



HEARING AND SPEECH CENTER
a non-profit clinic, school & community



PEOPLE ARE TALKING

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HEARING AND SPEECH CENTER

1234 DIVISADERO STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115 TEL 415 921 7658 FAX 415 921 2243 TTY 415 921 8990

Come CHAT with Us!

Using hearing aids for the first time can be an overwhelming experience. Following the diagnosis of hearing loss and the selection of a hearing aid, many clients are not sure what to expect – Will they be able to hear as they did before the hearing loss? How quickly should they expect to adjust to using the device? What steps can be taken to make the transition easier? Each year, many clients purchase hearing aids at the Hearing and Speech Center and visit their audiologist for a fitting appointment. Director of Clinical Services, Dr. Tracy Peck says, “Those appointments can be overwhelming, because we’re covering so much information, especially for a new user.”

Good communication is a very important part of everyday life, from work to personal relationships, and it is crucial that adults with hearing loss have access to services that will help them make the most of their hearing devices. Untreated hearing loss is connected to social isolation, and physical and mental declines. Age-related hearing loss results in an increased likelihood of depression and decreased self-sufficiency in activities of daily living, when untreated, so it crucial that individuals diagnosed with hearing loss know how to fully utilize the resources available to them.

“Recent research in the field of audiology indicates that offering a comprehensive approach to hearing care - communication strategies, problem solving, family involvement - can greatly impact the effectiveness of using hearing aids.”

Our audiology team has been considering what they can do to make this transition as smooth as possible for our clients, and has begun to develop a new program for those transitioning to hearing aids. Recent research in the field of audiology indicates that offering a comprehensive approach to hearing care - communication strategies, problem solving , family involvement - can greatly impact the effectiveness of using hearing aids. The Hearing and Speech Center has been at the forefront of this movement for many years, providing an interdisciplinary approach to hearing and communication.

C.H.A.T., which stands for Communication and Hearing Aid Training, is a class slated to launch in the winter of 2014-2015. This class will cover basic features, function, care, and maintenance of hearing aids, as well as tips for use, communication strategies, and troubleshooting. This program is being developed with new hearing aid users in mind, as well as their families, friends, and caregivers. It will also be a great opportunity for experienced hearing aid users who would like to learn more strategies for better communication and effective hearing aid use.

The class will be open to both clients and community members, and we hope that this program will be a valuable resource and provide opportunities for collaboration with other Bay Area agencies. We would love to hear from hearing aid users about your needs, and we look forward to the beginning of this exciting new program!

FALL 2014

IN THIS ISSUE

Program Feature:
C.H.A.T.

A Message From Our CEO

Audiology in Action

In the Loop

Donor Corner

Community Spotlight:
Winfred Huang



A Message from Our CEO



Dear Friends,

The month of September marks my 20 year anniversary with the Hearing and Speech Center. Never did I expect to be here for such a long time, and yet, never have I felt the desire to leave. The HSC has slowly become part of my life fabric, my journey, and my existence. It represents most of my adult life and has molded all aspects of who I am, professionally and personally. I am honored and humbled to have had the opportunity to serve such a unique organization, and grateful for all I have learned.

Twenty years ago I walked in and began volunteering in the school. I vividly remember the children on the playground on my first day, and their excitement of having a new person to provide distraction – to the chagrin of their teacher. I also arrived in a suit that day, and the first words of warning to me were that I would have holes in my knees within days! Thus began my path with the agency.

I stayed with the agency for the same reasons that many of my colleagues and clients have – it has provided me with a sense of family. I have never seen such dynamics of human interaction anywhere else. The HSC is a very special place in the Bay Area – It is not just an Audiology department, a Speech department, a School, or a Social Work department – it is a place where people come together, be they clients, board or staff. It is the special concoction that occurs when need, service, empathy and work combine to create community.

I am immensely thankful to all who support this agency, to the very talented staff and board (past and present), and most of all to the people who have crossed our threshold and continue to call me “friend”.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darragh Kennedy".

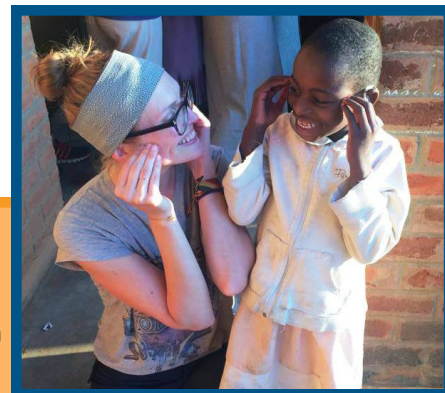
Darragh Kennedy | CEO

Audiology in *ACTION*

Dr. Melissa Wilson is usually seen around the Hearing and Speech Center with families in tow – clients hang on to her every word as she walks parents through diagnosis, hearing care, and hearing aids for young children. This summer, she travelled across the globe with Arizona State University’s (ASU) Hearing for Humanity mission to work with children and families in Malawi.

Hearing for Humanity is a team of audiologists and doctoral audiology students from ASU that provides services, training, and education in sub-Saharan Africa, where the incidence of hearing loss due to meningitis, measles, malaria, ear infections, and other preventable causes is very high. During their time in Malawi, Dr. Wilson and the other members of the group spent time in community clinics, hospitals, schools for the deaf, and remote villages, providing hearing assessments, taking ear mold impressions, and testing and fitting hearing aids. Throughout the month, the team tested 1,130 patients and fit 340 hearing aids. The mission also provided training to local professionals and teachers, in order to make their efforts more sustainable - hearing aids will be far less useful if they are not checked and maintained properly. The team also received cultural competency training from the instructors and students of the African Bible College in the capitol city of Lilongwe, home to the country’s only audiology clinic.

Dr. Wilson reports that one of the most rewarding parts of this work was seeing the profound impact that improved hearing can have on the lives of so many individuals, who - no matter which part of the world - depend on their hearing while working, socializing, and communicating with loved ones. In fact, the very last patient the team saw was a palliative care nurse who traveled three hours and waited all day long to be seen. As the only nurse in her district who provides end-of-life care to patients with AIDS, she had become very distressed at being unable to hear her patients with their voices weakened due to illness. She was fit with hearing aids and burst into tears and delivered hugs to the entire team, creating a domino effect of crying and laughter. Anyone who has worked with Dr. Wilson at the Hearing and Speech Center knows that she provides compassionate care to each and every one of her patients, and we are very proud to see her carry on this philosophy outside of the Center with such an important humanitarian effort.



In the Loop

In addition to using your hearing aids, there is a lot of great technology that can help you stay connected!

Induction Loops (or Hearing Loops) are loops of cable around a room or meeting space, which generate a magnetic field picked up by a hearing aid. It allows the sound source of interest to the listener clear of other distracting noises in the environment. Here are some Bay Area facilities that are looped:

Bay Farm Christian Fellowship - Alameda
Buena Vista United Methodist Church - Alameda
First Christian Church - Alameda
Center for Early Intervention on Deafness - Berkeley
Oakland-Deaf & Disabled Telecom Program - Berkeley
United Methodist Church - Burlingame
Unitarian Universalist Church - Kensington
Milpitas Senior Center - Milpitas
HLAA North Bay - Napa
Napa Senior Center - Napa
Queen of the Valley Hospital - Napa
Unified School District Adult School Program - Napa
Deaf & Disabled Telecom Program - Oakland
HLAA East Bay Chapter (Kaiser) - Oakland
Lakeside Baptist Church - Oakland
St. Augustine's Catholic Church - Oakland
Temple Sinai First Congregation - Oakland
Classic Residence by Hyatt - Palo Alto
Fairmeadow Elementary School - Palo Alto
Veterans Memorial Building - Petaluma
Springfield Place Community Room - Petaluma
St. James Catholic Church - Petaluma
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church - Petaluma
United Church of Christ - Petaluma - Petaluma
HLAA Tri-Valley - Pleasanton
Church of Christ - Redwood City
Altamont Home Theatre - Rohnert Park
Sonoma State Cooperage - Rohnert Park
Cameo Cinema - St. Helena
AlmaVia of San Francisco - San Francisco
Forest Hill Christian Church - San Francisco
HLAA - San Francisco
Sisters of the Presentation - San Francisco
6th Street Playhouse - Santa Rosa
Oakmont West Recreation Center - Santa Rosa
Summerfield Cinemas - Santa Rosa

To search for facilities in your area, visit www.loopamerica.com

Donor Corner

Our volunteer committee is looking for fun, enthusiastic volunteers to help us with our fundraisers, including a benefit dinner in March and our Wine 4 Words event in April. Volunteer opportunities include:

Corporate Relations/Sponsorship
Volunteer Coordination
Media & Public Relations
Invitations/Program Book
Logistics
Decorations
Art Auction
Menu/Food
Entertainment
Registration



Time commitments vary from a couple of hours per month to several hours in one month. To find out more, please contact our development office at development@hearingspeech.org or 415-921-7658.

Our annual Online Auction will take place October 23- November 2, and supports our education programs! The auction will feature theater tickets, museum passes, memorabilia, and much more!

Auction

Check it out at www.hearingspeech.org or www.ebay.com/usr/hearingspeech

Gifts In Memory

In Memory of Robert Gehring:

Philip & Beverly Arnautou
Roberta Cootes
Jennifer Criscuolo
Eugene & Sue Filtzpatrick
James Gehring
Susie Geile
Dennis Hurley
Vernon & Kelly Limerick
Harriet McCrudden
Janet McGarry
Prima Medical Foundation
Mike Santellanes
August Schoeneshoefer
Mary Jane Seebach

In Memory of Richard Fletcher:

Steve & Phyllis Fletcher

In Memory of Lawrence Michael Kerrigan:

Elsie Euing
John Goldberg
Paula Little
Daniel & Elaine Moriarty

In Memory of Dr. Rayford Reddell:

Anonymous
Daniel Bifano
Douglas Drummond
Carol Field
Nancy Harrington
Carrol Thierry



HEARING AND SPEECH CENTER
a non-profit clinic, school & community

1234 Divisadero Street
San Francisco
CA 94115

www.hearingspeech.org

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

Community Spotlight: Winfred Huang

One of U.C. Santa Barbara's newest Computer Science majors is proud to say that he has spent many years working hard to get into the school of his dreams. In fact, his education began right here at the Hearing and Speech Center, in our Auditory Oral School.

Winfred Huang was diagnosed with a profound hearing loss at a young age, eventually receiving a cochlear implant on one side while continuing to wear a hearing aid on the other. Winfred, who has just begun his studies at U.C. Santa Barbara, joined the Auditory-Oral School at the Hearing and Speech Center after receiving his cochlear implant at age 5. Even after graduating from the class and moving on to the San Francisco Public School system, Winfred continued to be a part of the Hearing and Speech Center community as a member of our youth group.

Winfred recalls that his time in the Auditory-Oral School and our youth programs helped him academically, but stresses that it was more than that – the most important element was that “working with other students with hearing loss helped improve my social and communication skills and be a part of a small community”, he says.



Winfred attended summer classes at UCSB and is thrilled to be starting their Computer Science program this fall. His advice to all students is to work hard and do well in school; his own academic success and the chance to go to a fantastic university have made him recognize the importance of early preparation. Many years ago, it was uncommon for deaf individuals to attend college, but our support programs and many industrious people like Winfred are working hard to change this.

To other deaf and hard-of-hearing teens, Winfred says, “Try to go past your limits, and work toward the school of your dreams”. This is no small goal, but our kids are up to the challenge.

Winfred, future computer scientist, at age 5