

## Donor Highlight

**AARON TELLE, TELLE TIRE & AUTO CENTERS,  
PRESIDENT & CEO, FOURTH GENERATION**

*Aaron and Laura Telle, while experiencing well-earned professional success, have always lived humbly in their Christian faith and have given generously to their community. Their top priority is enjoying time with their three sons—Austin, Samuel and James. The Telle family is actively involved in church and several local charities but are most appreciated for their generous support for the children of LASE Specialized Education. They have experienced the blessing of a child with special needs, and trust fully in God’s plan for their family.*

Aaron Telle began his career with Telle sweeping floors and shuttling customers while in high school. He dedicated himself to learning all aspects of the tire business and, in 2009, Aaron took over as the fourth generation owner of Telle Tire & Auto Centers. He and Laura have led the expansion of the family business from their corporate headquarters in Richmond Heights to 10 locations within and surrounding the Greater St. Louis Area.

Aaron is strong in his leadership skills and encourages his employees to build long term relationships by providing the best customer service possible. T.J. Bayer, General Manager of the Sunset Hills location, proudly talked about Aaron’s inclusive leadership style and acknowledgement of the company’s successes in terms of “how can **we** use this opportunity?” and “look what **we** accomplished!”

Aaron has served on the golf committee for several years and Telle Tire & Auto Centers was a major sponsor for the 2019 LASE tournament. And talk about teamwork—Aaron’s foursome won the first place trophy! Thank you to the Telle family for their loyal and generous support!



Telle Family—  
Aaron, Laura, Austin (8),  
Samel (6) and James (2).



## LASE 2019 INSIGHT SERIES WORKSHOPS

**“A student is not defined by their weaknesses. Seek to recognize their strengths and build on them.”**

A big shout out to **Jim Russell, PhD**, who presented as the keynote speaker on **The Twice Exceptional Child (2E)**. Over 300 educators, representing 35 Lutheran schools, were impacted by his wisdom, knowledge and strategies for the 2019–20 school year.

## LASE MISSION STATEMENT

LASE provides Christ-centered education to students with unique learning needs so they can grow academically, socially and spiritually.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## DID YOU KNOW?

**One in ten children has a learning disability. Ten out of ten children are loved by God.**

The need for the LASE program continues to grow and we anticipate impacting more students with special learning needs during the 2019–20 school year. We currently provide special education services in 18 Lutheran schools and will impact the lives of 1,200 children (including screenings) in our community. As we continue to meet the growing needs of families, we are actively recruiting certified special educators who enjoy sharing the love of Jesus.

## From the Executive Director

### LIVING IN GOD'S PROMISE

Every year LASE faculty and staff choose a theme that unites us and reminds us to keep God at the forefront of everything we do in our ministry. This year, it's Romans 8:28, ***"For we know that in all things God works for the good of all who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."***

I wanted to learn more about this verse and fully understand its meaning. My first thought was that all things aren't *good*. With all the suffering, disappointment, conflict and loss in today's world, what is God's message here? What does He really want us to know? How can LASE staff and educators embrace it as we strive to meet the ever growing demand of hundreds of children with special learning needs?

This verse is a promise. So when we have those difficult conversations with parents about the complex needs of their child; or we find a student crying because he failed a test; or a Lutheran schools' budget can't support much needed LASE services within their school; we ***must trust***. God will work all things together for the good of those who love Him.

Whatever the circumstances that come to us, we can always rely on God's promise in Romans 8:28. How comforting that is.



Jackie A. Smith, M.A.  
*Executive Director*



LASE Executive Director,  
Jackie Smith

## My faith is my strongest teaching tool!

**"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, DECLARES THE LORD, PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE."  
—JEREMIAH 29:11**

God sent a special blessing to LASE Specialized Education when He fulfilled His plan for Sharon Schmidtke to impact the lives of students as the Educational Consultant at Grace Chapel Lutheran School. "As I enter my 30th year of teaching, I finally feel that I can be my true self and share Jesus with these students on a daily basis." Sharon spent 28 years of her life teaching in public schools in areas of our community that resemble "war zones." Few had religion in their lives, family support or stability/safety in their home life. It was a constant challenge to reach them and give them hope. Now, teaching in a Lutheran school, she loves coming to work, attending devotions, and sharing Christ in her lesson plans.

"I no longer have to hold back a big portion of my life—my faith—it is my most powerful tool. I can teach grace and forgiveness. I can model a Christian life openly, and direct them to the Bible for answers and I feel them respond." ***A Christian woman has great influence on those lives she touches.*** Sharon's LASE students are thriving and she is touching the entire student body at Grace Chapel by sharing her example of living in faith as a beloved child of God.



## GRANT SUPPORT

THANK YOU *to the following LASE Supporters:*

- ▶ Cardinals Care
- ▶ Concordia Outbound Ministries
- ▶ Employees Community Fund of Boeing
- ▶ Wayne C. Kaufmann Foundation
- ▶ Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
- ▶ St. Louis Christmas Carols Association

## Speech is Much More Than a Sound



It's those little gestures that mean so much. Dawn Praechter, LASE Speech Pathologist, received a lovely thank you note from a grandmother regarding her grandson's progress. "I was touched by the level of love and her wisdom in realizing just how vital effective speech language skills are as a child begins his academic journey," said Dawn.

Early intervention and effective oral communication are essential for children with speech challenges. Children with speech difficulties struggle with spelling tasks and written expression because their incorrect speech sound substitutions or omissions can impact these areas. Spelling errors often mimic the same incorrect sound patterns as the error in a child's speech. Speech and language therapy provides support to students in recognizing and correcting speech sounds, which can then assist with reading and writing proficiency. Better grades, increased social skills and improved confidence often result. When working together as a team with teachers and parents, it's amazing the improvement students can make in their communication skills. Research indicates that three in five children have some type of speech and language delay or impairment so it's critical to identify these children as soon as possible. LASE educators work closely with preschool teachers in Lutheran schools to identify any young child struggling with speech and language skills so they may access the resources and strategies necessary to succeed in school. Speech and language pathologists, with their understanding of overall child development, assist in identifying other areas of concern, so as to meet the needs of the whole child and to provide necessary referrals and recommendations to parents.



Zion Lutheran foursome, Don Hugo far right

## Board Insights

WRITTEN BY DON HUGO

When I was asked to serve on the LASE Board of Directors fifteen years ago, I was thrilled to accept. I envisioned the role as a position that focused on kids and their needs. I expected to work with dedicated staff members, caring leaders, and strong fellow board members for a great cause. As I look back, I've gotten all that and more.

LASE is about helping children with specialized needs reach their potential in a caring setting bathed in Jesus' love. The work is as varied as the number of students we serve. When I was a school principal, I had to struggle at times to focus on individual needs when the groups I served were large. **But LASE is about each child and the specific gifts God has given to them. It is about listening and exploring options and bringing well designed personalized plans to bear on each child's needs.**

Working on the board has been a joy for me. I get to participate in decision-making that directly impacts children and families. That's pretty good. But I most like hearing the stories from kids and families who are benefitting daily from the work of our LASE staff. Our staff gets to share Jesus' love at work each day with the children they serve. That has to be the best.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### October—Learning Disabilities Month

Read an article, volunteer, donate or have a discussion. Please partner with LASE to educate others on learning disabilities.

#### November 9, 2019 (Saturday)

##### Herald the Holidays

Doubletree Hotel St. Louis Westport  
Luncheon, Silent Auction, Boutique and Style Show featuring fashions from SteinMart, Gloria's Unique Boutique & Euphoria Beauty Bar and Boutique, \$60 per person or \$600 for reserved table of ten. Sponsorships, donations and volunteer opportunities available.

#### June 22, 2019 (Monday)

##### Thirty-Eighth Annual Golf Tournament

Sunset Country Club, Sunset Hills, MO  
4 person scramble, lunch, oral auction, Evening cocktails and hors d'oeuvre buffet  
Sponsorships, donations and volunteer opportunities available.

For information or registration for events, visit [lutheranspecial.org](http://lutheranspecial.org) Events Page or call 314.268.1234





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## Herald the Holidays— November 9th

**DOUBLETREE BY HILTON WESTPORT**

The incredible ladies of the Herald the Holidays Committee are busy planning an exciting event to kick off your holidays! Please note our new venue, which promises great holiday ambiance, excellent service and a delicious luncheon for our guests. The Holiday Boutique will be stocked with unique, handcrafted items for your Christmas shopping pleasure. Our style show reflects fashion at its best, featuring Steinmart, a time honored favorite, and the new trend of “Fashion in Motion” with clothing from popular local Fashion Trucks: Gloria’s Unique Boutique and Euphoria Beauty Bar & Boutique! Reserve your table early—you don’t want to miss this holiday celebration that supports the LASE mission to bring the love of Jesus to every student.



## 37th Annual LASE Golf Benefit Raises Monumental Amount for Kids!

The biggest blessing of the 37th Annual LASE Golf Benefit was the core of support from our Tournament Partner, **Foam Supplies, Inc.**, our treasured committee members, \$94,000 in sponsorship support and \$21,500 in donor support for our Children’s Challenge. We had beautiful weather and great attendance.

However, the biggest stars of the LASE 37th Annual Golf Benefit were Student Ambassador, **Lydia Jurchin**, St. John’s Lutheran School in Arnold, and her dad, **Peter**. They shared their personal story and expressed gratitude for the direct impact of LASE services on their life. Lydia represents the 1



out of 5 children with learning and attention issues who are not formally identified, and thus struggle with getting the support needed to be successful. Thank you to everyone. See you next year!!