

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CENTER FOR HEARING, SPEECH AND LANGUAGE

A Loud, Noisy Life = More Risk of Hearing Loss

CHSL announced a new spokes-character, Harry the Hair Cell, to educate the public about noise-induced hearing loss and the importance of wearing hearing protection in noisy environments—whether outdoors, at a venue, on the job or at home.

Save
Harry!



Harmony visited CHSL's charity golf tournament to educate participants about the risk of noise-induced hearing loss. Camille Schrandt from LaSertoma club tests her MP3 player to see if the volume could be damaging her hearing.

Harry represents a single hair cell in the inner ear and demonstrates how loud noises make him sick. Harry's message is that he can stay healthy by limiting exposure to loud noises whenever possible, and to protect your hearing with earplugs in noisy environments.



Harmony Tests MP3 Players

Loud rock music contributed to hearing loss among baby boomers, and MP3 players are causing the same for today's youth. CHSL has introduced a manikin named Harmony who will be visiting schools and health fairs to help kids and parents understand the impact of the volume of MP3 players on their hearing. Harmony is wired with a sound meter that registers the decibel level of a MP3 player when the earbuds are inserted into her ears. Anyone who uses a MP3 player can find out if the volume they typically use is putting

We hope it becomes second nature to protect your hearing—like putting on a helmet before you ride a bicycle.

them at risk for noise-induced hearing loss.

Hunters/Shooters Show Hearing Loss

Many gun shooters neglect to protect their hearing while out in the woods. Hearing loss incurred from one day of shooting will

not necessarily be noticeable that day in a normal environment. However, over time, more and more hearing loss from gun blasts will start becoming noticeable. CHSL tests the hearing of employees at manufacturing companies for OSHA compliance and we frequently see hearing loss patterns in people who do not use proper hearing protection when shooting.



Happy Holidays!

WINTER 2012

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CHSL's RISE Program Creates Harry Puppet to Visit Schools

RISE (Read, Imagine, Share, Explore) is a free year-round early literacy program for at-risk preschoolers. RISE is funded by generous donors and offered at inner-city schools and day care centers. RISE seeks to increase the ability of every child to do well in school and later in life by supplementing preschool curriculum through books, music, art and movement.

The RISE team has ingeniously created a puppet in the likeness of Harry to help



children understand the importance of protecting their hearing in order to keep Harry the Hair Cell healthy during their lifetime. Harry has generated positive feedback from parents who say their children remember Harry and don't want him to get sick from loud sounds.

The blue Harry is happy as loud sounds have not made him sick, unlike the red Harry, who does not work well from exposure to loud noise.

Southwest and Arapahoe Sertoma Clubs Join Forces for Charity Golf Tournament

We thank Southwest and Arapahoe Sertoma Clubs, ladies from LaSertoma, golfers and sponsors for their hard work, support and generosity during the 16th Annual 2012 Charity Golf Tournament benefitting Sertoma charities and CHSL.



What a fun day and a great turnout! Another year of wonderful participation at the award-winning Pinehurst Country Club. There was delicious food, an expanded silent auction and everyone thoroughly enjoyed guest speaker Reggie Rivers, a former Denver Bronco, media personality, motivational speaker, author and respected community advocate.

The tournament raised \$20,000 for CHSL. Watch for announcements about next summer's tournament.



Many thanks go to the generous sponsors of the tournament.



The ladies of LaSertoma organized the silent auction which was filled with wonderful items.

We Need Your Support



Our client's stories aren't front page news and don't typically tug at the heart like some others.

We can easily have empathy when we hear of a sick child, a rescued animal or the anguish impacting

families from unforeseen forces of nature. A low-income family receiving help for their child's learning problems or someone improving the quality of their life by being able to hear more sounds again doesn't impress upon us as much.

However, our staff is buoyed every day by a parent's gratitude for helping their child with learning difficulties or seeing the enlightened face of someone who hears soft sounds again. CHSL is proud that we have helped more people this year over last. What we provide can't be found anywhere else in Colorado and we would like to do even more.



People don't think about the hardships endured by those who can't hear...the sadness, the isolation, and the difficulty in doing activities that most of us take for granted. Our services are available for everyone regardless of ability to pay. We are always in

need of donations to replenish our hearing aid bank which provides financial assistance for those unable to pay for hearing tests and hearing aids.

Our services are available for everyone, regardless of ability to pay.

We are also asking for your support so we can screen more kids in our communities who don't have access or financial means to get early screening

and detection for vision, hearing and developmental milestones. We want to help a greater number of kids so they don't fall behind in school and ultimately in life.



Gaps in early language and reading skills can negatively impact later skills. We are asking for your support to replenish our speech bank so we can reach more at-risk children.



Every contribution sustains CHSL's ability to help those in need. CHSL relies on the generosity of people in the community who have been

touched by our services or who understand how precious the ability to communicate can be. Thank you for your consideration of a donation so we can help even more people next year.

An Unexpected Experience and an Amazing Transformation

Molly's parents, Jennifer and Kevin, were desperate to try something—anything—to help their daughter. Molly was born with learning problems which were diagnosed as apraxia and developmental delays. She was prone to what she herself described as “fits” or outbursts of anger that would take place a couple of times each week, and could be triggered by the smallest things. She also had sleeping issues and would wake every hour screaming and in a rigid state, inconsolable by her parents during these trying moments.

As part of their research to find help, Jennifer and Kevin had read a book about how the brain has the capacity to change itself or rewire itself, and the effectiveness of a program called *Fast ForWord*, described as an adaptive computer program recommended for individuals with delays in language processing, reading difficulties and timing issues that are affecting speech comprehension. They searched online and found that CHSL was a provider of *Fast ForWord* technology.

They made an appointment with CHSL's Neurocognitive Services staff who recommended that Molly start with a program called Interactive Metronome (IM) before *Fast ForWord*. The IM program is a brain-based assessment and treatment program developed to directly improve the processing abilities that affect attention, motor planning and sequencing. Recent studies have shown that motor planning and sequencing are crucial components to attention and learning capacities. IM has been shown to produce

significant results in children and adults with a wide range of physical and cognitive difficulties.

Molly's parents agreed to go along with the suggestion but had no expectations that IM would help Molly.

According to Jennifer, “What our family experienced was phenomenal! IM was some kind of magic. The anger part subsided. Molly can regulate her emotions and can now take things in steps and verbalize issues. She can talk things out. And she sleeps through the night. It is such a different world for our family!”

Molly is currently involved with the *Fast ForWord* program. After a few months, Molly has been able to drop the reading part of her Individualized Education Program (an IEP is designed to meet the special educational needs of a child who may have a disability, as defined by federal regulations). Now in 6th grade, Molly has tested at a 7th grade reading level.

According to Molly, “IM was great and it was so much fun. I used to be angry a lot. I learned to control my behavior.”



What's New in Hearing Aid Technology?

There are many combinations of technologies possible now for people who need hearing assistance. Every hearing loss is different, and when it comes to audiology, one size does not fit all. Digital advances have made today's hearing aids smaller, smarter and easier to use.

The most advanced hearing aids interact with other devices such as smartphones and digital music players to deliver sounds directly and wirelessly to the listener's ear. Among the recent advances are the ability to identify and amplify desired sounds such as a human voice while muting background noise. The modern hearing aid is selective about the types of sound it amplifies and the types of sound it muffles or suppresses.



CHSL's client Bob reacts with happiness to the quality of sound from his new Phonak Compilot, wirelessly connecting his hearing aids to his phone, TV and other devices.

Early Detection is Critical

KidScreen is a hearing, speech, language, vision and developmental screening program to promote early identification of communication and learning problems. The screenings are subsidized for low-income families.



The KidScreen team is looking for funding to buy additional equipment in order to screen even more children who do not have access to these kinds of services.

Last year KidScreen screened 5,634 children and as a result, approximately 20% were referred for hearing issues, vision referrals, or speech/development concerns. A loss of either hearing or visual acuity in the preschool years results directly in reduced learning capacity, and further compromises a child's development. Early detection and treatment of hearing and vision problems can help children succeed in school.

“Your staff is wonderful...Thanks for providing this invaluable service.”
- Nurse at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School



I Want to Help! The Center has a waiting list of people that we can help! But the funds in our Hearing Aid and Speech Banks are running low. A small donation will go a long way in helping people of all ages who are cut off from life. In these trying economic times, people have cut back on donations. We have had to turn away many people who need our help. Will you donate today? You can make all the difference.

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Donation All donations to CHSL are tax deductible and a written acknowledgement of your donation will be provided.

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Secure online giving is also available at: www.GivingFirst.org/chsl

Please detach and mail to:

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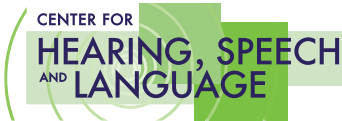
16th Annual Southwest Sertoma Charity Golf Tournament
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16th Annual Southwest and Arapahoe Sertoma Clubs Charity Golf Tournament

Thank you to the sponsors, individuals and companies who
donated items for the Silent Auction!

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*Special thanks to the ladies of
LaSertoma for their help and
support in planning the Silent
Auction for the tournament!*

We are most grateful to them!

About Sertoma Clubs

Southwest and Arapahoe Sertoma are dedicated to fundraising for many local charities in which their members are involved. The primary goal of Sertoma is assistance for the speech and hearing impaired. However, over 30 charities have been recipients of their fundraising efforts over the years.

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The Southwest LaSertoma Women's chapter focuses on youth and community needs through person-to-person assistance, scholarships to women college students and donations to local charities.