



Language Access Services

For babies with hearing loss, the first three years of life are critical for auditory, language, and speech development. Early detection and intervention can enable children to perform at levels consistent with their peers by the time they enter school. Families also benefit from support that improves their ability to communicate with their deaf or hard of hearing child.

The Birth-to-Three Language Access Services at HEAR Wisconsin provide a broad array of therapies and education for families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as for d/Deaf parents with children who are either hearing or deaf or hard of hearing.



Commlink Sign Language Interpreting

Commlink is the trusted resource for quality sign language interpreters. Our great team of licensed professionals provide interpreting solutions for both individuals and businesses throughout Wisconsin. We are dedicated to ensuring full and equal access to communication for both hearing and d/Deaf individuals.

Kay Eckstein Speech & Hearing Center



Ray and Kay Eckstein have generously supported organizations based on their commitment to the fundamentals of faith, family, communication, and education. Kathryn Hendrick Eckstein was born in Chicago and graduated from Marquette University in 1949 with a degree in Speech. A devoted wife and a loving mother of eight children, Kay had a love of language and literature. Her passion for speech and her desire to help children and adults with hearing loss led to a most generous commemorative gift. In 2015, our facility was renamed to honor her.



Who we are

HEAR Wisconsin is a mission-driven nonprofit that has served infants, children, and adults with hearing loss for over 90 years. We offer comprehensive and innovative programs that respect diversity, offer communication choices, create independence, and transform lives. Our programs help those with hearing loss overcome barriers to communication and foster independence and individual success.

Hearing Healthcare

Call today to make an appointment with our Medical College of Wisconsin audiologists or technology counselors at our new hearing healthcare center. We sell more than just hearing aids, we offer individualized treatment options tailored to meet your needs. Every purchase you make supports kids & families with hearing loss.

HEAR Wisconsin

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This is Roger.

He is a happily married, 70 year old retired lawyer. He feels fortunate to have one of his sons, his wife, and their three little daughters living right here in Milwaukee. Roger loves to participate in family gatherings with his three little granddaughters, but lately he finds himself straining to hear what others are saying, especially in group settings.

Recently, the family had a nice dinner and evening together. The next day, his wife asked him, "Roger, did you know that last night Grace was telling you about her field trip, and it seemed as if you were not paying attention to her. You acted like she wasn't even talking to you." Roger replied, "What are you talking about?" Roger thought about it for a while, and then realized that there must be other things he is not hearing. He feels awful that his granddaughter, and no doubt others, must think he is purposely ignoring them.

“ He can enjoy family gatherings and other social events knowing that his hearing aids are tuned specifically for him and the places his family and friends gather. ”

HEAR Wisconsin audiologists from the Medical College of Wisconsin and technology counselors can work closely with Roger to find the best solution for his lifestyle. He can enjoy family gatherings and other social events knowing that his hearing aids are tuned specifically for him and the places his family and friends gather.

Coffee & Learn at HEAR Wisconsin

Stop by at 10 am or 2 pm on Monday, May 15th for a workshop on the latest in hearing aid technology and accessories. Our audiologists and technology counselors will be available to answer questions about hearing tests, hearing aids, and general hearing health.

Join Us!

Flip this paper over for our contact information and address.

In this issue...

- A generous donor shares her story;
- Meet a staff member making a big impact everyday;
- Learn about our spring events & upcoming sign language classes.

Letter from our Board President

I'm honored to be part of an organization that brings lasting change to so many lives, one child and one family at a time. I know it does because HEAR Wisconsin has had a huge impact on my family.

I initially became involved because my son was born with hearing loss. We were directed to this 91 years old organization for its highly regarded early intervention program and found all the tools we needed to help my son reach his potential. He has had great academic success, is now 24 years old, and working for Google. I decided to give back years later by joining the Board of Directors at HEAR Wisconsin.

We face a daunting task: private insurance and public funding only cover a fraction of the approximately \$7,500 per child per year for early intervention services. These programs are an investment that pays off many times over, but right now we need your help to continue impacting all families that come through our doors. Together we can make a real difference in these children and their families' lives, one child and one family at a time.

Sincerely,
Angela Pintar

Donor Spotlight

Judy Scott



Judy Scott (on the left) and her sister Gini Bunnell are wonderful long-time supporters of HEAR Wisconsin. They have a beloved nephew, born deaf, who provided the inspiration for them to support the agency's mission for many years. Gini, a recognized West Coast artist, recently donated nine beautiful paintings showcasing children with hearing aids and cochlear implants in charming settings. These paintings now adorn our walls and will serve to spread the message of the agency's mission.

Not only has Judy been philanthropic with HEAR Wisconsin for years, she also has been on the Board of Directors since 1988, serving in several officer positions over the years, including as President. She has tirelessly dedicated thousands of hours to HEAR Wisconsin and has encouraged family, friends, and colleagues to support its mission. Judy realizes, "it can be a bewildering and scary experience for parents to learn they have a child with a hearing loss." She adds, "I remember so well when the audiologist told my brother that his son was profoundly deaf. For families like his, it's a tremendous relief to be surrounded by the care and resources of HEAR Wisconsin." She notes that the life-changing impact on these families is one reason she feels passionate about supporting this organization. Judy adds happily that her nephew, whose lip-reading skills were always remarkable, was able to get cochlear implants as an adult and now boasts that he can walk and talk with his young adopted daughter, even on dark evenings.

With her background teaching at Gallaudet University and extensive experience in research and investment banking at Robert W. Baird & Co., Judy gives invaluable guidance and advice on major decisions at the agency.

Become a supporter

Without you, HEAR Wisconsin could not continue providing critical services to the thousands of children and adults with hearing loss who depend on us each year. HEAR WI is the only organization in Wisconsin that offers comprehensive programs and services to enhance the quality of life for children and adults affected by hearing loss.

Donate online or by mail

Add your name to our list of generous individual donors who help make our mission possible.

Workplace giving & matching

Ask your employer about establishing a workplace giving and/or matching program, or, if your organization has one set up, see about directing your contribution to HEAR Wisconsin. If you or your employer are a United Way partner, ask that your support be directed to HEAR WI by adding our organization code (49425) to the United Way donation form.

Sponsor

Sponsor HEAR Wisconsin's fundraising events and program events held throughout the year. Our fundraisers attract hundreds of professionals and supporters every year - they are a great way for any business, large or small, to showcase their brand while supporting a great cause.

In-kind Donation Wish List

- Hanna Andersson Pilot Caps for infants and toddlers. These prevent children from pulling off their hearing aids.
- Gently used or like new children's books.
- iPads for our Language Access Services staff to use speech apps during therapy.
- Parking lot repaving.
- Gift cards for school & art supplies for our classroom projects.
- New carpet installation for our offices.

Learn sign language!

Register at www.hearwi.org

ASL I Tuesdays 6-8 pm June 6-Aug. 15

The 10-week ASL I class is your chance to learn basic vocabulary, use of expression, and finger spelling. Plus you'll be introduced to Deaf culture.

ASL II Tuesdays 6-8 pm June 6-Aug. 15

If you have already completed a beginning sign course at HEAR Wisconsin or elsewhere, register for ASL II and continue developing your vocabulary and conversation skills.

Parent & Child Class for kids 4-8

9:30 am - 10:30 am

Youth Sign Language for kids 9-14

11 - 12 noon

Both classes run Tuesdays and Thursdays, on June 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29

Meet our team member who makes a BIG impact on children's lives!



Amy Peters Lalios

M.A., CCC-A, LSL Cert. AVT
Director of Therapy Services, Audiologist,
& Certified Auditory-Verbal Therapist

Amy joined the Language Access Team in 2005, as the very first Certified Auditory-Verbal Therapist in Wisconsin. As the Director of Therapy Services, Amy supervises and coordinates early intervention services and provides direct Auditory-Verbal Therapy to toddlers and school-aged children. She says she is "continually inspired and motivated by the possibilities for all children who are deaf and hard of hearing to acquire optimal language skills and academic abilities. I am grateful to the families who have allowed me to share in their journeys. I feel very fortunate to be able to do what I love."

Amy has been an adjunct instructor at local universities and is currently a Clinical and Adjunct instructor in the College of Health Sciences at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. Additionally, Amy has written for various informational publications and presented at numerous professional conferences; most recently she co-presented with colleagues from various programs around the country at the National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Conference in February.

In her free time Amy enjoys spending time with her two daughters, family, and friends.

Thursday, April 20 5-8 pm

Thursday, May 4 6-9 pm

Register at hearwi.org

Saturday, May 13 10 am -12 pm

Tuesday, June 13 5:30 - 7:30 pm



Betty Brinn Children's Museum

Enjoy all the fun and interactive exhibits the museum has to offer while spending time with friends! This is a neighborhood day, so admission is free!



Corks & Kegs, May 4th 6-9 pm

You're invited to a night of great food and drinks, live music, auction, and fantastic company at Discovery World. HEAR Wisconsin's annual fundraiser is just around the corner.

Corks & Kegs is a wonderful opportunity to sample food and drinks selected by Bartollata's restaurant, meet new people, and support children and families with hearing loss.



HLAA Walk4Hearing

Register now to walk with us at Greenfield Park to raise awareness of hearing loss in our community and to help support critical programs and services for children and adults with hearing loss.



FamilyLink Pizza Party

(for current and past child & family clients only)

Come join us for pizza, playtime, and a story at HEAR WI. This is an opportunity to meet other families in the program, while the kids have a great time playing. The night will end with a pajama story time that will be interpreted in ASL. Hope you can make it!