



hearing
speech &

deaf center of
greater cincinnati

*Dr. Jean W. Rothenberg
Institute for Better Communication*

Better Communication for All



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The Hearing Speech & Deaf Center of Greater Cincinnati (HSDC) is a non-profit organization working to serve individuals with hearing loss, those with speech disorders and people who are Deaf. Staff are nationally certified and licensed and committed to providing state-of-the-art technology and services in a family focused environment. HSDC staff and leadership volunteers share the philosophy that communication is the foundation of every human interaction.



Mission

The Hearing Speech & Deaf Center of Greater Cincinnati strengthens our community by supporting individuals and families to overcome obstacles to communication.

Vision

As a premier community resource with a reputation for excellence, The Hearing Speech & Deaf Center of Greater Cincinnati believes that communication is the foundation of all human interactions. We provide a barrier free, inclusive and nurturing environment for anyone seeking to overcome obstacles regarding speech, hearing or deafness.



Values

- We support an individual's choice of communication methodology.
- We endeavor to provide individuals and their families the highest quality comprehensive services without regard to their stated ability to pay.
- We embrace diversity and recruit staff and leadership volunteers who reflect those we serve.
- We conduct ourselves with integrity, a high degree of professionalism and business ethics beyond reproach.



ANNUAL BENEFIT: The Center holds a special event annually, typically in the late spring. There are several important goals for this evening including education, fund-raising and friendraising.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Volunteers are integral to the continued success of HSDC. Our

volunteers give the gift of time and talent and are counted on for numerous projects...from assisting with mailings, painting the walls as well as participation on a board committee. We are indebted to these individuals!

ACCREDITATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

Local, state and national associations via **accreditation, funding, licensing or membership** include, but are not limited to:

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
- Better Business Bureau
- Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation
- City of Cincinnati
- Medicare Certified Rehabilitation Outpatient Facility
- National Association of the Deaf
- National Association of Speech and Hearing Centers
- Ohio Alliance of Community Centers for the Deaf
- Ohio Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology
- Ohio Council of Speech and Hearing Administrators
- Ohio Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board
- Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission
- Ohio SPAN (Speech Pathology and Audiology Network)
- Registry, Interpreters for the Deaf
- Sertoma, Type B Affiliate
- United Way of Greater Cincinnati



Giving Opportunities

The Hearing Speech & Deaf Center of Greater Cincinnati is committed to serving people of all ages and backgrounds regardless of their ability to pay. We rely on contributions from many sources to help offset the cost of our valued services. Your support can assure that these services are available to all who need them.

UNRESTRICTED GIVING AND ANNUAL FUND: Gifts to the Annual Fund can be made at any time throughout the year. This crucial fundraising effort generates much needed operating support. All donations have tax-deductible benefits to you and will be acknowledged in the Annual Report.

MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE GIFTS: A wonderful opportunity to honor someone or remember a special person. Donations are tax-deductible and will be acknowledged in the Annual Report. If you would like a separate acknowledgement to be sent to the honoree or family, please provide that information (including mailing address) at the time of the donation. We respectfully request that gifts in this category be \$25 or greater if you wish for us to send an acknowledgement.

MAJOR GIFTS: The Center maintains an up to date list of current major projects such as building renovations, instrumentation needs, new project start-up costs, etc. The Director of Development and Executive Director are happy to meet with anyone with an interest in making a major gift, including one to our Endowment Fund.

PLANNED GIFTS: The Director of Development can provide planned giving options to meet the needs of our donors, including supporting HSDC well in to the future through bequests and other charitable options.

The History, The Legacy

The Cincinnati League for the Hard of Hearing was founded in 1925 by Mrs. Anna Pattison, wife of the Ohio Governor. A small group of volunteers provided social and recreational programs for people with hearing loss. As those who were hard of hearing and deaf were quite marginalized in society at that time, the Center filled an important community need.



Dr. Jean Rothenberg, 1908-2007

Jean Rothenberg is considered the founder of the modern-day Center. In the late 1930's she developed a severe hearing loss and was unable to find professional rehabilitation services in the community that she loved. Jean left her home for several months, studying with professionals at the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center and apprenticing in New York with Mary Whitehurst. Upon her return home, Jean collaborated with the League in order to open a professional center in her own city and several years later the Cincinnati Speech and Hearing Center opened its doors. In 1999 the Center once again changed its name, to the Hearing Speech & Deaf Center of Greater Cincinnati to better reflect its true service constituency.

On May 17, 2007 Jean passed away at the age of ninety eight. She was a remarkable woman who was able to touch many lives! We continue to do her important work everyday. We are committed to continuing the work to which she dedicated her life.

Audiology

The Hearing Speech & Deaf Center's audiology program offers a wide range of products and services for children and adults. Our licensed and certified audiologists utilize state-of-the-art instrumentation to identify and treat hearing loss. Hearing aids of all types are dispensed as are assistive listening devices such as amplified phones and visual door bells. In addition, clinicians provide outreach into the community by providing lectures, screenings, demonstrations, etc.



SPECIALIZED AUDIOLOGY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

“CHEERS FOR EARS”: (Cincinnati Hearing Education Regarding Sound for Ears): An interactive hearing conservation program designed for 3rd and 4th grade students about the importance of protecting ears from noise exposure. Hearing loss caused by noise is permanent...however, it is also entirely preventable!

“COMMUNICATION STATION”: A hands-on, interactive display of everyday devices (phone, alarm clock, tv) that are visual, tactile, amplified or a combination used by people who are hard of hearing or deaf. An audiologist will, by appointment, take people through the display and allow them to try various devices to see which best meet the individual's needs. Devices may be purchased at the Center. Additionally, a catalogue of devices is available by mail. Consumers may be eligible for these products at a reduced rate following completion of a financial application and demonstrated inability to pay full fee.

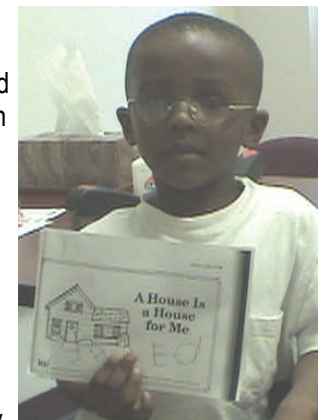
NURSING HOME OUTREACH: Service delivery is provided at over 50 area nursing homes by an audiologist dedicated to this program. We conduct assessments, fit hearing aids and assistive devices and work with staff and families to ensure successful aural rehabilitation. Patients may be private pay, Medicaid recipients or apply to our charitable services program for persons needing financial assistance.



BABY SIGN: The speech language pathology department offers courses teaching basic sign language to parents and caregivers. There is a special class designed for adults living or working with special needs children who are either pre-verbal or non-verbal and could benefit from the use of sign language. Studies have shown

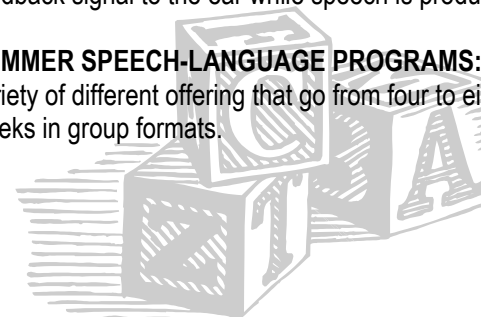
that sign language reduces the child's frustration and helps children speak sooner while facilitating linguistic, cognitive and emotional growth.

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LANGUAGE AND LITERACY: Building blocks is an initiative created by the clinicians at HSDC that provides outreach and education to parents and professionals about the importance of speech and language development on the emergence of literacy skills. In addition, speech and language services are provided to at risk children in our community, birth through five. Community screenings are delivered by speech language pathologists and graduate students. If identified, children receive intervention designed to facilitate literacy development. The ultimate goal of this program is to increase the academic success of these “at risk” children.



SPEECHEASY® AUTHORIZED: HSDC is the only provider in the greater Cincinnati area for this advanced technology treatment option for individuals with fluency disorders or stuttering. This device is worn in the speaker's ear similar to a hearing aid and provides a delayed auditory feedback signal to the ear while speech is produced.

SUMMER SPEECH-LANGUAGE PROGRAMS: A variety of different offerings that go from four to eight weeks in group formats.



Did You Know?

Over 60% of the preschool handicapped served in the US have speech or language impairment as their **primary** condition?

Speech-Language Pathology

The speech language pathology department at HSDC provides screening, assessment and intervention to individuals of all ages. Our staff speech language pathologists work with people who have communication disorders that may impair speech, language, reading or writing. Services are provided at Center facilities and, in addition, at area schools, Pediatric Otologic Diagnostic Clinics (of the Ohio Department of Health) and other outreach sites.

Causes of speech language delays and disorders are many and include: hearing loss, cognitive deficits, neurologic disorders, genetic abnormalities, physical impairments, birth trauma, stroke, and Parkinson's Disease just to name a few.

HSDC speech language pathologists work with individuals who experience any of the following delays or disorders:

- Aphasia
- Apraxia
- Articulation
- Autism
- Brain Injuries
- Deafness/Hearing Loss
- Language
- Literacy
- Phonology
- Stuttering

RECOGNIZING SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PROBLEMS IN CHILDREN

- By 12-18 months, your child uses 3-20 words meaningfully.
- By 18-24 months, your child has a vocabulary of 50 or more words.
- Can your 18-24 month old child follow spoken two-step commands?
- By 24-30 months, your child's speech is understood 70% of the time.
- Does your 24-30 month old speak in sentences three or more words in length?
- Your 24-30 month old child vocalizes for all his needs.
- By 30-36 months, your child speaks in sentences.
- By 30-36 months, your child is interested in cooperative play with others.
- By 3-3 1/2 years, speech is almost always understood.
- By 3 1/2 to 4 years, your child tells long detailed stories or relates events.



PATIENT EDUCATION PROGRAM (PEP): An adult aural rehabilitation class for hearing aid users and their communication partner that combines

Did you know?

According to a large scale study conducted by the National Council on Aging, people with **untreated hearing loss** are more likely to report depression, anxiety and paranoia. Those who receive treatment for hearing loss reported better family relationships and improved mental health.

discussion, activities, and demonstration. The group meets twice for a total of 4 hours and covers such topics as emotions and hearing loss, hearing aid maintenance, assertiveness training, speechreading, communication strategies, and managing the environment to maximize hearing. There is **NO COST** for patients who have purchased hearing aids from the Center. There is a nominal charge for those who are patients elsewhere.

TINNITUS RETRAINING THERAPY

(TRT): A program for persons suffering from

debilitating tinnitus (ringing, hissing, buzzing noises in the ears). This treatment emphasizes an innovative habituation based approach. TRT incorporates both Directive Counseling and Sound Therapy. Sound generators may be recommended.

“WILDER HEARING AID PROGRAM”: A permanent fund established in 1960 by the late Edna Wilder who wished to “provide hearing aids for the hard of hearing who are financially unable to purchase them, provided they are approved by the Hearing Speech and Deaf Center of Greater Cincinnati.” She further requested that “the hearing aids be given in the name of Edna Wilder”.

WORKPLACE EVALUATION: An audiologist will go to an employee's place of business to assess the environment. At the conclusion of a tour and interview, the audiologist prepares a report with recommendations on accommodations (behavioral and/or equipment) to maximize the work performance of an employee with hearing loss.



Community Services for the Deaf

The Hearing Speech & Deaf Center's Community Services for the Deaf Department is one of ten designated Community Centers for the Deaf in the State of Ohio. CSD provides sign language interpreting, C-Print transcription, outreach, advocacy, education, summer programming for children and teens who are Deaf, sign language classes, Deaf Teen Leadership Club, mentoring, ADA consultation and other **specialty services**:

ADVOCATE AND EDUCATION SERVICES: CSD provides support for the Deaf Community through its advocacy. The Deaf Advocate works with individuals who are Deaf by securing their rights under ADA. The Center also help individuals understand difficult or complicated written english and assist with making significant phone calls. All of these services allow individuals who are Deaf to improve their independent living skills.



CSD AWARDS DINNER: This annual event is an opportunity for the Deaf community to come together and celebrate its rich culture and successes. We acknowledge those who have had a positive impact on the community over the past year. Nominations are solicited and awards given to: a Corporate Partner (a business that recruits and maintains a good working environment for people who are Deaf), Excellence in Accessibility (A venue that is known to be "Deaf Friendly" by providing interpreters, staff fluent in ASL or other devices/accommodations), Outstanding Volunteerism & Advocate Award (someone who stands up for their own rights or those of people who are Deaf) and the Outstanding Deaf Teen Award (a teen who demonstrates leadership qualities).

C-PRINT SERVICES @:C-Print is a speech-to-text system developed at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), a college of Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). It was originally designed to improve the classroom experience for students at both the secondary and college levels. Today, C-Print is successfully being used to provide communication access to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing in many programs around the country. In addition to educational environments, the system can be used in meetings and workshops and with individuals with other disabilities. CSD continues to expand C-Print® services to local churches and classrooms throughout the greater community.



DEAF ADVISORY BOARD: The ad-hoc board is comprised of consumers who are Deaf and family members of people who are Deaf. These volunteers advise CSD about topics of interest and of concern to the Deaf Community at large.

*"CSD's sign language interpreting and C-Print® services facilitate my role in the world both as an employee and as a student."
-Sean*



DEAF ZOO DAY: Annually, CSD and the Cincinnati Zoo sponsor this event designed to give those in the Deaf community an opportunity to attend tours, exhibits and watch shows that are interpreted. Volunteer American Sign Language Interpreters spread out all over the zoo and are on hand throughout the day to sign for adults and children who are Deaf. The zoo charges a reduced admission price for those attending through this program.

SIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION AND INTRODUCTION TO DEAFNESS FOR BUSINESSES AND AGENCIES: Research has documented that employers frequently rate workers who are Deaf as better or about the same as hearing co-workers in the following performance areas: quality and quantity of output, attendance, safety, and working without supervision. However, some accommodations will need to be made in order to optimize the experience for the employee, the supervisor and co-workers. This does not have to be expensive nor require a great deal of equipment. CSD staff consult with employers who are motivated to making the experience a positive and productive one.

VIDEO RELAY INTERPRETING

(VRI): This service utilizes internet videoconferencing and web-based technology to link people who are Deaf to interpreters. HSDC is one of ten centers in Ohio participating in this program. Once the equipment is installed, a person simply makes an appointment and an interpreter will be available to facilitate communication.

Did You Know?

By Law, people who are Deaf must have access to a qualified Sign Language Interpreter so they can communicate with:

- Police, Court, and Law Enforcement Officials (time of arrest/apprehension)
- Hospitals, Doctors, and other Health Care Providers
- Public Accommodations (hotel, business, etc.)
- Government Services (Federal, State, and Local)
- Employment (Interviews, meetings, training, etc.)