United States Congressman Jim McCrery, R-La,

read aloud Maurice Sendek’s *Where the Wild Things Are* to children in the well-child waiting room of the Women and Children’s Building on Thursday, August 16, 2007, during his recess from Congress.

As shown in the photograph, he then gave each child a new book to add to their home library.

Afterwards, Dr. Joseph Bocchini, Pediatrics Chairman, met with Congressman McCrery, described the purpose of ROR and gave him a tour of the children’s clinic. In attendance to greet him were Mark Randolph, Assistant Hospital Administrator; Betty Johnson, Associate Hospital Administrator; Rogers Prestridge, Coordinator of Legal Affairs; Jill Hurd, Director of Medical Services; Zelda Timmons, Volunteer Coordinator; Daisy Kime, ROR Coordinator; and Berte Muslow and Yvonne Mitchell, ROR Advisory Board members.

Our special thanks to Dr. Milton Chapman, ROR Advisory Board member, for facilitating this occasion. KSLA News 12 broadcast this event during the local news at 6 and 10.
Special Thanks to...

these donors for their monetary support:

★ Biedenharn Foundation
★ The Christian Leadership Center at Centenary College of Louisiana in honor of Patty McAlister
★ Mrs. Danielle and Dr. Paul Cooper
★ Hugo Holland in honor of Mrs. and Dr. Warren Grafton
★ Kathleen C. Julian
★ Mrs. Kathrine Magruder in honor of Dr. Warren Grafton
★ Roxy Meers
★ Mrs. Berte A. Muslow
★ Prime Time in honor of Dr. Warren Grafton

these donors for their book donations:

★ Dr. Anil Nanda
★ Marilyn Clawson
★ Marianne Comegys
★ Sharla McClusky
★ Jackie Walton, RN
★ Emmanuel Baptist Church members

Book Fair

A “Books are Fun” book fair, benefitting ROR, was held on November 19–21, 2007, in the private dining room inside the University hospital cafeteria. Some of the categories of books offered for sale included biographies, self-help, fiction, spiritual, crafts, gardening and children’s books. Gift items included audio CDs, toiletries, business accessories, games and toys.

Books are Fun is a subsidiary of Readers Digest and is represented in Louisiana by Carol Sawyer. ROR received 20% of the total sales, as well as new book donations as a result of this fund raising event.

Photographs Wanted

Photographs of children listening to a story are wanted for ROR bulletin board in the ambulatory care clinic. If you have a photograph or photographs that you’d like to share with the general public, then please send them to this newsletter’s editor. This may be a family photograph in casual dress. Please send items that do not have to be returned. Also, please identify the names of the individuals in the photograph; however, the identities will not be made public on the bulletin board. Electronic or paper photographs are welcome. Email them to kchris@lsuhsc.edu with the subject line: ROR BB photo.
Performance Revenues Donated to ROR

The Reach Out and Read program has a unique supporter. Warren Grafton, MD, plays his guitar and sings for many local events, but will not accept money for his performances. Instead, he tells about his favorite charity, Reach Out and Read at LSUHSC-S, and requests donations to that program instead of to him personally. He also has two CDs available of songs he has written as well as other favorites. He directs donations for these to Reach Out and Read.

Dr. Grafton is a retired physician (surgical pathologist). He taught medical students and residents at LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport for 35 years. In his retirement he enjoys playing golf and music. He loves to perform and has entertained in venues, such as senior citizen luncheons and church events. He also plays and sings with a group each Saturday morning at the VA Hospital.

We appreciate Dr. Grafton’s enthusiastic support, and we hope he’ll keep pickin’ and grinin’ for Reach Out and Read!

The Read-Aloud Handbook

The sixth edition of The Read Aloud Handbook by Jim Trelease is available in paperback from Penguin. The first edition spent seventeen weeks on the New York Times Bestseller list. It inspired Public Broadcasting’s “Storytime” series and is the all-time best selling guide to children’s literature for parents and teachers.

Reading aloud to children has been recognized as the single most important factor in a child’s school success. This book offers proven techniques and strategies with the reasoning behind them for helping children discover the pleasures of reading and setting them on the road to becoming lifelong readers.

This book may make an excellent gift choice for your favorite teacher, volunteer reader or parent of a young child.
Appreciation Luncheon

The appreciation luncheon was held on Thursday, November 1, 2007, in the Bistro. In attendance were those who supported the ROR program during the past year.

After a delicious meal, Daisy Kime, ROR Coordinator, presented an overview of Shreveport’s ROR program. It began on January 5, 1999, serving approximately 500 at-risk children through the Tot and Teen clinic. Today, ROR has been implemented in several clinics at LSUHSC-S that serve approximately 7,000 at-risk children.

In March, Shreveport Mayor Cedric Glover read to inpatients at the Children’s Hospital in observance of Dr. Suess’ birthday. In August, U.S. Senator Jim McCrery read to children in the well waiting room during his congressional break.

Ms. Kime reported that Shreveport’s ROR program has distributed 8,003 new books to at-risk children to add to their home library, has trained approximately forty health care providers to encourage parents to read aloud to their young children during well-baby checkups, and has thirteen volunteers for reading in the waiting rooms. She then announced that she would retire at the end of this year and Christine Tharpe will take her place as ROR Coordinator.

Dr. Joseph Bocchini, Pediatrics chairman, and Berte Muslow and Carol Grafton, advisory board members, presented Ms. Kime with a gift. It was a wooden box in the shape of a book, which opened to display a clock and a beautifully engraved plaque. The National ROR Center also honored Ms. Kime with a certificate and a donation of new books to the ROR program.

Louisiana State Senator Lydia Jackson, D-La. was the featured speaker. She began her presentation with some attention-getting facts: 28% of Louisiana’s children live in poverty because 48% of parents do not have full-time employment. Louisiana has the highest infant mortality rate in the country. She then encouraged the volunteers to continue their reading with quotes from well-known children’s books.

After her speech, Dr. Bocchini presented Senator Jackson with a gift of appreciation.

Birthday Party Benefits ROR

When Hayden McClusky had his fourth birthday party, his parents requested that guests bring books for the Reach Out and Read program at LSUHSC-S. Dr. Derek and Sharla McClusky generously donated boxes of new books to ROR recently as a result of that birthday party. Dr. Derek McClusky, who did his surgical training at LSUHSC, practices in Ruston. His wife, Sharla, is President of the Shreveport Medical Society Alliance, and is a strong supporter of Reach Out and Read.

Many thanks to the McClusky’s for such a wonderful birthday party idea that benefitted ROR. Thanks to Hayden as well for sharing his birthday gifts with other children in our community.
Dr. Bocchini presented biographical information about Daisy Kime at the volunteer luncheon. He related that Daisy has had multiple successful careers. Her first career was working as a secretary, clerk and legal technician with a number of federal agencies, primarily the U.S. Department of Justice in the U.S. Attorney’s Office. During this time, she received numerous awards: Superior Performance Award from the Social Security Administration, Sustained Superior Performance Award from the U.S. Marshal’s Office and Meritorious and Special Achievement Awards from the U.S. Attorney’s Office. Daisy retired in 1978 after thirty years of service which were interrupted by two years of service as a Sergeant in the U.S. Marines.

She received a Master’s Degree in Social Work in 1982 from LSU in Baton Rouge, following which she became a school social worker for the Caddo Parish School Board. She took on a number of leadership roles in the National Association of Social Workers, serving as vice-president and president of the Louisiana chapter. She was named Social Worker of the Year in 1987 and was given the Dorothy Schenthal Leadership Award in 1989. She retired again in 1993. After her retirement, she was given the Shreveport Region’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

Since then, Daisy has volunteered for a number of organizations including Child Net and served on a task force to establish a day shelter for the homeless in Shreveport/Bossier under the auspices of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana.
Daisy has been with our ROR program since its inception. It is through her untiring efforts that the program has reached the level of success that it has. She has been a most effective leader. Thousands of children and their families have now been touched by this program.

Early in the development of ROR around Louisiana, she was asked to chair sessions and lead workshops on how to establish and run a successful program. She was the 2004 recipient of the Richard Robinson Award of Excellence from the National ROR Center. This award is given annually to recognize an individual who demonstrates an outstanding commitment to ROR. She is the third recipient. She was cited for her creativity, energy and passion for the program.

She has helped develop our program and has been responsible for a number of successful initiatives, including celebrity readers, Dr. Suess’ birthday with a green eggs and ham breakfast, elected official visits, training and scheduling volunteer readers, stocking the books, and community awareness speeches at numerous luncheons for fundraising purposes.

Fortunately, Daisy will continue to serve on ROR’s advisory board after she retires for a third time this December. Dr. Bocchini introduced Christine Tharpe to the attendees, saying she will serve as our ROR coordinator beginning in January 2008.

[At the editor’s request, Christine offered the following biographical information for this article].

Christine is a lifelong resident of Shreveport and graduated from LSUS with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications/Public Relations. She worked for KTBS-TV as the Call 3 Coordinator, where she gained experience recruiting, training and working with volunteers, who are vital to the success of an organization.

Since her children are now in elementary school, Christine has been actively volunteering at their school. Last year she served as the PTA President and will continue to volunteer at their school as time permits because she feels that parental involvement in the schools is very important.

Christine has always been an advocate of reading aloud to children and has enjoyed reading to her own children immensely. She feels strongly that reading is one of the most important activities a parent can do to prepare their child for school and thus, lifelong success.

In Christine’s words, “I am very excited to accept Daisy’s position as ROR Coordinator and I look forward to building on her successful management. I think that it is a great program with a huge potential and I feel fortunate to be a part of it.”
Form to Volunteer to Read to Children in the Clinic Waiting Room

Name: ____________________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zipcode: ________________________________________________________________________________
Phone: __________________________ Email: ________________________________________________________________

Please mail completed form: Reach Out and Read, Department of Pediatrics, LSU Health Sciences Center, 1501 Kings Highway, P.O. Box 33932, Shreveport, LA 71130-3932

Gift Form

You may make a tax-deductible donation to Reach Out and Read at any time during the calendar year.

• Please credit my/our gift of $___________ to the Reach Out and Read (ROR) program.
• Please credit my/our gift of $___________ to ROR’s Adopt-a-Child program.
• My/Our employer(s) will match my/our gift. The appropriate form is enclosed.
• Please charge $___________ to _____ Visa _____ Mastercard _____American Express

Credit Card Number: ________________________ Signature__________________________ Exp. Date _____________

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zipcode: ________________________________________________________________________________

This is /a memorial/an honorarium/in memory of /in honor of ___________________________________________

Notify: __________________________________________

Please make checks payable to LSUHS Foundation and include a notation that the gift is for Reach Out and Read. Mail completed form to: Reach Out and Read, Department of Pediatrics, LSU Health Sciences Center, 1501 Kings Highway, P.O. Box 33932, Shreveport, LA 71130-3932
ROR Happenings is a newsletter that is published three times a year. Issues appear in March, August and December. Please send any news submissions to one of the volunteers listed below by February 1, July 1 or November 1 to have your news item included in the next issue of the newsletter.

Senior Editor: Kerri Christopher, Library, LSU Health Sciences Center, P.O. Box 33932, Shreveport, LA 71130-3932; telephone:(318) 675-5393; fax:(318) 675-5442; email: kchris@lsuhsc.edu

Junior Editor: David Duggar, Library, LSU Health Sciences Center, P.O. Box 33932, Shreveport, LA 71130-3932; telephone:(318) 675-5472; fax:(318) 675-5442; email: ddugga@lsuhsc.edu

Method of preference for submissions: email message with attachment directly to either editor. Fax, mail or telephone call submissions will be accepted, but some type of electronic format is preferred.