



## When a Phone is More Than Just a Phone

When people first walk into UniversaLink, the Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing's assistive technology showroom, they are often surprised at the large selection of specialized telephones on display. Phones designed to help those with all degrees of hearing loss, with a wide variety of features such as large buttons, Caller ID, answering machines and even built-in captioning, line the shelves, all ready to be demonstrated and tested.

But, while many may first come to UniversaLink in search of a phone to help them hear better, they soon find out that UniversaLink has much more to offer in terms of both products and services. In fact, it is often a gateway to independence, self-confidence and a higher quality of life.

For those who struggle to hear common household sounds such as the telephone, doorbell or smoke detector, UniversaLink can help select a visual signaling system that is easy to set up and which will allow people to feel safe and independent in their own home. For those in the workforce, UniversaLink can perform on-site assessments or recommend technologies to help communicate more effectively and perform work duties more efficiently. For those who find that hearing loss is making them miss out on favorite activities and causing a feeling of isolation, UniversaLink offers a variety of assistive listening devices to help hear better in difficult listening situations.

Since many hearing assistance products are completely unfamiliar, especially to those who develop hearing loss later in life, having the opportunity to see and try equipment for yourself is very important. And, being able to work with someone who really understands hearing loss and all of the challenges that come with it, is critical.



John Kinstler, one of UniversaLink's Communication Technology Counselors, shows a customer how to use a CapTel phone.

### Did you know...

- In addition to hearing loss, current research studies indicate that excessive noise exposure is also related to other health problems, such as voice strain, stress and cardiovascular diseases.
- Before the advent of Universal Newborn Hearing Screenings, the average age that children with congenital hearing loss were identified was nearly 3 years old and many children were not identified until 5 or 6 years old.
- The very first hearing aid was developed in the 19th century, and consisted of a large ear trumpet that collected sound on one end and funneled it into the ear via a long tube.

While the selection of products available for sale or rental through UniversaLink is impressive, the service is really what customers seem to notice most. Staffed by an experienced team of Communication Technology Counselors, including individuals who have hearing loss themselves, UniversaLink goes above and beyond to meet the unique needs of each customer, providing education, training, long-term support and referrals to other resources as needed -- whether at the Center or an outside agency. And, some services are even available on-site or in the home, to help those with limited mobility or transportation issues.

If you'd like to learn more about how assistive technology can make your life easier and more enjoyable, contact the caring and knowledgeable staff at UniversaLink by calling 414-541-5465 (V) / 414-604-2200 (VP) or by visiting the UniversaLink showroom Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and on Wednesdays from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM.



## Free car? Smart!

WIN A 2008 SMART FORTWO PASSION CABRIOLET

### You Could Win a 2008 Smart Car

Is the skyrocketing price of gas stressing you out? If so, then the Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing may have just the solution for you. The Center is sponsoring a fundraising raffle to win a 2008 Smart car, and tickets are now on sale. Made by Mercedes-Benz, the “Smart Fortwo Cabriolet” features 33 city and 41 highway MPG, a fully automatic convertible top with glass rear window, premium audio system and the latest safety features. In fact, the 2008 Smart Fortwo just received the highest safety ratings in front-end and side-impact testing by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. New to the U.S. market, Smart cars were first made available here in January 2008 and are already in high demand. The car, which will be provided by Bergstrom Automotive, is valued at more than \$17,000 and all proceeds from this raffle benefit CDHH, to help support critical services for children, families and adults affected by hearing loss.

Raffle tickets are \$50 each or \$100 for three, and are available online at [www.cdhh.org](http://www.cdhh.org) or by calling 414-604-2200. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Center during regular business hours. The raffle drawing will be held at CDHH’s Tasting Tuesday on August 19 at 9:00 PM at the Milwaukee Ale House, 233 N. Water St., Milwaukee. You need not be present to win but must be 18 years of age to enter. All licensing, taxes and registration fees are the responsibility of the winner. A maximum of 1,999 tickets will be sold and if less than 650 tickets are sold, the raffle will be canceled and all monies will be refunded.

## Help CDHH Save Time and Money

Due to the rising costs of postage and printing, CDHH would like to communicate with more of our clients and supporters via e-mail whenever possible. Not only will this allow us to let you know about special events and programs in a more timely manner, it will also help to ensure that we are using our financial resources as effectively as possible. Every dollar saved in postage can be redirected to support the many vital programs and services provided by the Center including toddler communication groups, parent education workshops, and aural rehabilitation for late-deafened adults. You can help us in this effort by simply providing us with your e-mail address. If you don’t have email or prefer to continue receiving hard copies of flyers and the newsletter, you can also help by notifying us about address changes and verifying which types of mailings you would like to receive. To update your contact information, you can go online to [www.cdhh.org](http://www.cdhh.org) and click on the Contact Us link at the top of the page, or call us at 414-604-2200 (Voice) / 888-742-7651 (TTY). You can also email [info@cdhh.org](mailto:info@cdhh.org) to have your contact information updated. Please put “Update Contact Info” in the subject line. Thanks in advance for your help.



### CommunicationLink Uses Sign Language to Build Bridges

Having the opportunity to effectively communicate with others and actively participate in the community are essential rights that every citizen should have, including those who use sign language as their primary mode of communication. The Center’s interpreter coordination service, CommunicationLink, is dedicated to bridging communication gaps between the Deaf community and hearing individuals by providing affordable sign language interpreting services throughout Wisconsin. In 2007 alone, CommunicationLink provided more than 11,000 hours of interpreting services! Recently, CommunicationLink was honored when one of their interpreters, Kate Block, was specifically requested for the high-profile jobs of interpreting at the inaugurations of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker. Congratulations to all of the staff at CommunicationLink for your hard work and ongoing commitment to excellence.



## Did you know?



### Save Money with RIDESHARE

If you think you could send your child to an Ivy League school for the cost of your work commute; or if you think your credit card is getting thinner every time you swipe it at the gas station, then ridesharing may be worth considering. Go to <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/commuter/calc.htm> to find out just how much your commute is costing you and how much your commute is costing the environment. You'll also find RIDESHARE program information, carpooling tips and more. Start saving money on fuel, general car maintenance, oil changes, parking and tires by registering for RIDESHARE today.

### Are You a Caregiver?

If you are a spouse, adult child, other relative or friend who provides direct care or supportive care to someone to ensure their safety and well-being, or if you are concerned that someone is not fully able to care for themselves, then you are a caregiver. This rewarding, but often challenging, role is something that most people are not prepared for, and from time to time, caregivers may find that they need a helping hand as well. The Wisconsin Family Caregiver Support Program offers information, support and resources to help caregivers better care for their loved ones -- and themselves. Located in every county and tribe in Wisconsin, the Family Caregiver Support Program helps caregivers find solutions to their caregiving dilemmas including arranging for services, finding respite care or understanding the various options available for care. To learn more about caregiver support programs in Wisconsin, visit [www.wisconsin.org](http://www.wisconsin.org).

### Caption Your Own Videos Online

Have you ever wanted to customize an online video by adding your own comments or captions, or wanted to send a custom video postcard? All of this is possible with Overstream, an online service that allows you to easily create and synchronize captions to any online video. Once complete, you can then post the fully captioned video to YouTube, MySpace, your website or send a link via email. For more information, visit [www.overstream.net](http://www.overstream.net).

### Financial Help Available through WisLoan

If you are in need of hearing aids, modified vehicles, home modifications or other assistive technology not covered by insurance or other funding programs, the WisLoan program may be able to help. A federally-funded project, WisLoan is a low interest loan program that helps people buy equipment that they need to maintain their independence. The program is open to Wisconsin residents of all ages who have a disability, and there are no income requirements. Under the program, banks provide loans to qualified borrowers. Loan amounts depend on the item purchased and the ability to repay the loan. For more information, visit <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wistech/wisloan.htm> or call Patti Kraemer at 877-463-3778.

### Online Community for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Adults

The SayWhatClub (SWC) was formed as a non-profit internet based organization run by volunteers for people with hearing loss or those interested in hearing loss issues. Consisting of approximately 400 late-deafened, hard of hearing and Deaf adults, the SayWhatClub is an online community that provides a friendly, good-humored place to exchange conversation, information, advice, deep thoughts, humor, tall tales, and chat with others who truly understand. It's an especially valuable resource for busy adults or those who may not be able to join in-person support meetings. To learn more about the SayWhatClub, visit [www.saywhatclub.com](http://www.saywhatclub.com).

### Help CDHH with the Pick 'n Save "We Care Program"

Every purchase you make at Pick 'n Save can help raise money for CDHH. All you have to do is get a free Advantage Card and indicate you want CDHH to benefit when you sign up. CDHH's registered number is 108075. If you already have a card but did not indicate that you wanted CDHH to benefit, you can complete a new form. Once you have completed the paperwork, simply present your Advantage Card at checkout. There's no easier way to make a difference in the lives of others and support the important work of CDHH than through this great community program.

Here's how to reach us . . . 10243 W. National Avenue, West Allis, WI 53227 (between US45/I894 and Highway 100)

#### Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Voice • 414-604-2200  
TTY • 888-742-7651  
Fax • 414-604-7200  
Online • [www.cdhh.org](http://www.cdhh.org)

#### CommunicationLink

Voice • 414-604-7231  
Toll Free • 800-542-9838  
TTY • 888-758-6043  
Fax • 414-604-7200  
Online • [www.cdhh.org](http://www.cdhh.org)

#### UniversaLink

Voice • 414-541-LINK (5465)  
Toll Free • 800-755-7994  
TTY • 888-742-7654  
Fax • 414-604-7200  
Online • [www.cdhh.org](http://www.cdhh.org)

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

We gratefully acknowledge contributions recorded between February 16, 2008 and May 20, 2008. Every effort has been made to ensure that all donors are listed. If there are inadvertent errors or omissions, please call 414-604-2200.



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## Volunteer Corner

*What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good.— Aristotle*

Thank you to each and every volunteer who has shared their time and talents with the Center to help us fulfill our mission. Your contributions are making a difference in the lives of children and families in our community. If you would like to become a CDHH volunteer, please contact Aimee Kelchen at 414-604-7210 or email [akelchen@cdhh.org](mailto:akelchen@cdhh.org). You can also download a volunteer application online at [www.cdhh.org](http://www.cdhh.org)

### Recent volunteers include:

Phyllis Ballas  
Sam Ballas  
Sadie Beacham  
Donnette Beaudoin  
Jenny Culver  
Michael Davis  
Sontos Fields  
Sarah Fischbach  
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Tim Wegener

# Join the Celebration at Tasting Tuesday

Mark your calendars now to join us for Tasting Tuesday, on August 19 from 5:30 PM to 9:30 PM at the Milwaukee Ale House, located at 233 N. Water Street in Milwaukee. This annual summer celebration features beer and wine tasting, great food, music and a live and silent auction including exciting items such as a weekend trip to New York including airfare and lodging, a week-long condo stay in Myrtle Beach or Hilton Head, and Packers tickets. Attendees can also try their luck at a Wine Pull and Wine Toss, to win bottles of wine. Tasting Tuesday will also feature a new Homebrew Contest this year, with winners being selected by a panel of professional and celebrity judges during the event. All proceeds benefit the Center and support vital programs for children and adults affected by hearing loss.

Last year, more than 200 people came out to Tasting Tuesday and this year, the event committee is hoping to draw an even larger crowd to raise much needed funds to help the Center fulfill its important mission of helping others. As the Center's largest fundraising event of the year, the Center is counting on the support of its clients, supporters and business partners to make it a huge success by attending the event or contributing as a sponsor or auction item donor.

People will also have the opportunity to bid on silent auction items online during the two weeks prior to Tasting Tuesday, so even those who cannot attend will still be able to support the Center and win valuable prizes.

If you would like to donate an auction item or participate as an event sponsor, please call 414-604-7210 or email [akelchen@cdhh.org](mailto:akelchen@cdhh.org). To purchase tickets, which are \$40 each or \$35 when you buy two or more, visit [www.cdhh.org](http://www.cdhh.org) or call 414-604-2200.



Tasting Tuesday, CDHH's largest fundraising event of the year, features beer and wine tasting, food, music and lots of fun.



## Calling All Amateur Brewers!

Are you among the 1.5 million Americans who enjoy homebrewing beer as a hobby? Are you curious how your homebrew stacks up against others? The Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is currently accepting entries for its first annual Homebrew Contest, which will take place on August 19 during the Center's Tasting Tuesday fundraiser at the Milwaukee Ale House.

Homebrewers of all skill levels from throughout Wisconsin are invited to participate, and beers will be judged in the following three categories: American Ale, Stout and India Pale Ale. A winner in each category as well as a Best in Show will be selected by a panel of professional and celebrity judges including Dick Leinenkugel and FM 102.1 Milwaukee's morning team, Kramp and Adler.

For complete rules and an entry form, please visit the Center's website at [www.cdhh.org](http://www.cdhh.org) or call 414-604-2200. A limited number of entries will be accepted, so early registration is recommended.



# Is It Time for a Hearing Check-Up?

When was the last time you had your hearing checked? If you are like many adults, you have never had a full hearing evaluation performed by an audiologist, and that could make it hard to identify a hearing loss early, when it is often most manageable.

Hearing loss is commonly a very gradual process that takes place over many years, and most of us will experience it to some degree as we get older. As time goes by, and the ability to hear certain sounds becomes harder, most people simply begin turning up the volume little by little, or find themselves watching people's faces more intently while they talk, or start avoiding difficult listening situations like restaurants or parties. By the time that most adults decide to take action and have their hearing checked, the hearing loss is already significant and affecting daily living. For many people, they may not even notice that hearing loss is causing them any difficulty and it may be friends or family who are the first to recognize a problem.



Dr. Amy Reilly performs a hearing check-up at Community Audiology Services.

With most medical conditions, early detection frequently results in better outcomes. Hearing loss is no different. That's why it's important to include a full hearing evaluation in your schedule of routine health care. According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, adults

ages 49 and under without any high-risk factors should have a hearing evaluation performed every 10 years. After age 50, you should consider a hearing evaluation at least every 3 years. The good news is that many insurance plans will cover hearing evaluations. However, you may have to self-advocate for your hearing health and specifically ask your primary care physician for a referral to an audiologist for a hearing evaluation, as hearing is often at the bottom of the list behind other concerns such as vision loss, dental health, high cholesterol, high blood pressure or diabetes. But, when you consider how important hearing is to all aspects of your life, especially communication with others, it is not something to take for granted.

Afraid that a hearing evaluation will automatically lead to a hearing aid recommendation? Remember that not all hearing loss is permanent. Sometimes, hearing loss is the result of earwax buildup, a separate medical condition or even a side-effect of medications. These are all things that should be addressed right away to prevent long-term hearing damage. Even if a permanent hearing loss is detected, identifying it early can help you discover ways to conserve and protect the hearing you do have, and begin

## Adults Find Friendship and Support through HLAA

Because hearing loss is an invisible disability, adults who develop hearing loss often feel



**Hearing Loss Association of America**

very alone when it comes to dealing with the day-to-day challenges of being deaf or hard of hearing. Over time, this can lead to breakdowns in relationships and a withdrawal from social activities. If this sounds like you or someone you care about, then you should consider getting involved with the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). HLAA is a nationwide, consumer based organization that promotes equal access and self-advocacy for the more than 31 million Americans affected by hearing loss. Individual chapters, which are located throughout each state, provide peer support and opportunities to interact with other adults facing similar challenges as a result of hearing loss, in a fun and informal setting. In Wisconsin, deaf and hard of hearing adults are fortunate to have several HLAA chapters to choose from, including one that meets at the Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM. Attendance is always free and official membership in HLAA is not required. Adults of all ages and with all degrees of hearing loss are invited to attend these monthly gatherings to learn about area resources, new technology and hearing loss issues, and perhaps most importantly, to meet and build friendships with other hard of hearing or deaf adults. Captioning and an assistive listening system are provided at all meetings held at the Center to ensure that everyone can participate with ease. For more information, contact the Milwaukee/Racine HLAA Chapter Leader Jean Szabo at [szaboshhh@yahoo.com](mailto:szaboshhh@yahoo.com), or call 414-604-2200.

Additional HLAA chapters are also located in Waukesha, Wales, Appleton, Menomonie and Woodruff. For more information about HLAA or to find out when a chapter near you is hosting their next meeting, visit [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org).

learning new communication strategies to help you cope more successfully with hearing loss. If you do happen to be a candidate for a hearing aid, you should realize that hearing aid technology has advanced dramatically in the past decade and there are now many styles and options available to fit virtually any lifestyle.

For more information about hearing evaluations and your hearing health, contact the caring professionals at Community Audiology Services, a collaborative program between CDHH and the UW-Milwaukee College of Health Sciences, at 414-541-HEAR (4327) or email [cas@cdhh.org](mailto:cas@cdhh.org).



Nancy Einhorn, Deb Kravit and Jacquie Wolf



Top: Jane Dwyer and Karen Goldammer

Bottom: Featured guests Joan Hoerl and Melody Narr

## Spring Blossomed Early at the Annual Gardens Luncheon

On Thursday, April 10, approximately 200 guests filled the Woman's Club of Wisconsin for the CDHH Gardens Luncheon, an annual fundraising event to support critical programs at the Center. Despite a cold and blustery day outside, attendees were delighted to find the Woman's Club extensively decorated with fresh spring flowers and one-of-a-kind garden artwork by special guest Joan Hoerl.

After taking time to socialize and view the wide assortment of exciting raffle prizes, including roundtrip airline tickets, original artwork, jewelry and more, guests were officially welcomed by Mistress of Ceremonies Susan Kim, "Live at Daybreak" anchor on Today's TMJ4. Everyone then enjoyed a light lunch while listening to featured speaker Melody Narr, co-owner of Landworks, Inc., who shared ideas for "Creating a Fun and Fabulous Garden." Melody's talk included ways to design a garden that can be enjoyed both day and night and tips on how to incorporate "killer" plants and decorative touches to create a garden that is unique and easy to maintain.

Thanks to all who attended this event, and special thanks to our guests Melody Narr, Joan Hoerl and Susan Kim. The Center is also very grateful for the generous support of its event sponsors, Associated Bank, R. W. Baird, Northwestern Mutual Foundation, Pieper Properties, M & I Bank, and

the Suzanne and Richard Pieper Family Foundation, who continually demonstrate their commitment to our community and improving the lives of others.

Thanks to the many individuals and businesses who donated raffle prizes for this event, including Crawford Tree and Landscape Services, Gini Bunnell, Judy Scott, Janice Lichter, AirTran Airways, Elite Fitness and Racquet Clubs, Jennifer Anderson, Joan Hoerl, Too Cute!, Johnny's Selected Seeds, FragranceNet.com, Melody Narr, Fred Astaire Dance Studios, Robert Frisch, Soaps & Scents, Johnson's Nursery, Monches Farm and Hat Creak Candle Company.

Items for the favor bags were generously donated by Burke Candy Ingredients, Cookie Lee, Inc., Fairyannas, FragranceNet.com, Johnny's Selected Seeds, Jordan Essentials, Lunesse, Mary Kay, Park Seed Co., Pink Papaya, Rita Wilcox, Shaklee, Signature Homestyles, Soaps & Scents and Uppercase Living.

Finally, the Center would like to thank the many area florists who participated by donating beautiful centerpieces, which were auctioned off during the event. Participating florists included Barb and Dick's Wildflowers, Bayside Garden Center, Bella Fiori, Elm Grove Village Flower Shop, The Garden Room, Milwaukee Blooms, A New Leaf Floral, Regency Florist, Sentry Olde Country Floral Shoppe, Shorewood Florist and Trader Joe's. Please thank these florists for their generosity by patronizing their businesses.



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## Upcoming events . . . Mark your calendar now!

### Family Learning Vacation

Friday, Aug. 15 – Sunday, Aug. 17 at the Lions Camp in Rosholt, WI. Join other families with d/Deaf or hard of hearing children for this annual statewide retreat filled with a variety of workshops and opportunities for family fun. Registration deadline is July 11. Register before June 23 and save with a special early bird rate. Call 414-604-2200 (V) / 888-742-7651 (TTY) or email [kmalak@cdhh.org](mailto:kmalak@cdhh.org) for more information.

### CDHH Family Picnic

Sunday, July 13, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM, at the Milwaukee County Zoo. All clients of CDHH, past and present, are invited to attend this annual event featuring food, children's activities and plenty of time for socializing. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children and includes food, parking and Zoo entrance fees. For more information, call 414-604-2200 (V) / 888-742-7651 (TTY) or visit [www.cdhh.org](http://www.cdhh.org).

### Save the Date - Tasting Tuesday

Tuesday, Aug. 19, 5:30 PM – 9:30 PM, at the Milwaukee Ale House, 233 N. Water St., Milwaukee. Enjoy beer and wine tasting, music, games, live and silent auction and more, all to benefit CDHH. Also featuring a Homebrew contest for amateur brewmasters. For sponsorship information or to volunteer to help at the event, contact Aimee at 414-604-7210 or email [akelchen@cdhh.org](mailto:akelchen@cdhh.org).

### 2008 Smart Car Raffle

Winner to be drawn Tuesday, Aug. 19 at 9:00 PM at the Milwaukee Ale House. You could be the lucky winner of a 2008 "Smart fortwo passion cabriolet" by participating in the CDHH Smart Car Raffle. All proceeds benefit CDHH. Tickets are \$50 each or three for \$100 and are available by calling 414-604-2200 or online at [www.cdhh.org](http://www.cdhh.org). You need not be present to win, but must be at least 18 to enter.

### Save the Date – Fall Sign Classes

ASL 1 (Section 1): Tuesdays, Sept. 16 – Dec. 2

ASL 1 (Section 2): Wednesdays, Sept. 17 – Dec. 3

ASL 2: Tuesdays, Sept. 16 – Dec. 2

ASL Follow-Up: Wednesdays, Sept. 17- Dec. 3

Communicating with Kids in Sign: Tuesdays, Sept 16 – Nov. 18

### Save the Date - Winter Wonderland Party

Saturday, Dec. 6, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Briggs and Stratton Auditorium, 124th St. and Wirth Ave., Wauwatosa. Deaf and hard of hearing children and their families are invited to attend this annual CDHH holiday party featuring crafts, stories, refreshments, gifts and more.



United Way  
of Greater Milwaukee