

UPDATE FROM MISSY & DON



FEBRUARY - 2008

ASSESSMENT COLLABORATION w/ CHATHAM SCHOOLS

The Assessment Program Pilot Project funded by New Voices Foundation was recently completed on February 1. The pilot assessment portion was carried out with the great cooperation of Chatham County Schools Special Education Services Director, Lori DeTrude, her colleagues, and a Chatham County family. Key planning members were Dr. Joanne Medlin and Dr. Jeff Larson, Wake County Public Schools senior staffers. A full report and recommendations from the pilot project will be provided by Dr. Pat Porter in March.

DARRYL LESTER JOINS BOARD

Darryl Lester has joined the board of the New Voices Foundation. An early member of the Planning Council and the New Voices Professional Advisory Council, Darryl was featured in the November 2007 newsletter.

Darryl and his wife, Dionne, are parents of a special needs child, Danielle. Some years ago they created the *Zawadi Education Fund* to support education and organizations serving these children. Darryl is the Founding Partner of Hindsight Consulting in Raleigh, a company that provides tools and strategies for community building and investment. He has worked for the Triangle Community Foundation, NC State University and Shaw University and has served on the boards of the Fund of Southern Communities and Wake County Smart Start.

CASTLE AND NEW VOICES

Don Stedman visited recently with Carolyn Brown, Program Director of the statewide CASTLE Program, headquartered in Durham. CASTLE and the UNC Pediatric Cochlear Implant Program serve more than 500 children statewide with cochlear implants through early education intervention and communications training. New Voices and CASTLE share many goals, challenges and opportunities to reach children with severe communications disorders. Check their website in the UNC School of Medicine.

TWO NEW VOICES ARTICLES

The *Triangle Business Journal* and the *NC Philanthropy Journal* included great articles on New Voices in their January issues. Visit www.philanthropyjournal.org.

PUBLIC LAUNCH SET FOR MARCH 11

Missy Lohr, Elizabeth Benefield, Miles Wright and Rachel Porter visited and toured the new RTP facility on February 8. The new Headquarters building is at 12 Davis Drive in RTP. The Conference Center is equipped with state of the art media capabilities and exceptional meeting space. And is perfect for our March 11 Launch Event. Check out the RTP website (www.rtp.org).

Advisor of the Month - DAVID THOMAS



David Thomas has been fostering cooperation between the public and private sectors for several years. Before he retired from Northern Telecom (Nortel), he was involved in two business/school partnerships, and he helped create several more after he joined the faculty of the School of Education at UNC-CH. Recently he has worked on issues concerning children's health, housing for people with disabilities and support for parents of children with special needs. His New Voices involvement began with the first meeting of the Advisory Council and continues with membership on the foundation board. He advises on finance, organization and business relationships.