



## Across the Miles – CDHH Launches Long-Distance Therapy Service

Having a child with special needs is never easy, but it can be especially difficult for families without access to the specialized services their child needs to thrive. CDHH is helping to eliminate these barriers by integrating cutting-edge technology with old-fashioned professional expertise through its new long-distance Auditory-Verbal (A-V) Therapy Service. Using web cameras and computers, parents throughout Wisconsin, and the country, now are able to pursue Auditory-Verbal Therapy for their deaf or hard of hearing child, even if the nearest Certified Auditory-Verbal Therapist® is hundreds of miles away.

Auditory-Verbal Therapy is a parent-centered approach that focuses on listening as the primary input for learning language. During therapy sessions, the parent, child and therapist engage in activities that teach the child to use sound meaningfully while wearing his or her hearing aid or cochlear implant. According to CDHH's Amy Peters Lalius, Wisconsin's only Certified Auditory-Verbal Therapist®, "access to qualified professionals who have the necessary education, training, knowledge and experience teaching language to children with hearing loss is often limited across geographic

regions. This is especially true for auditory-verbal therapy. Long distance therapy provides families with direct access to professionals and services that would otherwise not be available."

This was the case for the Petrina family of Kewaunee, whose daughter Ashley was born with profound hearing loss nearly two years ago. Early on, Ashley's parents decided that they wanted spoken language to be her first language and opted to provide Ashley with cochlear implants. Ashley's mom, Carol, researched different therapy choices and sought out books and ideas about how she could help her daughter's language development from home — a daunting task for any parent. Carol first learned about CDHH Auditory-Verbal Therapy services during the Center's annual Family Learning Vacation event. She watched a presentation by Amy Lalius, and talked with another family who shared the success they had found through A-V therapy. But, given that the Petrina's lived about two hours away from the Center, in-person therapy didn't seem like a realistic option. To their surprise, CDHH was in the process of launching the new long-distance A-V Therapy Service, one of the first of its kind in the country, and Ashley was able to begin receiving weekly therapy from Amy via web camera in the comfort of their own home.

In addition to the convenience and accessibility of receiving long-distance therapy, Carol says that the most beneficial part of auditory-verbal therapy is that it *(Continued on page 6)*

### Did you know...

- In 1987, California opened the first statewide, 24-hour, 7 days a week telephone relay service, operated by AT&T. 80,000 calls were made in the first month.
- 30% of children with a hearing loss have an additional disability.
- At least 12 million Americans have tinnitus, or "ringing in the ears." Of these, at least 1 million experience it so severely that it interferes with their daily activities.
- 14.9% of US children aged six to nineteen have a measurable hearing loss in one or both ears.



With long-distance therapy services, even families in rural areas can choose Auditory-Verbal Therapy for their child.

## Discover Ideas For A Fun And Fabulous Garden On April 10th



Looking to put a little fun and flair into your landscaping this year? Join us on Thursday, April 10, at the Woman's Club of Wisconsin for the annual Gardens Luncheon to benefit the Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Back by popular demand, Melody Narr, landscape designer and owner of LandWorks, Inc., will share ideas on how to create a garden that is uniquely you by incorporating color, structures, garden art and other points of interest. Melody will be joined by renowned garden artist Joan Hoerl, who will provide examples of how to enhance the look and feel of your garden by including whimsical touches and outdoor artwork that is both fun and functional.



Melody Narr and Joan Hoerl will share ideas for adding some personality to your landscaping this year at the Gardens Luncheon on April 10.

In addition to socializing with friends and discovering some great ideas for your garden, you'll enjoy a light lunch, raffle of fun and unique items and a silent auction for beautiful centerpieces. One-of-a-kind garden artwork by Joan Hoerl will also be on display and available for purchase.

Tickets to this popular annual event are \$60 and are available online at [www.cdhh.org](http://www.cdhh.org) or by calling 414-604-2200. You may also purchase tickets in person at the Center during regular business hours. This event has sold out in past years, so early registration is recommended.

## UbiDuo Makes Communication Easier

Communication between Deaf and hearing individuals is often a challenge due to a lack of common language. This ongoing language barrier can lead to frustration on the job, out in the community and sometimes even with other family members. A new product, now available at UniversalLink, seeks to reduce some of this frustration by making conversations between Deaf and hearing individuals more convenient and natural. The UbiDuo which was developed by David Curry and his son Jason, who is deaf, is a small wireless computer device with a flip-top screen and two keyboards that allows two people to type back and forth instantaneously to each other. Similar to instant messaging, the UbiDuo provides an easy way to have face-to-face communication using text rather than sign language or spoken



The new UbiDuo face-to-face communicator helps to eliminate common communication barriers.

English. An additional feature is that the wireless devices, while most often used close to each other, can also be used up to 500 feet apart and will transmit through floors and walls, making it even more versatile and convenient.

While not practical for every situation, in some cases users have reported a reduced need for sign language interpreters during routine business transactions or at work, making the UbiDuo a very cost-effective investment at only \$1,995.95. Overall, it is a shining example of how the latest technology can be adapted to make communication easier and services more accessible for those with special needs. To find out if the UbiDuo is right for you or your business, contact one of the Communication Technology Counselors at UniversalLink by calling 414-541-5465 (V) / 888-742-7651 (TTY) or emailing [universalink@cdhh.org](mailto:universalink@cdhh.org).

## Mark Your Calendars For Family Learning Vacation 2008

Each year, the Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing hosts Family Learning Vacation, a unique opportunity for d/Deaf and hard of hearing children from throughout Wisconsin, and their families, to gather at the Lions Camp in Rosholt, WI, for a weekend of educational seminars, family-centered activities, bonding and fun. For many children and parents, this is a rare opportunity to meet others who understand the daily challenges of hearing loss and to share experiences and build new friendships that can last a lifetime. Last year, approximately two dozen families took part in this special retreat weekend. Family Learning Vacation 2008 will take place August 15 - 17. To request a



Mark your calendars now for FLV 2008, August 15-17.

registration packet, please call 414-604-2200 (V) / 888-742-7651 (TTY) or email [kmalak@cdhh.org](mailto:kmalak@cdhh.org). We are also in need of sponsors and volunteers to make this event a success. For more information about sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, please contact [ckometer@cdhh.org](mailto:ckometer@cdhh.org) or call 414-604-7213.



## Did you know?



### Wanted: Foster Grandparents

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Are you an older adult who is looking for something to do and who enjoys spending time with children? You may want to consider becoming a foster grandparent through Interfaith Older Adult Programs. The Foster Grandparent Program allows you to make a difference in a child's life by volunteering your time as a friend and mentor to children in the community. As a foster grandparent, you will also receive ongoing monthly training, supplemental insurance, a tax-free stipend and help with transportation costs. To learn more about the volunteer requirements and how you can help, contact the program coordinator at 414-291-7500.

### FREE Video Homework Assistance For Deaf Students

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Tutoring Solutions is offered as a free, non-profit public service for the Deaf Community. It is specifically designed to assist elementary, middle school, and high school students complete school assignments in mathematics, English, science, literature and history using a webcam and computer. By using this unique program, students receive access to experienced, ASL conversant, subject matter experts, personalized coaching and instruction and unlimited tutoring sessions that enable students to develop relationships with tutors. For more information, visit [www.lifelinkstutorsfoundation.com](http://www.lifelinkstutorsfoundation.com).

### Program Helps Students With Disabilities Pursue Careers In Science

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The Midwest Alliance is a program funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) working to promote the success of students with disabilities in Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin who are interested in pursuing postsecondary degrees and careers in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) fields. The program offers supported mentorships, internship placements in research labs and industry settings, and resources, such as information, training, and stipends, to students as they begin their academic, technical, or professional learning experiences. Eligibility guidelines, application procedure, and a list of benefits can be found at [www.stemmidwest.org](http://www.stemmidwest.org).

### TV Is Going Digital – Are You Ready?

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In case you haven't heard, as of February 18, 2009, television transmissions will be broadcast in an all-digital format, creating a new challenge for anyone who still has an analog television set in their home. According to a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) fact sheet, the FCC is concerned that some consumers may experience difficulty in receiving and/or viewing closed captioning on some digital television programming. These difficulties are generally the result of technical problems with the cable or satellite provider's system that prevent closed captions from being received and decoded by the set-top box or digital TV, or because the consumer's set-top converter box or digital TV are not properly set. If you "go digital" and find that the closed captioning is not working properly, first consult your television or converter box owner's manual, then contact your cable company or satellite television provider for assistance. If the problem still cannot be resolved, contact the FCC Consumer Center at 888-CALL-FCC (V) / 888-TELL-FCC (TTY). For more information about the digital television transition and HDTV, visit [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov). For information about closed captioning, closed captioning schedules and exemptions from closed captioning regulations, visit [www.fcc.gov/cgb/dro/caption.html](http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/dro/caption.html).

### UniversalLink Is Just A Videophone Call Away

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Do you prefer to make calls using your videophone? If so, then UniversalLink invites you to contact them via VP at 414-604-2200 to speak with a Communication Technology Counselor. You can also still reach us at 414-541-5465 (Voice), 888-742-7654 (TTY) or by emailing [universalink@cdhh.org](mailto:universalink@cdhh.org). However you choose to contact us, UniversalLink strives to provide the highest quality service to each and every customer that we serve.

### Camp Scholarships Available

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CDHH has two scholarships available to YMCA Camp Matawa, located 45 minutes from Milwaukee in the Kettle Moraine State Forest. Children with hearing loss ages 7 to 14, or their siblings are eligible for this one-week adventure which includes hikes, games and sports. To apply, please email [dkerr@cdhh.org](mailto:dkerr@cdhh.org) indicating the names and ages of children you would like to have considered for the scholarships as well as any accommodations they would require. Applications will be considered in the order that they are received. Please respond no later than May 15. For more information about Camp Matawa, visit [www.matawa.org](http://www.matawa.org).

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

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

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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 November 16, 2007 and February 15, 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

*No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. — Aesop*

Thank you to all of the volunteers who have given of their time and talents to help the Center continue fulfilling its mission to improve the quality of life of children and adults with hearing loss. Your efforts make such a difference in the lives of others. Recent volunteers include:

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If you would like more information about becoming a volunteer or a current listing of volunteer opportunities, contact Aimee at 414-604-7210 (V) / 888-742-7651 (TTY) or email [akelchen@cdhh.org](mailto:akelchen@cdhh.org). You can also visit us online at [www.cdhh.org](http://www.cdhh.org).

# CDHH Music Program Receives Award

The music programs at CDHH will soon be receiving some upgrades thanks to the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, which selected the Center as a recipient of their Special Projects Program Award in recognition of its outstanding programs and dedication to music education.

Sharing the benefits of music with children who have hearing loss has been an important part of CDHH's programs for many years. Through community classes such as Little Movers and Shakers and by frequently incorporating songs into activities during Toddler Communication Groups, the CDHH Child and Family Program staff use music to help develop children's residual hearing, enhance auditory brain development and improve communication and social skills. According to Ruth Stuhr, who teaches the CDHH children's music programs, not only does music nurture a child's imagination and creativity, it also "stimulates all of the senses and engages every area of the brain: cognitive, social-emotional, motor skills and language development."

Music can also help to boost self-esteem and teach valuable life lessons. The Children of the Sun Drum Troupe, the first drum group in the country consisting exclusively of d/Deaf and hard of hearing children, has been the cornerstone of the CDHH music program for years. Performing throughout Wisconsin, the Children of the Sun teaches young children how to play and perform music in front of audiences large and small, and it also teaches the value of teamwork and creative self-expression. Children who participate in the drum troupe find that they are also helping to shatter stereotypes in the community and serving as role models for other children who are d/Deaf or hard of hearing.

As a result of the award from the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, CDHH will be receiving six tubano drums, one gathering drum, and a twelve-note set of choir chimes, which may lead to the establishment of a new d/Deaf and hard of hearing bell choir. Says Stuhr "this award affirms the importance of incorporating music into the lives of children with hearing loss and will allow CDHH to make music education even more accessible to d/Deaf and hard of hearing kids in Wisconsin."

*(Continued from page 1)* "gives me lots of ideas for activities to do at home with Ashley, since I'm with her all day." A key part of A-V therapy is parent involvement, and the therapist guides parents in ways to include listening as a meaningful part of the time they spend with the child outside of regular therapy sessions. "Just the other day, we were in the waiting room at the doctor's office and I was able to have a full therapy session with Ashley right there."

When children such as Ashley receive specialized intervention services



Alvin Horton shows off his drumming skills on stage during a recent drum troupe performance.

## Music as a Common Language

Alvin Horton has had to face his share of adversity but has never let it dampen his lively spirit and friendly personality. For Alvin, life began with collapsed lungs and a three month stay in the NICU that was followed by a diagnosis of profound deafness at 9 months. At that point, few would have guessed that he would someday be known as "Mr. Fireworks" and a lead performer in a drum troupe, but that's exactly what Alvin is today. A sophomore at the Wisconsin School for the Deaf, Alvin has been performing with the CDHH Children of the Sun Drum Troupe since he was twelve years old, after his mom, Trina, learned of the program through Alvin's audiologist. As a drum troupe member, Alvin has blossomed, becoming integral to every performance with his dynamic, intense drum solos and dancing. According to Ms. Horton, this experience has helped Alvin to become "proud of himself and self confident. It gives him a way to express himself." Finding a common language through music is especially important for Alvin, who uses sign language. His family members don't know sign, which often makes communication difficult. Drumming has been a way for Alvin to bridge this communication gap and connect with others. "Family members come to watch him perform and become overwhelmed with emotion," says Ms. Horton. The opportunity to be part of the Children of the Sun Drum Troupe has "allowed Alvin to do more in the world and to be a big inspiration to others."

at an early age, many – even those with profound hearing loss – are ready to take their place with their hearing peers when they reach school age. While not the right choice for every family, Auditory-Verbal Therapy is just one of the options available to parents at CDHH. And now, through the miracle of modern technology, children throughout Wisconsin, and the country, can access this valuable service, whether they live in a big city or a rural town. For more information about the Center's long-distance therapy service, please call 414-604-7204 or email [alalios@cdhh.org](mailto:alalios@cdhh.org).

# Bluetooth Technology Comes To UniversaLink

Have you ever wanted to take advantage of wireless phone technology but thought that you couldn't because you wear hearing aids? UniversaLink offers several new products featuring Bluetooth technology and one may be just what you've been waiting for!

Bluetooth is a relatively recent technology built into a variety of devices such as computers, PDA's cell phones and even cameras. Bluetooth-compatible devices connect without wires and the technology requires only small amounts of power, plus it includes built-in encryption, which helps to explain its widespread popularity. In fact, Bluetooth cell phone headsets have become a standard accessory for most people. Until recently, however, individuals with hearing aids could not take advantage of this technology and had to resort to conventional wired headsets and neckloops when it came to making hands-free cell phone calls.

That has all changed with the addition of several new Bluetooth products, all designed with hard of hearing people in mind. For individuals with telecoil-equipped hearing aids or cochlear implants, using a Bluetooth neckloop can provide sound to both ears and virtually eliminates the interference that hearing aid wearers often experience when using cell phones. For those with weaker telecoils or who need a little more amplification, a Bluetooth earhook may be a better cell phone option. Finally, for those who do not have a telecoil equipped hearing aid, but who still want to take advantage of Bluetooth, UniversaLink offers two different Bluetooth headsets that can be used at the office or in your home.

To learn more about Bluetooth or other products that may help you hear better, visit the UniversaLink showroom, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Monday through Friday, or until 7:00 PM on Wednesdays, or call 414-541-5465 to speak with a Communication Technology Counselor.



Bluetooth technology can make cell phones more accessible for people with hearing loss.

# Scenes From A Winter Wonderland

On Saturday, December 8, dozens of families joined the staff of CDHH for the annual Winter Wonderland holiday party. Featuring activities for children of all ages, food, gifts and, of course, pictures with a signing snowman, the Briggs & Stratton auditorium was filled with smiles and laughter. Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make this special event so successful and for all of the families who joined in the festivities. Special thanks to National Insurance and the Marquette University Chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association for hosting toy drives on behalf of CDHH. Your generosity helped make the season brighter for many d/Deaf and hard of hearing children in SE Wisconsin.





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

### Annual Gardens Luncheon

Thursday, April 10, 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM, at the Woman's Club of Wisconsin, 813 E. Kilbourn, Milwaukee. This annual event to benefit CDHH will feature guest speakers Melody Narr and Joan Hoerl. Tickets are \$60 each and available at CDHH, online at [www.cdhh.org](http://www.cdhh.org) or by calling 414-604-2200.

### 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. Call 414-604-2200 (V) / 888-742-7651 (TTY) or email [kmalak@cdhh.org](mailto:kmalak@cdhh.org) for more information.

### Summer Sign Classes

Sign up now for summer sign language classes at CDHH. Register online at [www.cdhh.org](http://www.cdhh.org) or call 414-604-2200 to reserve your place. Registration deadline for all classes is June 2.

ASL 1 – Tuesdays, June 10 through Aug. 12, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

ASL 2 – Mondays, June 9 through Aug. 11, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Communicating with Kids in Sign – Tuesdays, June 10 through July 29

### CDHH Family Picnic

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

### 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 Home Brew contest for amateur brewmasters. For sponsorship information or to help on the planning committee, contact Aimee at 414-604-7210 or email [akelchen@cdhh.org](mailto:akelchen@cdhh.org).



United Way  
of Greater Milwaukee