

Sunshine Cottage™ *Listen*

SCHOOL FOR DEAF CHILDREN



Celebrating 75 Years of Listening & Spoken Language



Celebrating our 75th Anniversary is more than acknowledging the passing of time. It is recognizing the incredible impact our school has had on thousands of parents, and children who began their hearing journey at Sunshine Cottage School for Deaf Children.

Here at Sunshine Cottage, collaboration has been the key to our students' success. Our educators and hearing health professionals establish a partnership with each family to help every child find their path to developing listening and spoken language skills.

Our goal has always been to provide an environment where parents and their children have access to all the necessary tools, education, and advocacy necessary to achieve their maximum potential. Our multi-disciplinary team, along with our parents, have been able to foster confident, kind, and hardworking children excited to venture off and thrive among their typically hearing peers.

Sunshine Cottage stands among a few schools in the country that are on the cutting edge of testing, intervention, hearing technology, and education for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. As a pioneer in the field of speech and hearing sciences, Sunshine Cottage has evolved into one of the premier listening and spoken language schools in the United States, providing educational resources and support across the world. *Now that's worth celebrating!*



The 75th Anniversary kicked-off with an assembly in the gym. Joining our festivities, face-to-face and virtually, were students, alumni, staff, board members, donors, and friends. Executive Director Mark Eads spoke about the history of our school, Mrs. White's perseverance to open the doors, and how the real rock-stars of the last 75

years have been and will always be our students. Mr. Eads stated that Mrs. White's legacy will continue to lead us into the next 75 years.

Sunshine Cottage has shared an incredible history with the families and children who have come through our program, and we are extremely excited to see what the future has in store.

In the Beginning

1946

Mrs. Spencer Tracy of the John Tracy Clinic encourages Mrs. White to open a school in San Antonio for children with hearing loss.

1947

The Junior League of San Antonio is instrumental in the opening of the school. They awarded a \$15,000 donation over three years to establish a pilot program for children with hearing loss.



A caretaker's cottage on the Landa Library property is donated to be used as a schoolhouse. A local hardware store gifts yellow paint for the school, which is how "Sunshine" was integrated into the name of the school.



June 16, 1947

Sunshine Cottage School for Deaf Children is founded by Mr. and Mrs. John H. White, Sr. The school opens as a summer school and begins with six students and one summer-school teacher, Miss Van Wyk.

A life-changing opportunity is now available to children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

A seventh student was enrolled the next semester.



Shown from top to bottom: Caretaker's Cottage illustration. Teachers work with two students from the early years. Students Mary Evelyn Edwards, Gene Roper, Larry Rhoades, Mary Katherine Yost, Tuleta Chittim White, and Paul Mills enjoy music class.

Founders

John H. and Dela White

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Message from the Executive Director



Today we reminisce about our 75 years as a community, the 75 years of helping children, and the why and how it all began - a mother's love for her child. This love has been evident with every parent who walks through our doors in the hope that his/her child live and flourish in a hearing world. Each family's journey is different, but the love and dedication for each child's success is unwavering.

We are fortunate to have records of parents' writings from 1950, and as I looked back at the first Parent Newsletter, I realized that what parents did and how they felt for their children then is identical to how our parents think and what they do today. One Sunshine Cottage parent, Whitney Weaver, found that having a child who is deaf provides her opportunities to grow. She said it best when she wrote the following in a 2018 Alamo City Moms blog.

"Listening for the happiness in every circumstance. It's bold to say that we can choose happiness in every circumstance, and one year ago I would have dismissed that idea. It's amazing to me, though, that two people can see the same circumstance so differently. Our thoughts tell us what to listen for, and whatever we listen for, we find. So why not listen for happiness?

Listening for opportunities, not limitations. At first, I viewed the act of putting on my son's hearing technology as a limitation. Typing that makes me cringe now because that technology is an incredible opportunity. Consider the fact that of the 11 million people in the world who may benefit from a cochlear implant, only 400,000 have them. Consider that not everyone has health insurance that will cover cochlear implant procedures or hearing aids. Consider that of all the places on the planet, our family was led to San Antonio,



Texas, where there is a phenomenal school for children who are deaf and hard-of-hearing. Opportunities. Now I gladly rush to put on his hearing technology so that when we snuggle he hears the "I love you's" and the songs and the giggles.

Being still and just listening. We all need pause and stillness to reconnect with ourselves. Once I allowed that I was able to contribute so much more as a mother and in all aspects of my life."

Whitney depicts the strength, love, and determination of Dela, parents from 1950, and our parents today.

We are excited about entering our 75th year and even more excited for our future. In our next few issues we will share historical information that highlights our journey over the years.

Blessings,

Mark E Eads
Mark E. Eads
Executive Director



You can read Mrs. Weaver's full story at: <https://alamocitymoms.com/ages-and-stages/special-needs/child-hearing-loss-taught-listen/>

The Sun Shines On...

Welcome to Sunshine



Sunshine Cottage recently welcomed **Lorena Rodriguez** to the team as an assistant teacher. Lorena is excited to have the opportunity to work with elementary-aged students. She is married to Carlos and together they have two children, Lilliana, 6, and Sebastian, 12, who is a Sunshine Cottage alumni. Lorena was born and raised in San Antonio and attended Lee High School. She received an associates degree in early childhood education from San Antonio College.

Lorena has more than 13 years experience working with elementary-aged children. She loves helping them grow and flourish. In her spare time she enjoys crafting, shopping, and vacationing with her family.

We welcome **Rosie Ortega** who joined our staff in the maintenance/housekeeping department. **Rosie** is originally from San Antonio and is a graduate of San Antonio Leadership Academy. She was previously employed by Consumer Directed Services (CDS) Home Health Care. She has more than 15 years experience in the health care industry.



We are happy you joined the Sunshine Cottage team!

Happy Retirement

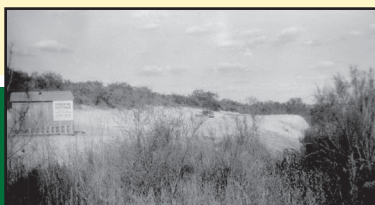
Two Sunshine Cottage employees retired at the end 2021. **Pete Rosales** from the maintenance/housekeeping department and **LeAnne Galloway** from the Elementary Department.

Pete began working at Sunshine Cottage in 2007. He was part of the move from the Tuleta campus to the Hildebrand campus. **Pete** was loved by all; especially the students. You could hear little voices throughout the day saying "Hello Mr. Pete," or "Goodbye Mr. Pete." He was always willing to lend a helping hand and give a welcoming smile. **We will definitely miss Mr. Pete.**



LeAnne Galloway came to Sunshine Cottage in 2008. **LeAnne** was a Teacher's Assistant in different classrooms over the years. She made great friends and bonded with her Sunshine Cottage colleagues. She was always eager to help in the classroom and often volunteered. Everyone benefitted from her years of experience. She was definitely admired and respected by many people.

We wish them continued health and prosperity in their retirement.



1951

City of San Antonio deeds Sunshine Cottage 2.12 acres of land on Alamo Stadium Drive for \$1,500 in back taxes. The gift to purchase the land for Sunshine Cottage was given by Mr. Preston Northrup. Mr. L.A. Nordan and others pledge \$150,000 to build a new school building.

Save the Date

Noche del Sol

Benefitting
Sunshine Cottage School for Deaf Children

Join us for an evening of
Music • Food • Spirits

Silent & Not So Silent Auctions

May 5, 2022

San Antonio Country Club

For more information visit: www.sunshinectottage.org
or call 210-824-0579, ext. 211



Dela's HEARos



Our recurring gift campaign, Dela's HEARos, launched on Oct. 13, 2021. We are excited to announce that we have assembled 52 HEARos, as of today.

Dela's HEARos share these core values:

- They vow to serve and protect the sound quality for every child who is deaf or hard of hearing at Sunshine Cottage by helping to provide state-of-the-art hearing equipment.
- They are dedicated to speaking to others about the incredible work being done at Sunshine Cottage.
- They promise to listen to the beautiful sounds of talking, laughing, and singing that come from every child at Sunshine Cottage.
- They are committed to ensure that more children have the same opportunity.

"That person who helps others simply because it should or must be done, and because it is the right thing to do, is indeed without a doubt, a real superhero." – Stan Lee

Be "That person" and join Dela's HEARos today!

**April showers are upon us. Join today at \$25 or more and receive a special Sunshine Cottage umbrella! Visit our website's donation page monthly giving link or use the QR code.*



FEAST YOUR EARS ON THIS!



Since 1988, Thanksgiving Feast has become one of our favorite traditions at Sunshine Cottage. Despite having to make minor

accommodations to ensure the health and safety of our students, we have been able to continue this feast with all of our students and staff. The Thanksgiving Feast is an opportunity for the children to develop speech and language related to the fall, family, and traditions.

Our students enjoyed a traditional home-cooked meal of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, and cranberry sauce donated by a friend of Sunshine Cottage. Students picked up their delicious meal and gathered in the gym which was decorated in lovely fall colors. We were blessed to have 4th and 5th-grade parents volunteer to help at the luncheon. They made sure our kids **gobbled up** all their veggies before serving the **pumpkin pie!**

Thanksgiving is a reminder to all of us at Sunshine Cottage that we are here today because of the love and support of our community and parents. We are thankful to be a part of the education and hearing journeys of so many precious children.



Thanks to the Parents of the 4th and 5th-graders for Volunteering at Thanksgiving Feast.



1952

On Tuesday, Oct. 21, 1952, Sunshine Cottage was dedicated in a very impressive ceremony attended by several hundred people. Mrs. David Jacobson, who was president of the Board of Directors at the time, presided over the dedication. Rev. Sam Capers gave the invocation, and Mrs. Preston C. Northrup spoke about the history of Sunshine Cottage. The dedication was given by Rabbi David Jacobson. Tuleta White cut the ribbon.

Sunshine Cottage Oct. 1952 Newsletter, Vol. III, No.2

Do You Want to Build a Snowman?

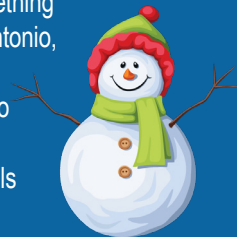


The sounds of laughter filled the air on Friday, Jan. 14, as preschool, pre-kinder, and kindergarten students tossed snowballs and sled down a snow-covered hill at Sunshine Cottage. Smiles were shining brightly, and the sound of joy rang out for everyone to hear: "Gotcha! Watch out! I'm going to make a snow angel!" The cold morning temperatures made it possible for the white snow to stay on the ground long enough for students to experience what it feels like to have an actual snow day. "I like playing in the snow because it's fun!" said one student.

As part of an educational unit about the weather, students learn about freezing temperatures and different winter vocabulary. Snow Day is a fun hands-on learning experience for our students. The annual Snow Day learning adventure gives children a chance to experience new sights, sounds, and feelings. "Students learn words like mittens, snow, sled, and talk about what happens when temperatures turn cold," said Cindy Escobedo, director of academics and educational resources.

We are thrilled to host this learning experience with our students again this year, a tradition that began in 2005.

Snow may not be something we often see in San Antonio, but our students will know exactly how to enjoy it the next time the white fluffy stuff falls from the sky.



Setting the Tone for a Beautiful Holiday Season, times Two!

“The Old Lady who Swallowed a Bell”

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Every year Sunshine Cottage students perform in a holiday play where each student has a speaking line, and all classes participate in a song and dance. It's truly a magical time of the year! This year Sunshine Cottage had double the fun as students performed in two-holiday plays. The 2021 holiday season was particularly special because it marked the 50th and 51st script written by retired teacher, Mrs. Sarah McLinden. Mrs. McLinden has written the scripts for the annual holiday plays since 1971.

The preschool through kindergarten students performed 'There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Bell' adapted by Mrs. McLinden from the book written by Lucille Colandro.

Once upon a time, there was an old lady who swallowed lots and lots of things. Why oh, why did she do that!? We wish she'd tell! Was it to spread Christmas cheer? Was it to steal the reindeer? In the end, the old lady finally reveals her secret as she rings the bell Santa appears and they help him prepare for his biggest night of the year, Christmas Eve.







Sunshine Cottage Presents: "The Elves Big Adventure"



First through fifth-grade students performed 'The Elves' Big Adventure' adapted by Mrs. McLinden from the book 'Little Penguin's Big Adventure' written by Melanie Joyce.

The toys are made, and the gifts are wrapped, so what's an elf to do? Get out of the North Pole and find some big adventures! But where can they find big adventures? Do they find big adventures in the depths of the ocean or the swamps of the Everglades? Perhaps it's in the Australian outback. As the elves continue to find one big adventure after another, they realize that while big adventures are undoubtedly fun and exciting, home is where the heart is, especially during Christmas.

A special thank you to our play directors, Stacy Adams and Taylor May. We also want to thank staff and parents for all the support we received. Their help with the set design, decorations, props, and costumes was tremendous. We cannot wait until next year's play.





Gifts, Grants, Honors & Memorials

November 1, 2021-January 31, 2022

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Oberkotter Foundation
Roberta Wright Reeves Trust

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Ms. Cynthia Barrera
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Mr. & Mrs. James Biela
Mr. Donald Boehme
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Ms. Dorothy Zunker

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Dr. & Mrs. Gary Cox

Mitchel Boehme

Mr. Louis F. Lagleder

William S. Braden

Mrs. Brenda J. Braden

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Halen L. George

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Priscilla & John Lupe

Ms. Mercille E. Wisakowsky

Joella & Steve Mach

Ms. Mercille E. Wisakowsky

Sarah C. McLinden

Dr. & Mrs. Gary Cox

Amy C. Moores

Mr. Louis F. Lagleder

Marilyn Pagenstecher Rabinowitz

In honor of her birthday

Dr. and Mrs. Gerald V. O'Gorman, Jr.

Pete Rosales

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Ms. Elizabeth T. Wilde

Gilbert & Rosemary Wright
Anonymous

In Kind:
Mr. & Mrs. Geary Atherton
Mr. and Mrs. Aaron S. Gutierrez
Natural Bridge Caverns

Dela's HEARos

Thank you to Dela's HEARos founding members!

Rosemary Andrews	Daniel Leimbach
Chris Basse	Lisa Lopez
Jean Boller	Stephanie Martinek
Mary Bordelon	Sarah McLinden
Irma Calderon	Jon McLinden
Sarah Carpenter	Deborah McNabb
Maritza Castellanos	Tammy Monts
Jerry Christian	Connie Munn
Rene & Jessica Collin	Sherri Naegele
James Cook	Veronica Natividad
Sabrina Dannheim	Joe O'Brien
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Amanda Guajardo	Claudia Shortt
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Matt Hagen	Robert Stevener
Kelli & Christopher Harward	Sarah Taylor
Doe Hollimon	Mercia Telmang
Tara Howard	J. R. Vogel
Guy Huskerson	Nidia Yanez
Sandy Ibarra	Christy Young



*Every effort has been made
to ensure the accuracy of
names referred to in this
publication.*

*If you note any errors,
please contact*

*Mary Bordelon at
mbordelon@sunshinecottage.org*

*All donations impact the lives of our children.
Thank you for your continued support of Sunshine Cottage.*

*Due to COVID-19, any gifts received after Jan. 31, 2022,
will appear in our next newsletter.*

603 E. Hildebrand
San Antonio, Texas 78212
(210) 824-0579
www.sunshinecottage.org

Our Mission

Sunshine Cottage School for Deaf Children promotes early identification and intervention for children who are deaf or hard of hearing and helps them develop their maximum potential through listening, spoken language and literacy.

Sunshine Cottage is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit educational organization and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, creed, color, disability, national origin or affiliation.

1953

King Antonio XXXI, Mr. John A. Bitter, Jr., a member of the Sunshine Cottage Board of Directors, and his royal entourage visit Sunshine Cottage.

King Antonio visited Sunshine Cottage for the first time in 1952.

1954

Sunshine Cottage and Trinity University proposed a teacher training program. *Feb. 1954 Newsletter, Vol. IV, No. 5* states: "We have now reached the point where our program should be expanded in a way that will not only improve our school, but would also insure the future of Sunshine Cottage."

Marks the beginning of the eighth school year with 53 students and seven teachers.

Sunshine Cottage provides hearing tests as a service to the San Antonio public schools.

1955

The first sound proof classroom is installed. More classrooms are planned to follow. The room has acoustic tiling on the walls, carpeting on the floor, and suspended ceiling microphones. New desks have front fittings for earphones. Funding for the classroom was provided by Myra Stafford Pryor Fund.

1956

Sunshine Cottage is governed by a community Board made up of educators, doctors, clergy, and philanthropic citizens.



Shown clockwise:

Mrs. James D. Ansley; Mr. R.L. Eastman, Board Chair; Mrs. Alex Thomas, Jr.; Mrs. Rafael Joseffy; Mrs. George Coates; Mrs. Walter G. Stuck; Mrs. Merton M. Minter; Mrs. L.A. Nordan; Col. W.T. Boundurant; Mrs. John H. White; Mr. Vaughn Meyer; Mrs. James Siever; Mrs. Joseph B. Parker, Mr. Lewis J. Moorman; Mrs. Nancy Roe; Miss Mary Kay Van Wyk; Mrs. William R. Sinkin; Mrs. David Jacobson; and Dr. Melvin Thornton.

Fathers of enrolled students attend classes once a week to learn about hearing loss. The classes are taught by Miss Van Wyk, school teacher.

1957

Sunshine Cottage celebrates its tenth anniversary. Mrs. Spencer Tracy is the guest of honor. Mrs. Tracy is the founder of the John Tracy Clinic in Los Angeles.
Sunshine Cottage May 1957 Newsletter Vol. III, No. 9

1958

Sunshine Cottage is accredited as a private elementary school by the Texas Education Agency.

The addition to the Sunshine Cottage building is completed. The 7,000 square-foot addition to the building adds six new classrooms and a library. Suspended from the ceilings are new movable microphone cords. Headphones are now able to be plugged into the floor outlets.

1959

The Charity Ball Association presents Sunshine Cottage with a \$10,000 gift. Sunshine Cottage has been named as a Charity Ball beneficiary for the last four-out-of-five years.

Sunshine Cottage appoints Dr. Rachel Davies new director of the school.

The joint teacher training program between Sunshine Cottage and Trinity University's Education Department begins. Dr. Rachel Davies serves as the program head. The first students enrolled in the program are Joan Utley, Annelle Lykins, and Mrs. Madeline Wilder.

Sunshine Cottage Oct 1959 Newsletter, Vol. VI, No. 2

The original Sunshine Cottage class of students are integrated into Robert E. Lee Junior High School. Three members comprise the class, Tuleta White, Tom Lewis, and Wally Mallay. Mrs. Dorothy Duffy is assigned as their on campus teacher. This is the first time that a class, as an entire group, has been able to enter a hearing school in the public school system.
Sunshine Cottage 1958 Newsletter, Vol. V, No. 1



Celebrate with us! Watch our 75th Anniversary Video. Simply scan the QR code above.