

Welcome New Board Members



CCHD is pleased to introduce Enrique Figueroa, Ph.D (*left*) and Ron Jahnke (*right*), who recently joined the Center's Board of Directors.

Mr. Figueroa is the Director of the Roberto Hernandez Center and Assistant to the Provost for Latino Affairs at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. Among his many achievements, he was selected as Hispanic Professional of the Year in 2007 by the Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee and received the Medallion of Distinguished Alumnus from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute. In addition to bringing years of experience serving on numerous government-related boards and councils, Mr. Figueroa also has extensive experience serving on non-profit Boards of Directors. He recognizes what a unique resource CCHD is in Wisconsin and is proud to be joining the CCHD Board. He is eager to contribute to the Center's mission of providing world-class services that meet the various needs of our diverse community.

Ron Jahnke, who is the Regional Manager of the

Private Client Group at US Bank, joins the CCHD Board after years of having a very personal connection with the Center. "When our oldest son Jacob was born in 2001, he was diagnosed with a profound hearing loss. As new parents, my wife and I were shocked. Luckily, we were quickly introduced to the great staff and wonderful programs that CCHD had to offer. Our son is now eight years old, has bilateral cochlear implants, and attends a regular third grade class at Meadowbrook Elementary School in Waukesha. Had it not been for the Center, and the dedication of its staff, I really don't believe Jacob would be where he is today. I am looking forward to serving on the Center's Board of Directors, as this organization has been a big support to our family."

The Center is grateful for the leadership and support provided by the Board of Directors, who volunteer their time and skills to ensure the Center's continued success providing state-of-the-art hearing and speech services in Wisconsin. It is through the combined efforts of the Center's dedicated Board, hardworking staff, and generous donors and volunteers that the Center is able to fulfill its mission.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- CCHD Welcomes New Board Members
- Focus on: Kellogg Child & Family Program
- Ask the Audiologist: Tinnitus & Choosing the Right Hearing Aid
- Volunteer Spotlight: Mary Deuster

BIRTH TO THREE SERVICES

Providing Early Intervention for Life-long Success

Sometimes when you look at the smiling faces of the Center's Birth-to-Three Program graduates and watch them as they interact with their teachers and parents during their last day in Toddler Communication Group, it can be difficult to remember how much hard work goes into reaching this milestone. But the journey to graduation is often a long and emotional one.

For many parents, the journey begins within hours after birth, when their child does not pass the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and they discover that their child may have a hearing problem. A diagnosis of hearing loss often provokes shock and anxiety as parents wonder what this may mean for their child's future or where to turn for help. That's when staff from the Center's Birth to Three Program step in.

For children as young as six weeks, the Center begins meeting with their family during regular home visits, at first helping the parents understand their child's hearing loss and how it may impact his or her language development, and explaining the many technology and therapy options available. Each family works with a team that includes a Teacher of the Deaf, a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) and a Service Coordinator.

As the child grows, they soon take center stage during these home visits, as they work with their teacher and therapist to develop a foundation for language – whether spoken or signed. Through songs, stories and constructive play, children begin to build their vocabulary and discover how to communicate their thoughts and feelings with others.

Although the majority of Birth to Three Services are provided in the home, when children are 15 months old, parents can choose to have them participate in



Toddler Communication Groups at the Center twice per week. Here, they have the opportunity to develop more independence and practice their developing language and social skills in a natural play environment with other children their age. Toddler groups are organized according to the communication option chosen by the parents, and some groups are also designed to support the language needs of hearing children whose parents are Deaf, as these children may otherwise experience some delays in their communication development.

When children graduate from the program at three years old, it is often a day filled with smiles and tears, as parents reflect on how far their child has come in their hearing loss journey and look forward to the exciting future ahead. Many of the Center's graduates go on to preschool with language and communication skills near or equal to those of their hearing peers, and are ready to take on any new challenge that life brings. And that, is the ultimate goal of the Center – to prepare children for a lifetime of success by building a strong foundation of language, communication and learning.

LONG DISTANCE AUDITORY-VERBAL THERAPY

Using the Internet to Make Services Accessible



When Heather and Mike Best discovered that their 3-year old twin girls, Paige and Mychaela, had severe to profound bilateral hearing loss, they knew that they had to act fast so their daughters did not fall too far behind in their language and communication development. At 3 ½ years old, each received a cochlear implant, and the family began using a combination of sign language and spoken language to communicate. This approach helped, but Heather and Mike knew there might still be a better way.

While attending a special program for families of children with hearing loss at the John Tracy Clinic in Los Angeles, Heather and Mike learned about Auditory-Verbal (A-V) Therapy, a parent-centered approach that focuses on listening as the primary input for learning language and which teaches the child to use sound meaningfully while wearing his or her hearing aid or cochlear implant. They decided that this was the approach they wanted to use to help their daughters learn to listen and speak. But when they got back home to rural northern Wisconsin,

they were disappointed to find that the only Certified A-V Therapist in the entire state was nearly six hours away, at CCHD. Unless they moved, weekly visits for therapy would be out of the question.

Then they learned about the Center's Long-Distance A-V Therapy Program, which would make it possible for Paige and Mychaela to begin receiving A-V Therapy in the comfort of their own home via web camera and the internet. The Center launched this program three years ago for families just like the Bests, to ensure that geography was not a barrier to children getting the right services to meet their needs.

Today, "the girls really enjoy their therapy sessions with Amy Lalios [the Center's Certified A-V Therapist], and the long-distance program has worked very well for us," says Heather. "We have been so pleased with their progress and are amazed everyday at how the girls surprise us in their language skills and development. Without this program though, we would not have been able to pursue an Auditory-Verbal approach for them."

Already seven years old, Paige and Mychaela love school, sports and being with their friends. And, because of their parents' dedication and the novel use of technology to deliver services to them from hundreds of miles away, the girls have a very bright future ahead where hearing loss is just another challenge in life to be dealt with head-on and overcome.



Certified A-V Therapist Amy Lalios demonstrates some of the technology that makes long-distance therapy possible.

Thanks to all who attended the Annual Gardens Luncheon and Tasting Tuesday, the Center's two major fundraising events, which were held this spring. As a private non-profit agency, these events, combined with individual contributions, make up a significant portion of the Center's operating revenue. The Center is especially grateful for the many individuals, businesses and foundations that contributed financially or in-kind to ensure the success of these events.



Gardens Luncheon

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Tasting Tuesday



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I often get a ringing sound in my ears, what is it and should I be concerned?

What you are likely experiencing is a condition called Tinnitus (pronounced ti-NIGHT-us or TIN-i-tus). It's defined as "the perception of sound in the head when no external sound is present." Tinnitus can occur in one or both ears and its sounds can be described in many ways including ringing, buzzing, hissing, roaring, whistling, clicking or even chirping. In most cases it is not a sign of a serious, ongoing medical condition. According to the American Tinnitus Association, about 50 million people experience tinnitus to some degree, but only 12 million have severe enough tinnitus to seek medical attention. Noise is the leading cause of tinnitus and it can often accompany hearing loss, which is why it is so important to make an appointment for a hearing evaluation with an audiologist if you are experiencing tinnitus on a regular basis. At the hearing evaluation, the audiologist can determine if a hearing loss is present, or if a medical referral is necessary. Although there is no cure for tinnitus, it can often be managed successfully. Treatment varies and may include hearing aids, tinnitus retraining therapy or medical/surgical intervention.



How do I know which type of hearing aid is right for me?

The type of hearing aid that is appropriate for each individual varies greatly and the one that is right for you will depend on a number of factors including the degree of hearing loss present, your lifestyle, your ability to adapt to new technology and of course, your finances. All hearing aids are essentially designed to amplify sound and contain the same basic parts, but they come in a number of different styles, sizes and levels of technology so they can be tailored to meet each person's individual needs. In general, smaller hearing aids are less powerful and offer fewer features to customize your listening experience. Most hearing

aids are now digital and can include a variety of different features including telecoils, directional microphones, built-in FM or Bluetooth technology, and even remote controls. The cost of hearing aids varies widely — from several hundred dollars to several thousand dollars — and the level of technology you choose will ultimately determine the cost. At Community Audiology Services, our goal is to fit each patient with hearing instruments that address their individual needs and unique situation.

Community Audiology Services



To learn more about how Community Audiology Services can help you start hearing better, visit www.cchdwi.org/community_audiology_services.php or call 414-541-4327 to schedule an appointment.

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

We gratefully acknowledge contributions recorded between February 9, 2010 and June 25, 2010. 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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Thanks to all of our volunteers who give so generously of their time and talents to help out at the Center. Recent volunteers include:

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From Northwestern Mutual Financial Network:

Kristine Staral
 Linda Swick
 Lori Skenadore



Name: Mary Deuster

Volunteer for: 9 months

How she helps: Mary has helped with various projects at the Center, but she really shines in her primary role as

a fill-in receptionist at CCHD. Mary can often be found answering phones and greeting CCHD visitors at the front desk during CCHD staff meetings and at other times when extra help is needed. Even on short notice, Mary is quick to say yes whenever CCHD needs a helping hand, always willing to go the extra mile to get the job done. “Mary is so reliable,” says CCHD Volunteer Coordinator Ruta Murphy, “and her

friendly personality and professional demeanor make her a great fit for this important volunteer position.”

Why she supports CCHD: More than just a volunteer, Mary is also a former client of the Center, when it was then known as the Milwaukee Hearing Society. “I wanted to do some volunteer work in the community and chose to help at CCHD because I used to go there for speech-therapy when I was a little girl. I am amazed at how far the Center has come over the years and how much it has to offer individuals with hearing loss now. The Center helped me and my parents a great deal when I was a child, so it’s an honor to volunteer at CCHD today.”

Community News & Resources

Video Remote Interpreting – Coming Soon to CCHD!

CommunicationLink, the Center’s statewide interpreting coordination service is pleased to announce that it will soon be adding Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) to its roster of available services. According to the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, VRI has several benefits including “providing easier and faster access to communication, access to quality services, and effective use of fiscal resources.” It is especially beneficial in “situations with an immediate need for interpreters [and] in rural areas where qualified interpreters are less accessible.” The new VRI services through CommunicationLink will be available soon. More details on this exciting new interpreting option will be provided in the fall issue of InfoLink..

New App Provides Captioned Cell Phone Calls

Hamilton CapTel recently announced the immediate availability of a new captioning application for the iPhone. Available nationwide, Hamilton Mobile CapTel allows users to listen while reading captions of everything that is said during phone calls – all from the convenience of their iPhone. The new App is free, easy to use and highly functional. While initially only available for the iPhone 3G/3GS, due to resounding demand, Hamilton Mobile CapTel has plans to provide this service on a variety of devices.

You can download the free Hamilton Mobile CapTel iPhone App at:

<http://iphone.appmobilize.com/track/185118>.



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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 barrier through personalized services, technology and education.

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Mark Your Calendars



Family Learning Vacation

August 20 – 22 at the Lions Camp in Rosholt, WI

Registration deadline is July 23.

For more information, email kmalak@cchdwi.org or call 414-604-7202.

Fall Sign Language Classes

Classes start approximately September 20. Exact dates TBD.

ASL I – Mondays, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

ASL II – Tuesdays, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

ASL Follow-Up – Mondays, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM



Winter Wonderland Party

Saturday, December 4, 2010

Briggs & Stratton Auditorium

Annual Gardens Luncheon

Thursday, May 12, 2011, Woman's Club of Wisconsin



United Way
of Greater Milwaukee