

# UPDATE FROM MISSY & DON



## DECEMBER - 2007

### TCF GIFT RECEIVED

New Voices is pleased to announce a commitment of \$45,000 from the Durham Cerebral Palsy Foundation Fund of the Triangle Community Foundation. Given to honor Lara Parker, deceased daughter of New Voices Foundation Vice Chair Missy Lohr, this gift will support equipment purchases essential to launching the assessment program in January 2008. Lara was an early recipient of support from this fund over twenty years ago. While in junior high, she was able to purchase her first computer. Special thanks to Ginger Massey who made possible this gift and extraordinary honor.

### YEAR-END GIVING

Year-end is a great time for giving. When you make a donation by December 31 to New Voices Foundation, you aren't just giving money – you are giving children in our community a missing voice. If you're a taxpayer who is 70 1/2 years or older, you may be able to contribute up to \$100,000 of your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) without paying income tax on that withdrawal (consult your tax professional).

Please make checks payable to "New Voices Foundation" and mail to: Center for Psychology & Education, 100 Europa Drive, Suite 330, Chapel Hill, NC 27517.

### ASSESSMENT CENTER, PHASE 1

New Voices Foundation, aided by funds from the Prue and Peter Meehan Fund, the John Rex Endowment, and GlaxoSmithKline Community Partners Fund, has awarded grants to the Center for Development and Learning and the Center for Literacy and Disabilities Studies at UNC-CH to carry out Phase I of the New Voices Assessment Center. The project will be directed by Dr. Patricia Porter in coordination with CDL Director Dr. Greg Olley and CLDS Director Dr. Karen Erickson. The report from Phase I, due March 1, 2008, will detail the structure, process, referral system, business plan, and key elements of the New Voices Assessment Center that will bring the Center to full operational status by April 1, 2008.

The Wake County Public Schools Special Education Services Director, Dr. Bob Sturey, has designated two members of his senior staff as members of the Phase I Teams. They are Dr. Joanne Medlin and Dr. Jeff Larson, both experienced professionals in exceptional child services.

### NEW VOICES AT NC LEGISLATURE

Don and Missy are visiting members of the legislature who represent the Research Triangle legislative delegation and key health and education committees. The purpose of the visits is to brief members on New Voices and our plans for a regional special education fund to help schools serve New Voices children. So far, they have met with House Speaker Joe Hackney, Repres. Verla Insko, Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, Sen. Richard Stevens, Orange County Commission Chair, Moses Carey, and, Matty Lazo-Chadderton, aide to Sen. Basnight. Every meeting drew support and interest. More visits are planned for January and February. If you have a favorite legislator, tell him or her about New Voices!

### OLSON HUFF



*Advisor of the Month Dr. Olson Huff, highly respected pediatrician and childrens' services advocate, has been a member of New Voices Planning Council and Advisory Group since 2006. Olson believes that "all children deserve a medical home (a part of New Voices School plans), especially those with disabilities." He also believes that New Voices Assessment Center and School will offer a demonstration and training site for "pediatricians who need to know how to deliver basic health services to children with communication and mobility challenges." Dr. Huff is currently a consultant to the Mission Healthcare Foundation, the Duke Endowment and Action for Children-NC, as well as New Voices Foundation. He lives in Black Mountain, North Carolina.*