

How Far We've Come

85 Years of History Sees Many Changes in Technology and Access for Individuals with Hearing Loss

When the Milwaukee League for the Hard of Hearing (the original name of the Center for Communication, Hearing & Deafness) was first formed in the late 1920's, hearing



Carbon hearing aids were still common in the 1920's.

technology had improved only slightly from the low-tech ear trumpets used in the 1800's. Carbon, body-worn hearing aids were still common, ear-level hearing aids were not yet invented, and cochlear implants, well, those weren't even a dream yet.

This is a large part of why speechreading groups and social activities were such an integral part of the Center's early history. Learning to read lips was an essential skill, since hearing instruments were bulky, expensive, and had limited success for those with more severe hearing loss. And, the prevailing trend in Deaf education was exclusively oral – the teaching and use of American Sign Language was discouraged. And the telephone? That wasn't even an option for deaf or hard of hearing individuals at the time.

Fortunately, the Center has witnessed an astonishing number of changes in technology and viewpoints during its 85 year history. And today, children who are Deaf or hard of hearing have unlimited opportunity to reach their fullest potential thanks to early intervention and access to information, support, and services to meet their communication needs. Adults with hearing loss can now be found in every profession and every sector of our economy. There are Deaf and hard of hearing doctors, lawyers, actors, professional athletes, scientists, authors, politicians and business owners. With hard work, determination, and the opportunity to succeed, there is no limit to what individuals with hearing loss can accomplish.

As the Center reflects on its 85th anniversary, we note some of the most important milestones in technology development, Deaf education, and equal access, and we look forward to more exciting changes in the future.

1920's-30's – Vacuum tube hearing aids became popular, which made them more efficient at amplifying sound and more effective for those with severe hearing loss. But, some were still as large as a desk radio.

1952 – Transistor hearing aids, which were smaller and required only one battery, became available to the public and allowed for the development of many styles of hearing aids including body-worn, eyeglass hearing aids, behind-the-ear and in-the-ear aids.



Transistor hearing aids were much smaller and more versatile than earlier aids.

1957 - The first stimulation of an acoustic nerve with an electrode successfully allowed the person being tested to hear background noise. This discovery was a precursor to the development of cochlear implants.

1960 - William Stokoe, a hearing Gallaudet College professor, published a breakthrough thesis proving that American Sign Language is a unique language separate from English, and not merely a visual representation of English.

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1960's – TTYs (also known as Teletypewriters) were developed, finally making the telephone accessible to the Deaf.

1970 – The Total Communication movement takes hold and becomes a popular approach to deaf education. Total Communication integrates sign language and spoken language into teaching and focuses on tailoring the communication approach to the needs of the individual child.

1975 - Public Law 94-142 was passed, requiring children with disabilities in the US to be provided with “free and appropriate education”. This law allowed many children to be mainstreamed into regular public schools.



Cochlear implant technology has advanced significantly since the 1980's.

1980 – The first closed-captioned television series is broadcast.

1984 – Cochlear implants were no longer considered “experimental” and were given the stamp of approval from the FDA for implantation into adults.

Mid-1980's – Scientists discover that adult birds can regenerate hair cells and repair hearing loss caused by noise or drugs. This launches the exciting field of hair cell regeneration research that is searching to find ways to restore hearing in humans as well.

1988 – The Deaf President Now protests take place at Gallaudet University, and lead to the appointment of the first Deaf person to run the university. A watershed moment in Deaf history, the DPN movement has since become synonymous with self-determination and empowerment for deaf and hard of hearing people.

1990 – The FDA approves cochlear implants for use in children as young as 2 years. In 2000, the minimum age was lowered to 12 months.

1990 – The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is passed to ensure equal access for persons with disabilities. Title IV of the ADA mandated that nationwide relay services be available 24/7. This marked the first time that individuals who were deaf or hard of hearing could independently make phone calls to anyone, anywhere, at any time.



An early TTY.

1993 – The National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) Consensus Development Conference on Early Identification of Hearing Loss concluded that all infants should be screened for hearing loss at birth, paving the way for Universal Newborn Hearing Screenings which are now implemented in every state in the US.

1996 - The first fully digital behind-the-ear and in-the-ear hearing aids were made commercially available, and had a computing capacity of 40 million instructions per second.

1998 – The Telecommunications Act of 1996 rules go into effect, mandating that within the following 8 years, 100% of non-exempt new television programs must be captioned.

2003 – Sorenson develops the VP-100 – the first stand-alone videophone specifically designed for the deaf community, enabling Deaf individuals make telephone calls using American Sign Language. Videophones rapidly replace TTY's in the Deaf Community.

2008 – CCHD launches its Auditory-Verbal teletherapy program, which allows children with hearing loss from anywhere in the country to receive specialized therapy via the internet and webcam.



Adult Children & Aging Parents Workshops

Sometimes sitting down and having conversations with family members about later-life decisions can be difficult due to generational gaps, family dynamics, and other communication barriers. But working together as a family to discuss and resolve difficult issues such as housing choices, long-term care, advance directives, and preparing for the future, is critical to everyone’s well-being. To help you break down these communication walls, CCHD will be hosting two workshops in November, from Iowa State University’s “Adult

**Adult Children
& Aging
Parents**
Conversations
between generations

Children & Aging Parents: Conversations between generations” series.

For details on these workshops, please see the back page under Mark Your Calendars!

I work with older adults and have seen hearing aids make a huge difference in people's lives, even those with severe hearing loss. But I've also worked with people who say that hearing aids didn't help them and they ended up throwing them in a drawer somewhere. Why does this happen? Are these people just being stubborn?

Since there are many causes and types of hearing loss, it is true that hearing aids won't work well for everyone.



However, hearing aid technology has advanced dramatically in the past 5-10 years, and more people than ever before are able to get significant benefit from these tiny ear-worn computers – even those with severe hearing loss. But, let's take a look at some of the most common reasons that hearing aids may end up being less effective than they could be.

Old technology. Comparing a pair of hearing aids from 10-15 years ago to the state-of-the-art digital devices of today is often like comparing apples to oranges. So, if someone had tried hearing aids in the past and found that they weren't helpful for their particular hearing loss, they may think that they still wouldn't benefit from hearing devices. However, hearing aids have become very sophisticated and powerful in recent years, and many people are surprised at how well they can now hear with today's technology.

The wrong technology. One of the best things about current hearing aid technology is that devices can really be customized to an individual's specific hearing loss and lifestyle demands. There seems

to be an endless combination of styles, features and programming options available. But knowing what will work for each individual takes a lot of knowledge and experience. That's why working with a licensed Audiologist, such as those at Community Audiology Services, is so important. An Audiologist can ensure that you select a hearing device that's right for you, and will help you choose one that will give you the highest satisfaction based on your needs, expectations, and budget. In addition to having qualified hearing professionals on staff, Community Audiology Services also works with several hearing aid manufacturers, as each line of products has unique benefits and features to consider. Just as the right hearing aid can make a dramatic difference in a person's ability to hear clearly, the wrong device can lead to a negative experience with hearing aids. So, working with a full-service hearing center like Community Audiology Services can give you a much better chance of success.

Waiting too long. On average, people wait 7-10 years before getting help for hearing problems. Unfortunately, during that time, restructuring in the brain can occur as a result of "auditory deprivation", and this can ultimately affect how well hearing aids work down the road. Basically, if certain parts of your brain aren't being used to process sound information, the brain will either reassign those areas to some other task, or just become less efficient at processing sound because it doesn't get enough practice. The result is that understanding speech clearly can become more difficult, and distinguishing between background noise and the sounds you want to hear can become more difficult as well – even with hearing aids. So, just as with other health concerns, early detection and treatment of hearing loss can usually ensure much better outcomes, and may even be less expensive in the long run.

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Thanks to our donors who help make it possible to continue the work of CCHD.

We gratefully acknowledge contributions recorded between June 22, 2011 and September 22, 2011. Every effort has been made to ensure that all donors are listed. If there are inadvertent errors or omissions, please call 414-604-7211.

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Volunteers:

CCCH is grateful to the dedicated volunteers who help support the Center's mission of helping others. Recent volunteers include:

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Unrealistic expectations. The right hearing aids can be life-changing for a person with hearing loss, but they still cannot restore hearing back to “normal” the way that glasses can bring back 20/20 vision. Hearing aids will always work best in quiet environments and when talking one-on-one to people. Although features such as directional microphones, integrated FM systems and adjustable sound programs can be extremely helpful in difficult listening situations such as at a restaurant or during a meeting, there may still be challenges. This is especially true if a person has a more complex type of hearing loss that significantly affects speech discrimination or auditory processing in the brain. This is another reason why it is so important to work with an experienced Audiologist – they can help you set realistic expectations for how much hearing aids will help you in everyday situations and can also make recommendations about other strategies you can use to maximize your ability to hear and understand.

Giving up too soon. Imagine how it feels when you sit in a dark theater for two hours and then walk into the sunlight. The bright light can feel overpowering until your eyes fully adjust. For many people, wearing hearing aids for the first time is a similar experience and they may feel bombarded by sound. Having lived in a quiet world for a while, their brain may initially have trouble managing all of the new sounds around them and it can be overwhelming at first. Fortunately, our brains are very good at adapting, and if worn every day for an increasing amount of time, most people fully adjust to their new hearing aids within 30-90 days. If a person gives up on their hearing aids before giving themselves a chance to fully adjust, they may believe that hearing aids don't work for them, and consequently, miss out on all they have to offer!

For more information about hearing aids and hearing rehabilitation services available at the Center, call Community Audiology Services today at 414-541-HEAR (4327), or email cas@cchdwi.org.



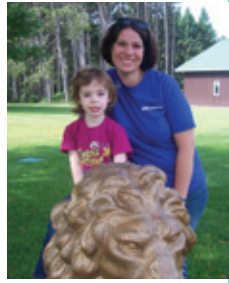
Lions Corn Roast

If you happened to be at the Wisconsin State Fair in August and stopped by the New Berlin Lions Club corn roast stand, you may have seen some familiar faces! Staff from CCHD came out to work the stand for an evening to support the New Berlin Lions, which generously donate to the Center each year

Days of Caring Volunteers

Employees from Northwestern Mutual and Rockwell Automation recently spent time volunteering at CCHD as part of the United Way's Days of Caring.





Families Find Harmony at CCHD Family Learning Vacation

The Wisconsin Lions Camp was filled with smiles, laughter and sounds of music this past August when CCHD hosted its annual Family Learning Vacation. Families from all over the state with children who have hearing loss gathered for this special event featuring guest speakers, educational workshops, family activities and lots of fun!

The keynote speaker this year was Christine Barton, an award-winning composer and performer, and a board certified music therapist. Ms. Barton shared information about the strong connection between music and language development and helped parents learn how

they can integrate more music into their deaf or hard of hearing child's daily life. She also led a workshop on "Music and Literacy Development in Young Children with Hearing Loss," providing tips and techniques that parents and therapists can use to boost children's reading skills by incorporating music activities.

Other presentations and workshops held throughout the weekend highlighted the latest wireless technologies and assistive listening devices for hearing aids and cochlear implants, how to help your child develop self-advocacy skills, and how to increase your child's literacy.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers, presenters and staff members who contributed their time and talents to Family Learning Vacation 2012 and helped make it such a success. CCHD also thanks the organizations and businesses who generously donated to FLV, including The Ettinger Foundation, Gallaudet University Regional Center at John A. Logan College, Safe Alternatives for Youth, Doris Chortek, The Dan Christophe Jr. Legacy Fund, Sharon Vivian, Wonderlic, Michael Kravit, Chuck Tripi, Bobby Cohen, Dairy State Foods, Gutglass Erickson Bonville Seibel & Falkner, SC., Sarano Promotions, Sattel Johnson Appel & Co., Michael & Ellen Schlossman, and Schlossman Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge City.

Speechreading Classes Help Adults Regain Independence & Enjoyment of Life

If you have a hearing loss, but aren't able to communicate as well as you'd like, consider enrolling in an upcoming speechreading class at CCHD. These small group classes meet weekly and provide instruction and practice of a variety of hearing loss management skills such as lipreading, using assistive devices with your hearing aids, self-advocacy, and problem-solving difficult listening situations.

Classes are forming now, and are grouped according to schedule and communication needs. Classes are held for one hour each week for 8 consecutive weeks and cost \$120 per person. Arrangements can be made to host a class at location other than the Center if there are enough participants in that area. For more information, please call 414-604-2200 or email dkravit@cchdwi.org.





Corks & Kegs

There was no better place to be on August 26 than in the Historic Fifth Ward of Milwaukee enjoying a warm summer evening with friends at CCHD's Corks & Kegs fundraising event! Held in a beautiful cream city brick building at 234 W. Florida St., which was recently renovated by Pieper Properties, Corks & Kegs featured great food, drinks, music and fun.

The Milwaukee Brewing Company provided samples of their distinctive microbrews as well as delicious food from the Milwaukee Ale House, and guests also sampled a wide variety of wines courtesy of Waterford Wine Co. Those with a more adventurous taste could also enjoy Bloody Mary samples thanks to Milwaukee-based Jimmy Luv's Bloody Mary Mix and Great Lakes Distillery.



The silent auction featured many unique and exciting items, and bidding was fierce on several items including a framed and autographed picture of the Green Bay Packers' Clay Matthews. Music throughout the evening was provided by the Dan Dance Trio.

The festive evening was capped off with the drawing of winners of the 2011 CCHD Summer Auction. The winner of the 46" Sony Bravia 3D TV was Jen

Dirks, who happened to purchase one of the last tickets of the evening, and second and third place prizes went to Barry Edelstein and Dave Jackson, respectively. Raffle prizes were donated in part by John McCoy and Martin Tierney.

Thank you to everyone who attended this event to help support speech-language therapy and aural rehabilitation services at the Center for children and adults with hearing loss.

Special thanks to the event planning committee members, John Gehlhaart, Jeff Bartosiak and Patti Stevens, and volunteers from Johnson Controls and US Bank for helping make this event such a success.

The Center also thanks the following businesses who generously donated items to the silent auction: Antigua Latin Restaurant, Arlington Park, Lawrence Baldassaro, Bangles & Bags, Bel Canto Chorus, Betty Brinn Children's Museum, Bijoux, Bikram Yoga Milwaukee, Bottle Tree Creations, Brew City Bruisers, Brookfield Fred Astaire Dance Studio, BVEN Boutique, ComedySportz, Community Bark Dog Wash & Coffee Bar, Cream City Music, Cream City Ribbon, Destination Kohler, Discovery World at Pier Wisconsin, Elkhart Lake's Road America, Inc., Enhancing Light Cosmetic Laser Center, Green Bay Packers, Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Harley-Davidson Museum, Herbert H. Kohl Charities, Inc., Horny Goat Brewery, Indian Summer Festival, Lynden Sculpture Garden, Marquette Athletics, Matt Kenseth Fan Club, Meritage, Milwaukee Admirals, Milwaukee Ballet Company, Milwaukee Boat Line, Milwaukee Bucks, Milwaukee County Zoo, Milwaukee Food Tours, Milwaukee Pedal Tavern, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Wave, Morgyn Stranahan, Morningstar Golfers Club, Newman's Canine Country Inn, Paintball Dave's, PRP Wine International, Range Line Inn of Mequon, Schlitz Audobon Nature Center, Skylight Opera Theatre, Sommer's Automotive, Sunset Playhouse, The Bartolotta Charitable Fund, The Organizers, Tosa Yoga LLC, and UWM Bookstore.





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CENTER FOR COMMUNICATION, HEARING & DEAFNESS
10243 W. NATIONAL AVE.
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The Center for Communication, Hearing & Deafness is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to help infants, children and adults reach their fullest potential by eliminating communication and language barriers through personalized services, technology and education.

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Contact Us

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414-604-2200 (V)
414-604-7217 (TTY)
866-954-9435 (VP)

Email:
info@cchdwi.org

Location:
10243 W. National Ave.
West Allis, WI 53227

Website:
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Mark Your Calendars

Adult Children & Aging Parents Workshops

Wednesday, November 2 – 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Lifetime Relationships: Designed to help you and other family members recognize how changes in later life affect both aging parents and adult children.

Wednesday, November 9 – 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Tools for Talking: This workshop will help you develop stronger communication and empathy skills for dealing with changing needs in a family as parents age.

Both workshops will be held at CCHD and the cost is \$10 per session, or register to attend both for just \$15. To sign up, please call 414-604-2200 or register online at www.cchdwi.org. For more information, please email Kerry at kmalak@cchdwi.org. Registrations must be received by Friday, October 28.

Winter Wonderland Holiday Party

Saturday, December 3 - 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
at the Briggs & Stratton Auditorium, 12301 W. Wirth St., Wauwatosa.

85th Anniversary Gardens Luncheon Celebration

May 10, 2012 at the Woman's Club of Wisconsin.



United Way
of Greater Milwaukee