful reminder that while there is joy and power in dancing alone, it is when we dance together – when we see ourselves in others and others within ourselves – that we grow and flourish the most.



The Fred F. Berry Jr.

SPIRIT OF HEARTSPRING AWARD

The Spirit of Heartspring award started in 2017 as the iconic award celebrating one person for going above and beyond exemplifying Heartspring’s values of Service, Possibility, Leadership, Celebration, Excellence, and Integrity.

Awarded each year at the Heartspring Recognition Breakfast, the Spirit of Heartspring award looks at the time, treasures, and talents Heartspring supporters contribute to the mission and the children and families served.

In 2021, the Spirit of Heartspring award was renamed the Fred F. Berry Jr. Spirit of Heartspring, celebrating one of Heartspring’s most passionate and fervent supporters.

Fred Berry’s involvement with Heartspring started when his wife, Sue Berry, joined the Women’s Auxiliary Council supporting Dr. Martin Palmer and the Institute of Logopedics, now Heartspring. Sue’s commitment to the organization quickly became a family affair with Fred joining the Board of Directors in 1968.

Fred’s service to the Heartspring mission has been evident for more

than 50 years. He served as a catalyst in reimagining possibilities when the organization unexpectedly lost Dr. Palmer, he mentored new leaders teaching and imparting his own wisdom, and he celebrated with the Heartspring choir when they sang at the National Barbershoppers Convention.

Fred is the embodiment of excellence and integrity.

“When Fred is a part of something, you want to be better because of him,” says Stacie Williamson, Vice President for Advancement. “Because you have his support, you are going to strive for excellence.”

With a humble and kind spirit, Fred makes time for those around him and the organizations close to his heart. He is widely known for his philanthropic spirit and investment in the Wichita community.

Longtime friend, Russell Meyer, Chairman Emeritus at Cessna Aircraft Company expresses it best. “I can’t think of anyone more deserving of the award, nor a more appropriate ongoing name than Fred Berry,” he states.



“He is a good man that God gave a lot to, but he has given so much of it back.”

Judy Worrell, retired Vice President of Berry Companies, Inc.



Past Award Recipients

- 2021 • Fred F. Berry Jr.
- 2020 • Natalie Hinkin
- 2019 • Delta Dental of Kansas
- 2018 • Monte Shaw
- 2017 • Buck Buchanan



Above: Fred F. Berry Jr. has been a passionate and committed supporter of Heartspring.

Right: Fred F. Berry Jr. receives the Fred F. Berry Jr. Spirit of Heartspring award at Heartspring’s 2021 Recognition Breakfast.

Light Your Heart with Heartspring

Presented by **RELEVANT**
AUDIO + VISUAL

We are so thankful for those who joined us at Light Your Heart in June. We elevated our mission, celebrated the children and families we serve, and ignited hope in the hearts of many.

After a challenging year due to the pandemic, Light Your Heart 2021 was our first in-person fundraising event of the year! Thank you to everyone who attended (in-person or virtually), supported, and volunteered to make the evening incredible.

Believe it or not, we are already thinking about our next Light Your Heart which will return to the winter season. **Our next magical night will be on Saturday, February 26, 2022! Get the details at LightYourHeart.org.**

A special thank you to our presenting sponsor for the 2021 and 2022 Light Your Heart festivities, Relevant Audio+Visual, for the set design and production.



Ron and Susan Estes with members of The Studio Singers: Amy Menas



Heartspring student Sarah and Annika Wooton, Miss Kansas



Anna Anderson, Dr. Donna Sweet, and Chris Shank

Save the Date!
Light Your Heart with Heartspring 2022
Saturday, February 26 • Wichita Marriott
LightYourHeart.org



If you are interested in supporting Heartspring as an event sponsor, please contact Mandy Fleming at mflaming@heartspring.org.



Left: Presenting sponsor Relevant Audio+Visual runs the show behind the scenes.

Below: Hundreds of supporters gather for Heartspring's sixth annual Light Your Heart with Heartspring fundraising gala.



Volunteer Group of the Year: Epsilon Sigma Alpha

Heartspring thrives today thanks to the kindness of community members who have supported the mission since its beginning.

Epsilon Sigma Alpha, an international community and service organization, has been a part of Heartspring's success for more than 70 years.

In 1949, the Kansas State Council of ESA adopted Heartspring as its philanthropic project. Since then, this wonderful group of individuals has been a key driver in helping expand the mission through donations, gifts, and volunteer work.

Every year, ESA members put their heart and soul into planning, executing, and hosting the Heartspring School prom and the Day of Love dance to

help students have memorable and fun experiences.

"They have taken on the responsibility of handling everything with our prom," states Director of Family Services and Community Outreach Kristina Baker. "They choose the theme, they come out and decorate, and they spend a lot of energy and time here to celebrate our students."

In addition to the prom, ESA plans and hosts the Day of Love Dance, a Valentine's Day celebration that students and staff look forward to every year, and they partake in Adopt-A-Home/Classroom, a giving program that enriches the lives of students by providing them with gifts and necessities.

Though the pandemic meant that students could not receive

visitors or partake in yearly traditions, ESA still went the extra mile to spread cheer and joy during a difficult year.

"They continued to reach out and say, 'What can we do?'" recalls Vice President for Advancement Stacie Williamson. "They brainstormed ideas and even provided students with Halloween gifts and Valentine's Day treats."

Thanks to the energy, passion, and dedication ESA brings to Heartspring, families sleep in peace at night knowing their children have happy, fulfilling experiences away from home.

"They do whatever they can to lift our students and their families and make them feel special," says Williamson.



2018



2019



2020

Top: ESA sorority sisters host the 2018 Day of Love Dance.

Far Left: ESA sorority sisters serve cookies and other Valentine's Day treats to Heartspring students.

Left: ESA sorority sisters set up games for Heartspring students to play and win prizes.



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Thankful

End your year with the warm feeling of generosity! Please consider sharing your treasure with the children of Heartspring by making an end-of-year gift. Visit our website or text HEARTSPRING to 56651 to give TODAY and help children like JoJo continue to reach countless milestones at Heartspring and enjoy a bright FUTURE!

Please consider making a year-end gift or join us for a day of support on Giving Tuesday (November 30, 2021). The children of Heartspring are counting on YOU!

For more information on making an end-of-year gift, including how you can support Giving Tuesday, contact Mandy Fleming at 316-634-8797 or mflaming@heartspring.org.

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