

PEOPLE ARE TALKING

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HEARING AND SPEECH CENTER

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Why Support Groups?

Do you sometimes wonder if there is new technology or a new treatment that could help you manage your hearing? Have you ever wondered how others with hearing loss handle particular challenges? Do you feel that you have learned through your experiences and could help others?

Audiologists and ear, nose and throat doctors (ENTs) can provide excellent information and support for your hearing health and needs. A support group can supplement these services by helping you explore ideas and innovations.

Professional Support

All our support groups are facilitated by professionals in their field. Often participants are the best resource for others in the group, but our professionals can help with addressing technical issues or questions.

The Latest Technologies and Treatments

Support groups are a great way to talk with specialists who come as guest speakers or participants. You'll also have a chance to try out samples of equipment to see if they meet your needs.

Learning From One Another

People of all backgrounds and professions attend the groups as well as spouses, partners, family and friends. By pooling experiences, you can learn from others trials, successes and failures to find techniques and technology that works for you.

FALL 2009

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Join Us!

Tinnitus Support Group – The only tinnitus support/education group in northern California, facilitated by Dr. Malvina Levy and Dr. Tracy Peck. (See website www.hearingspeech.org for dates.)

Cochlear Implant Support Group – A chance to talk with people who have received a CI or are considering one, and talk with manufacturers and ENTs, facilitated by Barbara Bell, LCSW and user of a CI. (See website www.hearingspeech.org for dates.)

Hard of Hearing support group? Shannon Simonson, Director of Counseling and Outreach, and a person with hearing loss facilitates this group. (Third Saturdays of the month from 1-3pm)

A Message from our CEO



Dear Friends,

Recently, at a Board of Directors meeting, we took the time to pause retrospectively and evaluate how and why our services reach all ages and often for a lifetime. It was a most enjoyable exercise as we reminded ourselves of just how comprehensive and important our services are.

Many children in our school first arrive at our center for a hearing test before they are even two weeks old. Audiologists test their hearing, our counselors provide the family with resources and assistance to cope and navigating the systems, our teachers will prepare the family for a successful education and our speech therapists will ensure appropriate speech development. After graduation from preschool, they will still return for homework groups and summer camp. As they near the end of high school, our counselors will assist them with preparing to join the workforce or attend college. Throughout their working lives they will require yearly hearing tests, adjustments to their hearing aids, or perhaps will need additional speech therapy if they choose to get a cochlear implant. As they move into their senior years, our store will provide products specifically designed to assist with day to day living. Should they move to an assisted living facility, they will be visited by our professionals each month to ensure they are able to enjoy rich communication with their families and those around them.

Wow – that was a life in the blink of an eye! But I think it illustrates the joy and importance of the wonderful relationship we are privileged to enjoy with anyone who walks through our doors.

We sincerely appreciate you taking the time to read our newsletter, to learn more about our services, to share in our community, and we thank you in advance for any consideration you may give to supporting our services.

Darragh Kennedy | CEO

*It hides
behind
the ear*

Improved speech understanding
Improved hearing in noise
Comfortable open-fit
Easy to use

experience
the exceptional

widex passion™440
dedication to detail



WHAT IS YOUR TECHNOLOGY LEVEL? Virtually invisible PASSION hearing devices come in four distinct technology levels to fit just about any hearing loss, lifestyle, and budget. Ask your audiologist which level is right for your situation. **EXPERIENCE EXCEPTIONAL HEARING!**

Support Groups

Lessons from Higher Education



Ian Chadwick is a long-time client and participant at the Hearing and Speech Center. He was involved in many of our programs, including being a counselor for our summer camp. After his first year at UC Berkeley, we asked Ian what advice he would give to other young students just starting out at college. Here are Ian's words of wisdom:

It seems that I have been recruited to offer a few words of advice to other deaf or hard of hearing students who are going to be starting college, and the best advice I can offer are these three essential things.

Get in touch with the
**disabled student
services office.**

Their job at the disabled student services office is to make it easier for you to do your job, which, at this stage in life, is to get an education. They will help you get whatever assistive listening devices or services you need.

Go to
Class!

I know it may be tempting to skip out on classes that don't require your attendance and you may think that the material or the professor is boring, especially in the mandatory lower division classes, but going to class and taking notes will really help you understand the material.

Don't Be
Shy...

Depending on what college you go to, there may be hundreds of students in an individual class. If you need something, like extra help, don't be too shy to go to office hours! Your professors won't chase after you if you don't understand the material and more often than not they will be glad to help you if you put forth the effort to learn.

The Fall Raffle is Back!

Tickets will be on sale at the front desk or from any staff person starting October 15th. Don't miss out!

The drawing will be held **November 21st at Baby Loves Disco, a dance party for kids and parents.**

To learn more visit our website at www.hearingspeech.org

Center Holiday Schedule

The Hearing and Speech Center will be closed for the holidays on:

November 11th
November 26th and 27th
December 25th through
January 4th



Are You A Fan of the Hearing and Speech Center?

Show your support and become a fan of the

Center. We now have a page and will be adding groups in the coming months where you can meet others with similar interests and learn about events and opportunities.

Thank you to the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company volunteers for helping us create our page!

www.hearingspeech.org

Visit us online to learn more about how we can help you, or someone you know.

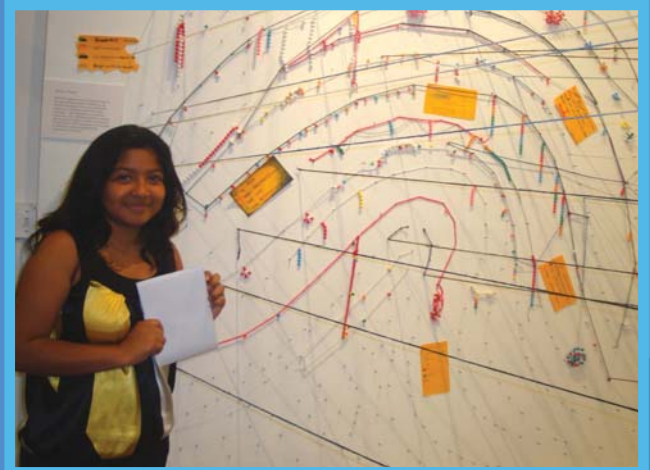
Youth Spotlight: Jessica Henriquez

Jessica Henriquez is 14 years old and is in the 9th grade at Raoul Wallenberg high school here in San Francisco. Jessica is a sweet and intelligent young woman who is passionate about art and hopes to become an artist in the future. She also has a hearing loss. This summer, the Counseling Department connected Jessica to Southern Exposure, a community agency that offers art programs to youth in San Francisco. Through this program, Jessica explored her own creativity and expanded her views on what 'art' means.

When asked about her experience with the Hearing and Speech Center, she says, "I have done several things with the HSCNC. I have gone to summer camp with the HSCNC, received work training, gone on field trips, and most recently participated in this art program. It has been very helpful for me to participate in these programs, mostly to meet other people just like me who have hearing loss which helps me not feel different from others."

Jessica feels that through art, she can express "emotion and other things that can't be expressed in words." Jessica draws when she is happy, she draws when she is confused by certain things. She finds that she can express her emotions through different colors.

"If I see something interesting, I just start drawing it." Since Jessica was very young she was always interested in drawing/sketching and photography. As for her future, "I'd like to go to college and maybe become a teacher, artist, pianist or photographer."



Jessica recently presented some of her artwork at the Southern Exposure Gallery.