



**Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research (ISTAR)
Communication Improvement Program (CIP)**

An Institute of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Alberta

November 7, 2013

Dear Honoured Members of the Elks and Royal Purple:

Season's greetings from the staff and clients of ISTAR! I find that the holiday season is the perfect time to pause and reflect upon the wonderful accomplishments of the past year. As you know, ISTAR's mission is to, with the support of the Elks and Royal Purple, discover, disseminate and apply knowledge that prevents and remediates stuttering and improves communication in people of all ages across Alberta, Canada and the world! This year we continued to make many great strides in fulfilling our mission thanks to your generosity! It is my great pleasure to have this opportunity to share with you some of the year's highlights.

Your support helped 437 children, teens and adults to receive transformative speech therapy at ISTAR in Calgary and Edmonton this year! You helped ISTAR to free the voices and transform the lives of hundreds of people. The best way for me to share with you the impact that you made on those lives is to allow our clients to express their sentiments in their own words:

"I believe this experience [ISTAR treatment] has blown open the doors to many opportunities in my life. The control I've found over my fluency is truly life changing." ISTAR client

"I'm blessed with the program, thank you." ISTAR client

"The intensive clinic was a breakthrough [for my son]" ISTAR parent

Despite it being our wish, we know that not every child who struggles to talk can make it to ISTAR. That's why we share our advanced knowledge about speech therapy with clinicians from all over Alberta and the Northwest Territories. With your help, we trained hundreds of speech-language pathologists how to provide the best treatment possible outside of ISTAR to their own clientele. A shining example of our outreach is the work of one of our Calgary clinicians, Elizabeth, who travelled to Yellowknife to deliver ISTAR services and training. Elizabeth had the great honour of being hosted by the local Royal Purple during her stay!

Wow! These are just some of the amazing accomplishments that your generosity to ISTAR made possible. To learn about more of our year's successes visit us at www.istar.ualberta.ca. I guarantee that your heart will be warmed on this cold winter's day! The clients and staff at ISTAR are truly incredibly fortunate to have the Elks and Royal Purple as our partners. We thank you for your selfless giving and we wish you the very best this holiday season!

Sincerely,

Deryk Beal, PhD
Executive Director