



HEARING LOSS AND RELATIONSHIPS:

The Pain of an Invisible Disability

While this may not come as a shock to many who have lived or worked with hearing loss on a daily basis, according to a recent survey of adults conducted by Cochlear Americas, hearing loss can significantly impact relationships – including marriages, friendships, and business relationships. Individuals with hearing loss often report feeling ignored, neglected or disconnected from those



around them, which can lead to resentment, anxiety and social withdrawal. But, it's important to note that the negative impact of untreated or under-treated hearing loss is not only felt by those with the hearing problem. Spouses, friends and co-workers also report their feelings of frustration and sadness over the communication breakdowns that can erode a relationship over time. With more than 30 million Americans currently dealing with hearing loss, and most Americans waiting seven to ten years before seeking help for their hearing loss, there are a lot of relationships in jeopardy.

Interesting results of the survey by Cochlear Americas include:

- 50% of the survey respondents said that “significant hearing loss causes less intimate relationships between those with hearing loss and their family and friends.”
- 44% of respondents believe that there is no remedy for their hearing loss.
- 60% of those living with someone with hearing loss want that individual to get treatment.
- 47% of those who did seek treatment did so at the urging of their family or friends.

Did you know...

In 1961, Dr. William House implanted the first two American patients for short-term clinical trials of cochlear implants. Today, approximately 60,000 people have received cochlear implants, according to the National Association of the Deaf.

Although the United States and England share the same spoken and written language, American Sign Language (ASL) actually has more in common with Old French Sign Language (LSF) because a French Deaf man, Laurent Clerc, was one of the first teachers of the Deaf in the U.S. during the nineteenth century.

Age-related hearing loss often affects the ability to hear certain speech sounds, especially consonants such as p, t, s and k. As a result, older adults with hearing loss may be able to hear that others are talking, but cannot understand what is being said. This can often lead to frustration and miscommunication.

So what can you do if you or a loved one has hearing loss? The Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing offers a variety of options to help.

Community Audiology Services provides comprehensive hearing evaluations to help identify the extent of your hearing loss and also provides hearing aid consultations and fittings for those who may benefit from a hearing device.

Aural Rehabilitation Assessments, performed by a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) who specializes in adult-onset hearing loss, provide individuals with a customized roadmap to successfully manage their hearing loss. After identifying your hearing needs and communication goals, the SLP will provide you with professional assistance, advocacy, or communication skills training, and referrals to additional resources that may be of help to you.

Speechreading and Communication Strategies Classes are offered throughout the year at *(Continued on page 2)*

Life is a Circus! Getting Your Family's Act Together

Twenty-five families from across the state gathered at the Lions Camp in Rosholt, WI, August 15 – 17, for Family Learning Vacation (FLV), an annual family retreat sponsored by CDHH. FLV is a unique opportunity for children who are d/Deaf or hard of hearing, and their families, to meet one another, share experiences and build lifelong friendships during a weekend packed with educational presentations, outdoor activities and family teambuilding projects. Family Learning Vacation provides a communication-barrier free environment that supports both sign language and oral communication, demonstrating the fact that while families may make different choices about how to deal with hearing loss, the issues they face are similar, and in the end, every parent just wants to see their child succeed in life and reach their fullest potential.

FLV 2008 featured special guest Matt Rider, Training Specialist at the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center at Gallaudet University, who presented, “Teambuilding Family Style: Making the Circus Work for You.” During this informative and fun session, Matt shared tips with parents to help them boost their family act by using a proactive Family Teambuilding approach to the daily issues and struggles that can easily make any family feel like a 3-ring circus. Some of his most valuable tips for family teambuilding included using active listening skills, developing a plan of action, and remembering to “celebrate every success, big or small.”

The weekend also featured a presentation on “Hearing Aid and Cochlear Implant Legislation” by Michelle Kihntopf and Laurie Nelson, a magic show presented by Matt and Liliana Morgan, boat races, circus trick training, and lots of fun.



(Above) FLV 2008's circus theme included fun opportunities to dress up and learn circus tricks.

(Below) The annual paddleboat races are always a favorite activity at FLV.



(Continued from page 1) CDHH and are led by a Speech-Language Pathologist. During these small-group sessions, individuals with hearing loss learn how to improve their speechreading skills and develop communication strategies to help them during difficult listening situations. These groups also provide an opportunity to meet and share experiences with other adults facing similar challenges in their lives. Spouses or family members are also encouraged to attend to learn how they can contribute to better communication.

Cochlear Implant Assessments are available for those considering cochlear implant surgery. A Speech-Language Pathologist will provide you with objective information about

the benefits and risks of cochlear implant surgery, what the process of getting an implant involves, and what you can realistically expect after implantation.

UniversaLink, the Center's assistive technology program, offers a wide variety of hearing assistance technology to help you live better with hearing loss. Devices such as amplified or captioned phones, personal FM systems, and visual alerting devices can significantly improve communication and quality of life. Trained Communication Technology Counselors provide assessments free of charge and will help you to select the right devices to meet your needs.



Did you know?



Online Transition Training for Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

iTransition is a free, online transition curriculum to help students who are deaf or hard of hearing prepare for life after high school. There are four separate trainings with activities to help students learn about themselves, their career goals, and the skills they need to be successful in the future.

iTransition is designed for deaf or hard of hearing students, ages 14 through adult.

After completing this training, students will:

- Discover more about their interests, skills, and how they might relate to a career choice
- Explore options for postsecondary education
- Better understand campus departments and services
- Develop critical thinking skills in the areas of academic, career, and personal choices
- Organize information in their own online transition portfolios
- Improve their self-advocacy skills by communicating with others about their interests, goals, and education

For more information, visit www.pepnet.org/itransition.asp.

Sign Language Across the Pond

Have you ever been curious about how sign language is used in other countries? Signed Language is a website that features information about British Sign Language, which is used in the United Kingdom, and is surprisingly different from American Sign Language. This website also includes a wide range of information and articles about sign language around the world, hearing loss issues and communication technology. To learn more, visit www.signedlanguage.co.uk.

Tools for Independence: Helping Seniors Embrace Assistive Technology

For the past three years, CDHH has participated in the Technology Workgroup of the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging's Advisory Council. The goal of this workgroup, which is comprised of older adults from the community and professionals who serve older adults in Milwaukee County, is to identify ways to make assistive technology more accessible to seniors.

While access to information and financial constraints are always a concern, the Workgroup has found that one of the biggest barriers to assistive technology is actually the mindset of many older adults that "technology" is complicated, expensive, and often more trouble than it's worth.

To overcome this mental hurdle, the Workgroup has created a brochure called "Tools for Independence," that is available through the Milwaukee County Department on Aging. In addition to listing local resources that can help you identify ways to improve your independence and safety with the help of technology, the brochure includes examples of assistive devices, which can range from something as simple as a magnifier to use when reading small print to something as sophisticated as a speech synthesizer.

The Technology Workgroup is currently seeking feedback from older adults in the community about how to encourage seniors to embrace the benefits of technology, and volunteers who would be willing to speak to groups of seniors about how they can live more independently by using assistive devices.

If you have ideas or would like to participate as a volunteer ambassador for assistive technology, contact Kerry Malak at 414-604-7202 or email kmalak@cdhh.org. For more information about the Tools for Independence brochure, contact the Milwaukee County Department on Aging at 414-289-6874 or visit them online at <http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/Aging7705.htm>.

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

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Fax • 414-604-7200
Online • 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

UniversaLink

Voice • 414-541-LINK (5465)
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Thanks to our donors who help make it possible to continue the work of the Center.

We gratefully acknowledge contributions recorded between May 21, 2008 and August 29, 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

"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean, but the ocean would be less because of that missing drop." — Mother Teresa

Thank you to all of those who have recently volunteered at the Center to help make a positive difference in the lives of children and adults in our community. Your generosity of time and energy help the Center fulfill its important mission. Our recent volunteers are listed to the right.

Darcy Baier	Amy Gunther	Robby Kordus	Vicki Metz	Gino Ricchio
Phyllis Ballas	Naomi Guzman	Kara Kruger	Peyton Nelson	Melody Rupp
Sam Ballas	Barb Haley	Nal Kumar	Patricia Pfitzenmeier	JoAnn Smith
Sadie Beacham	Amanda Harvey	Brenda Lerner	Hannah Pipkorn	Amber Waite
Donnette Beaudoin	Greg Heinen	Tiffany Masters	Leah Pipkorn	Helen Williams
Carie Champeny Johns	Nichole Hess	Tonya Masters	Maribeth Pipkorn	Linda Zoiss
Matt Champeny Johns	Ben Hogan	Gary Metz	Sharon Plummer	
Sarah Fischbach	Tammy Hogan			
David Flintrop	Jenna Howen			
Stephanie Gill	Denise Johnson			
Debra Graff	Katie Kendhammer			
	Rebecca King			
	Laura Knoke			

If you would like to become a CDHH volunteer, please contact Dan Michaels at 414-604-7210 or email dmichaels@cdhh.org. You can also download an application at www.cdhh.org



Family Time at the Zoo

On Sunday, July 13, more than 200 people came to the CDHH Family Picnic, which took place at the Milwaukee County Zoo. This annual summer event is designed to give children and adults with hearing loss, and their families, the opportunity to meet and socialize in a fun, family-friendly environment. Kids enjoyed games and craft activities while parents caught up with other families and chatted with CDHH staff. Everyone enjoyed the food, which was grilled to perfection by a wonderful group of volunteers from Best Buy, and afterwards, families had the opportunity to explore the Zoo on their own. Thanks to all of the staff and volunteers who helped make this event such a success, and of course, to all of the families and friends who attended. We hope to see you again next year.



CDHH Expands its Expertise in Auditory-Verbal Therapy

Congratulations to Deb Kravit, Chris Kometer, Amy Makovec and Lisa Hanel for recently achieving certification as Auditory-Verbal Educators[®], through the AG Bell Academy International Certification Program for Listening and Spoken Language Specialists (LSLS). This new certification, which is attained by meeting specific professional qualifications and passing a rigorous exam, focuses on teaching listening and talking to various sized instructional groups to prepare children to enter mainstream education when they have the skills to do so successfully. According to the AG Bell Association, “the purpose of the LSLS credential is to unite the listening and spoken language industry and allow us to speak with one voice to better serve families who are interested in a spoken language outcome for their child with hearing loss. Families who choose listening and talking as the desired outcomes for their child

can look to the AG Bell Academy LSLS as designating a highly qualified provider.”

Auditory-Verbal Therapy is just one of the communication choices available for children at CDHH, and focuses on building the child’s auditory and communication skills without the use of sign language, speechreading or cued speech. CDHH is proud to be Wisconsin’s leader in providing A-V Therapy to children with hearing loss, for those families who choose an oral method of communication, and currently offers A-V Therapy services at the Center or via long-distance learning. For more information about CDHH’s Auditory-Verbal Therapy services, contact Amy Peters Lalios at 414-604-7204 or via email at alalios@cdhh.org.

Smart Car Raffle Draws Nationwide Interest

Given these challenging economic times, non-profit agencies like the Center are eager to find new ways to raise money to support critical services, and individuals are searching for new ways to make their dollars stretch farther. CDHH discovered a way to serve both of these interests with its 2008 Smart Car Raffle. The Smart Fortwo Passion Cabriolet is a highly fuel efficient and highly in demand car, only recently made available here in the United States. While Smart cars aren't an everyday sight in Wisconsin quite yet, they are gaining in popularity across the country, with many people waiting months just to have the opportunity to purchase one. As a result, more than 1500 raffle tickets were sold to individuals from across the country, including as far away as Hawaii and Alaska! In the end, the winner of the raffle, which was drawn at Tasting Tuesday on August 19, was Barry Edelstein of West Virginia. Barry was thrilled to win, and actually flew out to Wisconsin to pick up his new Smart car in person and drive it all the way back home. While Barry was in Milwaukee, he stopped by the Center for a



tour, and, “was very impressed with the very comprehensive and cutting edge services provided by the Center.” In an interesting twist of fate, Barry has a special connection to hearing loss issues, as he is a Professor of Psychology at West Virginia University and specializes in Clinical Geropsychology. In addition to working at the University, he is a consultant to Hopedont Hospital in Rural Terra Alta, WV, a long-term care facility operated by the State. His clinical and research

work is with older adults, many of whom have hearing loss in addition to psychiatric diagnoses and/or dementia. His research work focuses on older adult decision making, particularly medical decision making, and older adult social anxiety. According to Barry, “conducting psychological assessments of older adults can be especially challenging with residents who have hearing impairments.” He reinforced the fact that with the growing population of older adults in the U.S., it is becoming more important than ever for organizations such as CDHH to continue raising awareness of hearing loss issues and communication barriers through community education and outreach efforts.

Choose to Leave a Legacy

Have you ever thought about planned giving? Essentially, planned giving means making a charitable gift to an organization that you believe in, and donating in a way that fits into your overall financial goals. It can also be a way to ensure that your generosity and commitment to improving the lives of others is remembered and carried on after your lifetime. Planned giving can actually be very easy for you and it makes a tremendous difference to CDHH as we cope with increasing demands and rising costs. Here are just a few of the ways that you can integrate planned giving into your financial strategy.

Year-End Gifts

Maximize your annual charitable deduction while immediately helping the Center by making a year end cash gift by check or credit card.

Gifts Through Your Will

When you write your Will or review and revise it, please consider including the Center in your plans. Such a gift will ensure that you leave a legacy of generosity and philanthropy behind.

Retirement Plan Gifts

You can minimize the taxes on retirement plan assets by designating the Center to receive part or all of your IRA, 401 (k), or other retirement plan after your death.

Life Insurance Gifts

If you have a life insurance policy that is no longer needed, it may provide the perfect way for you to make a charitable gift to the Center.

Investment Gifts

The IRS allows you one of its most significant tax breaks for gifts of appreciated securities. You may transfer appreciated stock to the Center and claim a deduction for the stock's full value, thus avoiding capital gains taxes.

For more information about planned giving, check with your financial planner or call Dorothy Kerr at 414-604-7201 to meet with a planned giving specialist.

TASTING TUESDAY

Features Beer, Wine & Fun

The end of summer was capped off by a fun-filled evening of beer and wine tasting, food, music and more at Tasting Tuesday, an annual fundraising event to benefit the Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing on August 19. Nearly two hundred people filled the Milwaukee Ale House for this fourth annual beer and wine extravaganza, to help raise thousands of dollars to support the important work of the Center.

Guests enjoyed sampling more than thirty kinds of wine from around the world, plus great beer and food from the Milwaukee Ale House. Beechwood Cheese Co. sponsored a cheese tasting station, featuring a wide assortment of their incredible artisan cheeses, and Whole Foods provided a wonderful dessert table. The night also included music by the Dan Dance Trio and a homebrew contest featuring professional and celebrity beer judges including Dick Leinenkugel and Adler from FM102 Milwaukee's morning show.

The live and silent auctions contributed to the festive atmosphere, and included exciting items such as a two-night stay in New York City including airfare, a 22-bottle collection of fine wines donated by CDHH board members, and Packers tickets. Both auctions were a huge success, with many guests going home with unique treasures and certificates to enjoy some of the area's best attractions.

Thanks and congratulations to the Tasting Tuesday committee, including Event Chair John Gehlhaart, as well as Jeff Bartosiak, Patti Stevens and Charlie Mayhew, for a successful event. Thanks also to the event sponsors and contributors for their generosity: Ritz Homan, Butala, Fine, LLP, RFP Commercial, FM102.1, Milwaukee Ale House, Boelter Restaurant Supply, Whole Foods Market, Beechwood Cheese Co., Believe in Auctions, LLC, and Wine Cellar of Wisconsin.

Thank you to all of the individuals and businesses who provided live and silent auction items for Tasting Tuesday, including: 88Nine RadioMilwaukee, Alioto's Restaurant, Ann Pieper Eisenbrown, Arlington Park, Bel Canto Chorus, Best Buy – Fox Point, Betty Brinn Children's Museum, Bijoux, Bob Holmes, Build-A-Bear Workshop, Calico Corners, Carrie Conner, Carroll Studios of Photography, Charles Allis and Villa Terrace Arts Museums, Connections Tickets, Country Inn & Suites, Craig Berns Salon Spa, Cream City Music, Cup-A-Java, DeRosa Corporation, Discovery World at Pier Wisconsin, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Einhorn, Elkhart Lake's Road America, Inc., First



Approximately 200 people came out to enjoy beer and wine tasting and support CDHH at Tasting Tuesday.

Stage, Eleanor Fischer, Bob Frisch, Fun World, Gini Bunnell, Green Bay Packers, Herbert H. Kohl Charities, Inc., Home Portraits by Laurie, Judy Scott, Judy Wagner, Kathy Knoll, Lakefront Brewery, Legends of the Field, Lieblang Leather, Lucille's Rockin' Pianos, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, Marquette Athletics, Milwaukee Admirals, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee Ballet, Milwaukee Boat Line, Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club, Milwaukee Bucks, Milwaukee County Zoo, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Wave, Min's Whims..., Morgyn Stranahan, Morningstar, Next Act Theatre, Paintball Dave's, Patti Stevens, Paul & Deb Ostrenga, Peter Schuyler, Potawatomi Bingo Casino, Quality Candy and Buddy Squirrel, Rita Wilcox, Rocky Rococo Pizza and Pasta, Schwanke Kasten Co., Inc., Sharlene Hiller, Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, Shedd Aquarium, Sprecher Brewing Co., Inc., Steinman Studios, Stone Creek Coffee, StoneFire Pizza Co., Sunset Playhouse, The Bartolotta Restaurants, The Brett Favre Fourward Foundation, The Bull, The Capital Grille, The Kieckhefer Group, The Skylight, Third Ward Caffe, Travel Advantage Network, Vitality Personal Training, WaterStone Bank, Wisconsin Restaurant Association, and YogAsylum.



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Upcoming events . . . Mark your calendar now!

Parent Education Workshop

Thursday, Oct. 16, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM at CDHH. "Transition: How Do We Get From Birth-to-Three to School?" CDHH Child and Family Program Director Chris Kometer will help you gain a better understanding of the transition process from Birth-to-Three services to public school. Call 414-604-2200 or email mstranahan@cdhh.org by October 13 to register.

Entertainment Books on Sale

Now through December 15. Save money and support CDHH by purchasing an Entertainment book for just \$35. Filled with discounts on dining, entertainment, travel and more. To purchase, visit www.cdhh.org or visit the Center during regular business hours.

Winter Wonderland Party

Saturday, Dec. 6, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, Briggs & Stratton Auditorium, 124th St. and Wirth Ave., Milwaukee

Deaf and hard of hearing children and their families are invited to join in a celebration of the holiday season with crafts, stories, refreshments, gifts and more. For details, call 414-604-2200 (V) / 888-742-7651 (TTY) or email ckometer@cdhh.org.

Save the Date! - Annual Gardens Luncheon

Thursday, April 23, 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM, Woman's Club of Wisconsin, 813 E. Kilbourn, Milwaukee. This year's luncheon will feature a celebration of motherhood and honor some very special mothers in our community. Also featuring guest speaker Betty Adelman of Heritage Flower Farm.

Monthly Hearing Loss Support Meetings

First Thursday of each month, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM at CDHH. Join the Milwaukee-Racine Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America for their monthly get-togethers. Discuss current hearing loss issues, share experiences and make new friends. Adults of all ages with hearing loss and their friends or family are welcome to attend. Light refreshments served. Attendance is free. Email Jean Szabo at szaboshhh@yahoo.com for more information.



United Way
of Greater Milwaukee