

What makes the Center Unique?

The Center for Communication, Hearing & Deafness is the only organization in Wisconsin that offers a full spectrum of communication options for children and adults with hearing loss, recognizing that individuals and families have an inherent right to choose how to best meet their communication needs.

It is one of only a few speech and hearing centers across the country that truly provides a one-stop-shop for deaf and hard of hearing individuals of all ages. And as the only accredited Speech and Hearing Center in the Upper Midwest region of the US, CCHD is uniquely qualified to provide services to children and adults diagnosed with hearing loss.

At the Center, children develop the language and pre-literacy skills they need to succeed in school and in life. And adults discover the tools and support they need to be self-sufficient, independent and active members of the community.

The Center also helps to change public perception of hearing loss and improve access for those with hearing loss through its outreach and community education efforts.

Hearing Loss Affects Us All

Communication shapes every facet of our lives. When we are able to communicate with others we are able to have meaningful relationships, learn from one another, express our thoughts and participate in our community.

The Center for Communication, Hearing & Deafness is about making communication possible and giving individuals the tools they need to live their life to its fullest potential.

Hearing loss, whether mild or profound, is a significant barrier to communication and can limit a person's ability to live a full and productive life. And, as the most common disability in the world, it is a growing public health issue, with the number of individuals affected by hearing loss projected to more than double in the next two decades. Like no other disease or disability, hearing loss is certain to personally touch each of us at some point in our lives, whether we ourselves experience hearing loss, or it affects a close family member, friend or co-worker.



Why Your Support Matters

Although invisible and often ignored, hearing loss is not just a minor inconvenience, as it can frequently have far-reaching effects on interpersonal relationships, academic achievement, employment, mental health and independence. These negative effects are not inevitable, however.

With appropriate information, support and communication tools, individuals can overcome the challenges of hearing loss and shatter the longstanding stereotypes

our society has about what it means to be deaf or hard of hearing.

In addition to improving the quality of life of individuals of all ages with hearing loss, the Center's work also has a very tangible effect on our community at large and an investment in the Center today will help to reduce long-term societal costs incurred when children and adults with hearing loss do not have the necessary programs and services available to help them.



CCHD families attended ‘The Great Pumpkin Express Party’ at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites in Milwaukee, as a way to meet and network with one another. Approximately 10 families joined us and had lots of fun visiting a variety of different booths that were handing out treats and small toys to the kids.

CCHD families in Washington County were invited to join the Center for a fun get together in West Bend where kids and their parents enjoyed craft projects, snacks, and outdoor fun!



Staff News

Congratulations to Crystal Christophe, Speech-Language Pathologist in the Center’s Kellogg Child & Family Program, who recently completed all of the requirements to become certified as an Auditory-Verbal Educator through the AG Bell Listening and Spoken Language Academy. Crystal traveled to Texas at the beginning of October to sit for the international exam, which is the final requirement in the three year process of becoming certified. The Center is very proud of Crystal for this significant accomplishment.



According to their website, “the AG Bell Academy offers the Listening and Spoken Language Specialist Certification to recognize professionals who have achieved the highest level of professional standards available in the field of listening and spoken language, and who provide a high level of service to families wishing to utilize listening and spoken language for their child who is deaf or hard of hearing.”

Crystal is the fifth member of the Center’s Child & Family team to receive LSL certification, joining her colleagues Deb Kravit, Kelli Koehnen and Chris Kometer, who are also Certified Auditory-Verbal Educators, and Amy Lalius, who is a Certified Auditory-Verbal Therapist.



- Early intervention services for children with hearing loss can save more than \$420,000 in special education costs per child by time they graduate from high school and results in a lifetime savings of about \$1 million per child.
- Working Americans with untreated hearing loss lose up to \$30,000 in annual income.
- Impaired hearing can result in distorted communication, greater isolation, withdrawal, reduced sensory input, depression, anger, and severely reduced overall psychological health.

- Individuals with untreated hearing loss are at a significantly increased risk for developing dementia and Alzheimer's disease.
- According to a 2000 study, the societal costs of severe to profound hearing loss in the US totals an average of \$300,000 over the lifetime of a deaf or hard of hearing adult.

10 Other Surprising Hearing Loss Facts

1. At least 31 million Americans, or 1 in 10, have hearing loss.
2. Hearing loss is one of the most common birth defects in the United States, affecting 3 in every 1,000 babies.
3. 90% of deaf children are born to normally hearing parents.
4. As much as 90% of what young children learn is attributable to the reception of incidental conversations around them.
5. Even children with mild to moderate hearing losses can miss up to 50% of classroom discussions, which can significantly affect their academic achievement, self-esteem and speech and language development.
6. Approximately 60% of people with hearing loss are between the ages of 21 and 65.
7. Excessive noise exposure is the most common cause of hearing loss, and is nearly 100% preventable.
8. Most people wait an average of 7-10 years before seeking help for hearing loss.
9. 75% of people who could benefit from hearing aids are not using them.
10. Hearing loss is the third leading chronic health condition among Americans, after arthritis and high blood pressure.



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

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions recorded between September 23, 2011 and November 17, 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:

CCHD is grateful to the dedicated volunteers who help support the Center's mission of helping others.

Recent volunteers include:

Phyllis Ballas
Sam Ballas
Megan Cutberth
Ehren Dei
Mary Deuster
Cassie Devalt
Krista Gregory
Alisa Jungbluth
Anne Lapp
Rebecca Nettie
Andrea Rawski
Emma Wilkinson

In Memoriam

The Center was saddened to learn about the recent passing of one of its longtime volunteers, Vicki Metz. Vicki was a "regular" on our volunteer team, helping with many projects over the years alongside her husband Gary. She even recruited her mom, Roberta Eberhardy, to help at the Center, and they always made a great team, especially when it came to helping to prepare mailings and information folders for Family Learning Vacation. Vicki was a very special lady who gave back so much to the community through her volunteer endeavors. The Center extends its sincere condolences to Vicki's family and friends – she will surely be very missed.



Is it true that certain medications can cause hearing loss?

Yes, there are some types of medications that have been shown to affect hearing in some people. These types of medications are called ototoxic drugs. While this side effect is relatively rare, it is possible that

an ototoxic drug can cause temporary or permanent hearing loss, tinnitus (ringing in the ears), or simply make existing hearing problems worse.

Types of drugs that can potentially cause hearing loss include:

- Salicylates (i.e. aspirin)
- Chemotherapy drugs
- Antibiotics
- Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)
- Diuretics
- Narcotic Analgesics (i.e. Vicodin)

Types of drugs that can potentially cause tinnitus include:

- Antibiotics
- Cardiac medications
- Glucocorticosteroids (i.e. Prednisone)
- Anesthetics (i.e. Novacaine)
- Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)
- Psychopharmacologic Agents (i.e. Xanax, Welbutrin, Valium and Prozac)

Interestingly, sometimes instead of making hearing worse, certain medications can actually make ears more sensitive, causing hyperacusis -- where normal sounds seem too loud. Hyperacusis is a potential side effect of a many common antidepressants.

The good news is that these negative side effects can sometimes be reversed once a person stops taking the medication. However, permanent hearing loss is

always a possibility, and of course, in some cases, it's not possible to stop or switch medications.

So What Can You Do to Prevent Ototoxicity?

While sometimes individuals and their doctors have to choose the lesser of two evils when deciding on which medications to use (as in the case of chemotherapy agents such as cisplatin), there are a few precautions that can be taken to reduce the risk of drug-related hearing problems. These include:

- Prior to beginning a medication, let your doctor know if you already have hearing loss, tinnitus, or suffer from balance problems.
- Discuss possible side effects with your doctor or pharmacist before you begin a new medication so you know of any potential risks.
- Don't take more than one ototoxic drug at a time.
- Drink lots of fluids (especially if taking a diuretic).
- Follow your doctor's dosage instructions exactly.
- Use the same pharmacy for all your prescriptions so they will know all of the drugs you are taking and can warn you about any potentially dangerous drug combinations.
- Be aware of early warning signs of ototoxicity and report any that you do experience to your doctor right away. Symptoms may include: dizziness, ringing in the ears, pressure in your ears, hearing that fluctuates or seems to get worse, and vertigo (spinning sensation).
- Always read the labels on over-the-counter medications to confirm recommended dosages and possible side effects.

For more information on ototoxic drugs, visit our website at: www.cchdwi.org/hearing_loss_articles_main.php and click on the article "Ototoxic Drugs: The Hidden Menace" under Hearing Loss Prevention. And, to discover other ways to keep your ears healthy, or to schedule a hearing exam, contact Community Audiology Services at 414-541-HEAR (4327) or email cas@cchdwi.org.



Check Out the New 2012 Hearing Products Catalog from Universalink

The new Universalink hearing products catalogs are now available. Featuring the latest gadgets

and gizmos to help you and your loved ones live better with hearing loss, the Universalink catalog has great deals and affordable solutions for all of your hearing needs. To get your copy, stop by Universalink during regular business hours, Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM or on Wednesdays from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM, or call 414-541-5465 (phone) / 866-954-9435 (VP).



CCHD Pizza Party Night!

Since many of the families involved in the Center's Birth to Three program receive services in the home, they don't often get the opportunity to visit the Center in person or meet other parents whose children have hearing loss. So, all of the families in the Birth to Three Program were invited to the first annual CCHD Pizza Party on November 10. During the evening, parents received a full tour of the Center to see all of the services available and had plenty of time to meet one another and network. Meanwhile, childcare was provided for the kids, who had lots of fun with staff and volunteers who entertained them with games, stories and other activities. At the end of the evening, kids and parents came together for a family art project that will be part of an ongoing display at the Center.

Join the Legacy Society

During this season of giving, please consider becoming a member of the Center's Legacy Society and leave a lasting gift to ensure that all children born with hearing loss in have the opportunity to develop the language and literacy skills they need to succeed. Established to recognize those who have included the Center in their estate plans, the CCHD Legacy Society is made up of individuals who are committed to extending their generosity beyond their lifetime, to help infants, children and adults who face the challenges of hearing loss. For more information on planned giving and how you can join the Legacy Society, please contact Dorothy Kerr at 414-604-7201 or email dkerr@cchdwi.org.

The Scoop on Hearing Loops



Have you heard about hearing loops? Recently, there has been a big push throughout the U.S. to increase the number of loop systems available to help individuals with hearing loss through the Let's Loop America project. While recent media attention makes them seem like cutting-edge

technology, if you have ever been to CCHD or attended a meeting in the Center's conference room, you know that loop systems are nothing new – it's just that they are FINALLY getting the recognition that they deserve.

So, what exactly is a hearing loop and how might it help you?

Hearing loops, or induction loops as they are often called, are assistive listening systems that transmit sound using a thin wire and electromagnetic energy rather than sound waves.

Here's how they work:

1. A thin wire is placed around the listening area. The size of this area can vary and may consist of an entire theater or auditorium, a small group of chairs, or even a single person.
2. The wire is connected to a special amplifier and microphone.
3. Speech signals and sound are circulated through the loop wire, creating a magnetic energy field.
4. This magnetic energy is picked up by telecoil-equipped hearing aids and cochlear implants or a special "loop receiver" and is translated into high quality amplified sound.

Loop systems work well for individuals with all degrees of hearing loss because they help to bridge the distance between the source of the sound and the listener's ears. This means greater clarity and understanding of speech. In addition, because the sound can be transmitted directly into the listener's hearing devices, they are able to hear high quality sound without any interference from background noise, which is often a problem for people who have hearing loss.

Additionally, because loop systems transmit sound using

electromagnetic energy, listeners with telecoils (also called t-coils) in their hearing devices do not need to wear headphones or anything else on their ears in order to use a loop system. Instead, they simply switch their hearing aids or cochlear implant processors to the "telephone" program, and their devices will instantly pick up the signal coming from the hearing loop.

But what if a person doesn't wear hearing aids or doesn't have a telecoil in their hearing device?

Not to worry! Loop systems can also be used with special induction receivers, which will pick up the sound signal and transmit it through a headset or earbuds. This allows ANYONE to benefit from a hearing loop.

In addition to large area hearing loop systems, which can be found in many churches, theaters and public venues, personal loops, also known as neckloops, are used by individuals in everyday situations such as hearing on a cell phone, listening to an iPod, or using an FM system in meetings or classes. With personal loops, the wire is plugged directly into the device transmitting the sound, such as a cell phone, and then the loop transmits the sound to the hearing aids for amplified, crystal clear reception. There are even a variety of Bluetooth neckloops available now for those who want a wireless connection to their electronic devices.

For more information about hearing loops, personal neckloops, or to try a hearing loop system out for yourself, contact or make an appointment with UniversalLink, the Center's hearing products store by calling 414-541-5465 / 800-755-7994 (toll-free) or emailing universalink@cchdwi.org.

You can also learn more about the Let's Loop America project at www.hearingloop.org.





CENTER FOR COMMUNICATION, HEARING & DEAFNESS
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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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85th Anniversary Gardens Luncheon Celebration

May 10, 2012 at the Woman's Club of Wisconsin
 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Featuring guest speaker Melinda Myers and special guest Craig Culver, recipient of the CCHD Community Innovation Award.

2012 Walk 4 Hearing

June 9, 2012 at Veterans Park in Milwaukee

Join Team CCHD and help us raise awareness of hearing loss in our community.

Corks & Kegs

July 26, 2012 at 234 W. Florida St., Milwaukee

5:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Beer and wine tasting fundraiser to support language and literacy programs at the Center.

Family Learning Vacation

August 24-26, 2012 at the WI Lions Camp in Rosholt, WI

An educational, fun-filled weekend for children with hearing loss from across Wisconsin and their families.

