

**Priority
Projects
2009**

! Preschool for
children with
hearing loss

! Mobile hearing van

! Hearing aid bank

! Support for the
Hearing and
Balance Center of
EVMS



**Donate your old
hearing aids
NOW!**

The Hearing and Balance Center of EVMS is currently accepting hearing aid donations. These aids can be refurbished and reused and provided at low cost or free of charge. With the help of CHEAR and CHEAR's partners, EVMS hopes to expand this service into a full hearing aid bank. Call 757-422-9300 or 757-388-6200 for directions.

**One hearing aid
costs \$1200-3000
and most often is
not covered by
insurance.**

Something to **CHEAR!** about!

Coalition for Hearing, Education And Research

Hear more of life—Be more balanced

Volume 1, Issue 1

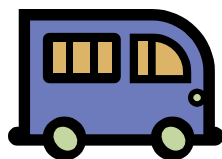
2009

Oral Education in Hampton Roads



The role of education is to provide students the tools they need to be independent, productive citizens. One of these tools is language. This is a huge challenge for deaf students, especially given that very few members of our society can communicate with manual language. When families choose auditory rehabilitation with hearing aids and/or cochlear implantation and with it, auditory/oral language for a child with hearing impairment, the child must be provided with the necessary educational support. Auditory/Oral education is a proven means to improve language, learning potential and academic success for children with hearing impairment. Unfortunately,

Auditory Oral education opportunities are extremely limited for children in Hampton Roads. The only dedicated oral program closed in 2008. The **good news** is that CHEAR's members and friends have been working very hard to bring a dedicated auditory/oral program back to Hampton Roads. And that program is here and began classes in February 2009! The new program is located within Old Dominion's Child Development Center and is be managed by Old Dominion's Department of Early Childhood, Speech Pathology and Special Education. Stay tuned for more details!



Mobile Hearing Van Xing

Hearing loss is more common than both visual impairment and heart disease and can impact every aspect of life, including the sense of well-being, social functioning, and ability to perform activities of daily living. This can often be alleviated by hearing aids or other hearing assist devices. However, only 10% of the adult

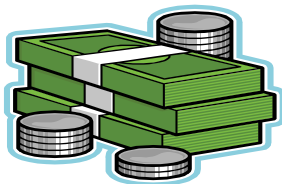
population is screened for hearing loss and less than 20% of people who could benefit from hearing aids use one. Only 1/3 of children who could benefit from hearing amplification possess the financial resources to obtain treatment. Why? The expense of hearing care is prohibitive. Some simply don't have easy access to quality hearing health care due to transportation, mobility or other factors. One of

CHEAR's priority initiatives is to provide a mobile hearing van, equipment, and audiologists and bring hearing care to those who would not otherwise have access. A hearing aid bank would be created in to collect donated aids, purchase new aids and provide hearing aids at low or no cost to children and adults who could not otherwise afford them.

Hearing Loss Creates Large Financial Loss

The National center for Health Statistics estimates that 28 million persons, or 10% of the US population, have hearing loss. 6 of every 1000 infants are affected by hearing loss in the USA. Additional children are born with risk factors for progressive childhood hearing loss. Approximately 15% of young people ages 6-19 show signs of hearing loss.

The costs of hearing loss are immense. Profound deafness creates an annual income loss to our society of \$2.5 billion. According to the Project Hope Study, those with a severe hearing loss still in the workplace are expected to earn only 50-70 percent of their non-hearing impaired peers and lose between \$220,000 and \$440,000 in



Profound deafness creates a \$25 billion annual income

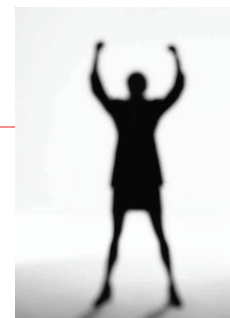
loss. Unfortunately, these costs only cover earning potential and neglect intangible losses, such as the social isolation and psychological stress imposed by hearing impairment.

Mohr, Feldman, Dunbar, The Societal Costs of Severe to Profound Hearing Loss in the United States, Project Hope Policy Analysis Brief, April, 2000, Volume 2, No. 1.

earnings over their working life (*Mohr et al*). Lifetime costs of deafness for an individual are estimated at more than \$1

No Child Left Behind: Help Needed for Hearing Impaired Students

Children with hearing loss of any degree without appropriate identification and intervention have reduced academic performance. The average student who is deaf and graduating from high school reads at a 4th grade level and demonstrates 5th grade math skills. Approximately 20% of students with hearing loss demonstrate behavioral problems in school. 12% are diagnosed with emotional problems. 97% of the US population does not know sign language and 90% of deaf children are born into hearing families, thus a language barrier between Deaf individuals and hearing society results in limitations in social interactions and challenges in reaching academic and vocational potential.



Many children who are deaf and hard of hearing and have early, effective intervention are ready to transition to inclusive classrooms by kindergarten or first grade.

The Solution: Early Diagnosis, Early Intervention, & Oral Education

Children with hearing loss who are identified and receive effective early intervention services before six months of age demonstrate superior language skills over those identified after six months of age. The majority of children with hearing loss who are educated with auditory/oral modalities have language development on par with normal hearing peers, represent-

ing a significant improvement compared to children who do not use auditory/oral language. Many children who are deaf and hard of hearing and have effective intervention are ready to transition to inclusive classrooms by kindergarten or first grade. Speech intelligibility is better in children with hearing loss who are educated in educational settings that emphasize oral

communication. Children who are given an intensive preschool oral education perform as well as their hearing peers in speech perception and language tasks. In contrast, children who had been placed in general special education preschools performed poorly. In standardized education tests, high school students with hearing loss in inclusive schools meet and exceed the national average for hearing peers.



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Susan's Story: A Conversation Piece

After using hearing aids for years, Susan's hearing loss progressed to the point where aids were no longer helpful. She could hear the sounds, but could recognize only 40% of speech. She could not understand over the phone and relied on lip reading even when people were right in front of her. The severity of the hearing loss began to affect her business because she became more and more uncomfortable with communication. After a hearing test at EVMS, the audiologist told Susan that she was a candidate for the cochlear implant. Susan learned that a cochlear implant can restore speech understanding when hearing aids can't. After a medical evaluation and further testing, she underwent the surgery with Dr. Stephanie Moody at EVMS and the cochlear implant was placed into the cochlea. A few weeks later, the speech

processor was turned on. Susan learned how to hear again and trained her brain how to listen in a new way. For those who lose their hearing as adults, the brain already has the ability to interpret the information provided by the implant and implant patients begin to understand speech fairly quickly. Learning to interpret sounds and understand speech is a process that varies with factors such as the length of time of deafness and the amount of residual hearing. The ability to understand speech comes more quickly for those who have shorter time period of deafness. It takes much longer for people who were born deaf or had deafness for many years to learn how to understand with the cochlear implant. The first implant was so successful that when Susan lost

"My life and relationships are restored since I can understand speech. I have so many favorite sounds...it was exciting to hear things again."

hearing in the other ear 18 months later, she received a second implant, becoming a bilateral cochlear implant user. Using both cochlear implants, she hears and understands well in most environments, including noisy situations. Hearing with both ears also allows her localize sound. She has four programs on each speech processor that she can use to adapt to different situations. Susan's confidence has been restored; she is able to have conversation with anyone anywhere. In an effort to help others who suffer with hearing loss and don't know where to turn for help, Susan became a volunteer with Cochlear Awareness Network. **Contact the EVMS/CHKD cochlear implant program at 757-388-6200 if you would like to learn more about cochlear implants.**

CHEAR's Mission

The mission of CHEAR is to foster and provide support for the necessary resources to the Hampton Roads community, its region, our nation and beyond, so that all citizens can obtain the highest quality and comprehensive services for disorders of the ear, hearing and balance. This goal is achieved through programs for identification, clinical care, research, rehabilitation, education, public awareness and advocacy and by cooperation with the medical, educational, and social institutions of the communities in which we serve.

If you would like to make a gift to CHEAR, please detach and return with your check made payable to: CHEAR, Inc. CHEAR, Inc is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible. Keep a copy of this as a receipt for your records. Mail to CHEAR, Inc. P.O. Box 19095 Chesapeake, VA 23328.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____ Check # _____

Please Contact me

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Date _____

You can help

Your cash donation could provide:

- \$ 25 Hearing screening exam
- \$ 100 Repair/refurbish a hearing aid
- \$ 250 Distribution of one hearing aid
- \$ 1000 Purchase a new hearing aid
- \$ 1000 Scholarship for student at oral preschool
- \$ _____ Assistance in purchasing new equipment for diagnosis or management of hearing or balance disorder

COALITION FOR HEARING, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH



**A non-profit organization
committed to
better hearing and balance
through
medical treatment, education,
research, and advocacy**

**Contact us at
chearmail@gmail.com or visit
chearvirginia.com**

Find Your Balance

at the Hearing and Balance Center of EVMS

The Department of Otolaryngology and its Hearing and Balance Center provides testing and management for hearing and balance problems in adults and children. The clinicians of the Department also run the EVMS/CHKD Cochlear Implant Program, which provides 40-50 adults and children with cochlear implants each year and is the largest program in the region. Working with CHEAR, the Hearing and Balance Center hopes to introduce new technology, obtain funding for research initiatives, and increase educational opportunities for clinicians who work in hearing and balance related specialties.

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