

Past Poster Ambassador Recipients

Child Poster Ambassador:

Paige Dewey was chosen to represent the great state of Arkansas as the 2016 ArkSHA Child Poster Ambassador. She is a six year old who attends Eastside Elementary in Greenbrier, Ar. When Paige was three, she was diagnosed with a rare cancer, Stage 4 Yolk Sac Tumor. Even though the doctors successfully removed the tumor and Paige was deemed cancer free in March of 2013, the powerful chemotherapy that she had to take caused bilateral high frequency sensorineural hearing loss. Paige was fitted with hearing aids through ACH and continues to be carefully monitored through them and the EARS Program. Upon starting kindergarten in the fall of 2015, Paige was fitted with a personal FM System. In spite of her incoming test scores, she has made great gains and is near the top of her class and received a literacy award. Paige was recently named Student of the Month for the character word “perseverance”. She continues to amaze her teachers, parents, and her SLP. Paige inspires others to stay strong, focused and never give up.

Haven McCormack was honored as the 2015 ArkSHA Child Poster Ambassador. Although born healthy, within two hours of delivery, Haven was diagnosed with Pulmonary Stenosis and had two open heart surgeries within her first 10 days of life. While being taken off of the vent in NICU, she suffered a Supra Vagal and went into cardiac arrest causing the doctors and nurses to perform CPR for the next 56 minutes in order to put her on ECMO to save her life. At 5 ½ weeks of life, Haven left the hospital for home. When she was one, she began attending Easter Seals to receive speech, occupational, and physical therapy seven hours a week. Haven has come a long way from being completely nonverbal with her speech therapist. She now carries on conversations with those she is familiar with, is on the pep squad at school, and participates in her church’s children’s musical group “Riptide”. Haven’s school based therapists comment on her joyful determined spirit. She keeps up with her typically developing peers on most assignments, is primarily walking without assistance, and no longer needs an IPAD for clarification when speaking as she has mastered many sounds she did not have previously and continues to work diligently toward other sound’s correct productions. Haven always has a smile on her face, has an infectious laugh, and is always there to be someone’s friend or help them out.

Quinn Moore was honored as the 2014 ArkSHA Child Poster Ambassador. He exhibits outstanding bravery and strength of character in his determined quest to learn how to communicate with others. Quinn’s resolve to keep a positive attitude is exemplary. Even though Quinn is liked by his peers, is involved in multiple extracurricular activities such as swimming, and karate classes, at times when trying to be a part of the real world, he is unable to get his words out or they come across as jumbled which can make him stand out or appear “different”. Quinn has word-finding difficulty coupled with spontaneous speech issues, and severe dyslexia which causes teasing and bullying and exclusion from his peers. Quinn never uses words such as anger or expresses sadness with the way he is treated by his peers, but rather comes to language therapy ready to work to help make his communication with others more clear.

Abyl Chastain was honored as the ArkSHA Child Poster Ambassador for 2013. He is a four year-old boy who was diagnosed with Joubert Syndrome and has been attending Pediatric Day Clinic in Mountain Home since he was 1 ½ years old. Abyl receives all three therapies as his disorder causes significant delays in speaking, walking, and other motor skills. He received his augmentative communication device (Vantage Lite) in 2012. Abyl continues to amaze his speech pathologist with his ease and recall of previously presented material. He is also always very cheerful, and eager to learn and participate in tasks presented to him. Abyl's physical therapist has been working with him on walking and now he is able to walk independently across his classroom. This also shows his motivation, determination, and positive attitude at working to overcome obstacles in his life.

Addison Ferguson was honored as the recipient of the ArkSHA Child Poster Ambassador for 2012. When she was just a few weeks old, she was diagnosed with a profound sensorineural hearing loss and began wearing hearing aids. Addison received her first cochlear implant right after her first birthday and at 18 months received her second. She began working with Dr. King and learned to recognize sounds, use words, speak in sentences, and carry on conversations. At the age of four all of her language tests were within the normal limits with the exception of some articulation distortions. Addison is mainstreamed into a Pre-K program and can't wait to start kindergarten next year!!

Brandon Workman was honored as the ArkSHA Child Poster Ambassador in 2011 for his perseverance and unwillingness to give up. Brandon is a fourteen year-old who attends Conway High School-East. He was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, a seizure disorder, and a speech-language disorder with Intellectual Disability. Brandon is a happy go-lucky young man and a real roadster in his electric wheelchair.

Adult Poster Ambassador:

Dr. Sam Atcherson was honored as ArkSHA's 2015 Adult Poster Ambassador. Sam has found success through the help of audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and his own hard work along the way. Having overcome his own hearing impairment with the help of technology and hard work, it seems that he has derived a significant amount of motivation and inspiration from his personal experience. It is to Arkansas's benefit that he landed in Little Rock so that our audiology community can continue to benefit from his knowledge and teaching. Sam has such a unique ability to teach his graduate students his vast technical knowledge of audiology while lending a personal touch by filtering this information through the lens of a person with a hearing impairment. When seeking someone who can illustrate the successes that we as speech pathologists and audiologists get to participate in, Dr. Samuel Atcherson is a shining example.

Evan Greenwood was honored as ArkSHA's 2014 Adult Poster Ambassador. Since the fall of 2013, Evan has been an auditory brainstem user due to an acoustic tumor related to a neurofibromatosis Type 2 tumor. Evan continues to maintain an infectious positive outlook on life. Evan has his first tumor removed when he was 14 and went several years with just hearing from one good ear. In the past two years, his good ear became progressively worse and he struggled in the classroom and in communicating with his family and friends. He was basically deaf. After the removal of the tumor in his second ear, he became completely deaf in both ears. Evan's top priority was being able to finish college with some

semblance of a normal life. Evan never used the word quit even though he went 1 ¼ semesters with no help in the classroom, and has never shied away from telling his story to others, not only to help himself, but more often than not to help them be more comfortable in communicating with him.

Chris Engelkes was honored as the 2012 ArkSHA Adult Poster Ambassador. He has a hearing loss and was once in the Preschool Language Enrichment Program (PLEP) as a child here at UALR. He later enrolled at UALR in the Bachelors program in Speech Pathology and graduated in 2009. Chris applied to the UAMS/UALR Doctor of Audiology Program and entered in the fall of 2009. We now have a born and raised Arkansas child with communication disorder who will soon be among our ranks as a professional. He is currently finishing up his AuD research project that surveyed 90+ audiologists with hearing loss around the country. This summer and for the next 12 months, Chris will be a 4th year extern at an ENT practice in Tucson, AZ.

Fred Chilcote was honored as the ArkSHA Adult Poster Ambassador for 2011 for persevering and overcoming obstacles he faces as a result of suffering a stroke eight years ago. He has mild to moderate Broca's aphasia and apraxia of speech as a result. Fred is always willing to try new things in therapy and brings a determined spirit to recall information. He enjoys attending art classes in his free time.