

THE CHILDREN'S HEARING INSTITUTE

Spring 2019



CHI Awards Grants to Area Programs

In the fall of 2018, The Children's Hearing Institute launched a new Grants Program to provide direct funding to area programs in support of technology, education, and medical research. Selecting grant recipients from a group of outstanding programs of excellence is always a challenging task, as we received many exceptional proposals for consideration. Once the grant applications were received, they were reviewed and scored by members of CHI's Medical and Educational Advisory Board.

For the past 35 years, the generosity of our loyal supporters has enabled CHI to provide the funding for these innovative grants and will essentially make a difference in the future lives of countless patients, students, and parents. CHI's success is their success... so we thank you for your patronage.

The following list of organizations received funding from CHI for the 2019 grant cycle. A synopsis of these projects, along with updates on their progress, will be featured in future issues of E-Echoes, on our website, and across our social media outlets.

Please join me in congratulating the 2019 Grant Recipients:

Center for Hearing & Communication: *"Listen to Me" (A young author's workshop designed to culminate in the creation and publi-*

cation of an autobiography detailing their hearing journey.)

Clarke School for Hearing & Speech/New York: *Family Literacy Program (Will introduce 1 new book a month to each family enrolled in Early Intervention & Preschool to enhance the child's development and outcomes through readings.)*

Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC): *Increasing Access to Aural Rehabilitation Through Technology (Using iPads to promote spoken language)*

New York Eye & Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai: *"Lend Me Your Ears" (Ear mold grant for children - birth to 3 years old).*

New York University School of Medicine: *Optimizing Outcomes in Children with Cochlear Implants and Residual Acoustic Hearing.*

Northwell Health, The Feinstein Institute for Medical Research: *A study of immunologic mechanisms in Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss and Autoimmune Ear Disease in Children (Implications for Intervention).*

Summit Speech School: *On-Site Troubleshooting Equipment (Technology to help serve mainstream students.)*

If your organization is interested in submitting a grant for consideration in 2020, please email Melissa Willis to receive a copy of the grant application guidelines.

ATTENTION: Audiologists!

Hearing Aid CE Dispenser Course

Last Chance to Register: Thursday, June 6th

Course Topics:

- n NYS & Federal Rules and Regulations
- n Infection Control/Hearing Healthcare
- n Telecoil (t-coil) and assistive listening devices (New Requirement)



**Mount
Sinai
Beth Israel**

Course Location:

Mount Sinai Beth Israel
10 Union Square East, 2nd Fl
New York, NY 10003
Time: 3:30pm-8:00pm

Any Individual who is engaged in the act of fitting, selecting, renting, adjusting, or servicing of hearing aids or any other instrument to compensate for impaired hearing. This includes

cochlear implants. Hearing Aid Dispensers submitting a renewal application on or after January 1, 2019 must complete 20 hours of Department of State approved continuing education.

An Incredible Hearing Journey

A true Hearing “Hear-O” at only 18 years of age, Elisaul Then Lugo is already a remarkable young man. He is a loving son and brother, an extremely hard worker, a high school honor roll student, and without his cochlear implant, he is deaf.

When Elisaul was born, he was completely deaf in his right ear and had very little hearing in his left ear. He went undiagnosed until the age of 3 when his family took him to a hospital in the DR and was fitted with two hearing aids. The upkeep of technology and programming can be very challenging in certain countries, so Elisaul spent most of his early years struggling to hear even the loudest of sounds. He didn’t let it keep him from trying to participate in his community and understand conversation. In fact, his dedication and perseverance helped him become an extraordinary lip reader.

At the age of 15, Elisaul’s family decided to move to New York City from the Dominican Republic for many reasons: more opportunities, stronger education system, extended family, but none more important than access to better hearing healthcare. Prior to arriving in the US, Elisaul and his family knew nothing about cochlear implants, how they worked, or where to get one. When an unfortunate incident of getting something stuck in his ear landed him in the ER at New York Presbyterian, the attending physician noticed the severity of his untreated hearing loss and referred him to the Cochlear Implant Center at Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC).

After an initial evaluation, the CI team witnessed his eagerness to hear and speak, so Elisaul was fast tracked for a cochlear implant. Since receiving his cochlear implant at age 15, Elisaul has been dedicated to improving his verbal communication skills by attending each and every one of his weekly speech sessions at CUMC with his therapist, Stacey Bernstein. Stacey said, “Elisaul is extremely hardworking and dedicated to improving his auditory skills. During every appointment after school, he comes prepared with the activities he completed at home and updates on his listening abilities. He has a great sense of humor and his cheerful personality has come out more with his increased confidence in communicating.”

What an incredible journey.... as a young boy he taught himself to be a dynamic lip reader, awaiting an opportunity for a cochlear implant, he taught himself sign language, and after being implanted for only a short two years, he speaks fluent Spanish and is expanding his English language every day. Elisaul admits, “Learning to hear with the cochlear implant was tough at first,” as he reflects on his experience hearing for

the first time. He remembers everything being so incredibly loud outside when people were talking around him. He preferred to be indoors with his family because there was much less sound to process. Now, thanking his dedicated CI team at

CUMC he has adapted to environmental sounds. He and his family are thrilled with their decision to get a cochlear implant and truly believe his life has improved immensely because of it.

His younger sister Gerly, says she is so proud of her brother and thanks God and his hearing team for his ability to hear and speak. Before his implant she spent a lot of time helping her big brother by translating for him around the house, getting his attention when others needed him, and making sure that he didn’t get into trouble. Since receiving his implant, she says with a big smile, “The roles have definitely changed. Now he is looking out for me and is constantly making sure I have my homework done.” Through emotional tears of joy, his mother proudly admits, “Now that he has a CI, he is so attentive... always helping around the house and helping out with his family. I am so grateful my son has a chance to communicate with anyone in the world. It’s unbelievable!”

Outside of school, where Elisaul is an honor roll student and recently passed his Regent’s, he works at the New York Botanical Gardens where he loves being able to use his language skills with any-

one who visits. In the future, Elisaul wants to take his communication skills to new heights by becoming a flight attendant. Having gone to the airport when he was a little boy to watch planes with his father, he has always wanted to fly.

A young man, humbled by his new life, Elisaul is proud of his cochlear implant and all the opportunities it have given him. He explains how he could always communicate with people through sign language or lip reading. Now, pausing to keep his composure, he said, “I can speak words and that would never be possible without my implant.”

All his hard work and accomplishments did not go unrecognized by his cochlear implant team at CUMC which is why they nominated him for this award. Earlier this year, The Children’s Hearing Institute presented Elisaul with the Hearing “Hear-O” Award in recognition of his outstanding ability to overcome the challenges of hearing loss and his tireless dedication in developing communication skills through speech and language. We thank Elisaul and his family for sharing their hearing journey with CHI and congratulate him on this well-deserved honor.



♠♥ Casino Night Recap ♦♣



A very special thank you to all who attended and/or contributed to The Children's Hearing Institute's Casino Night in April. The evening was a great success and brought together many friends, family members, and colleagues representing hearing programs in the metro area. Our fundraising committee, along with CHI Board members, helped in securing amazing items for door prizes and big winners at the Black Jack and Poker tables. We are already looking forward to planning next year's Casino event! CHI is grateful for everyone's efforts as this event would not have been possible without the support of CHI Board member, Maria Hartman and her husband, Halley Ganges for their generous donation of the GoStudios space, card tables, and professional dealers. You can see more photos from the event on our Facebook page at [CHI.NewYork](https://www.facebook.com/CHI.NewYork)

Announcements



**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER**

Pediatric Audiologist Job Posting

Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC) and the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery is seeking an Audiologist to provide audiology services primarily supporting a busy pediatric practice within the Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital.

For a detailed description of job requirements and to apply, please visit CUIMC's Career Center.

Sound Proof Booths for Immediate Sale

FOR SALE: three (3) used sound proof booths:

1. Make: Tracoustics, model re-121, size: 29"x39", mini booth with wheels, assembled.
2. Make: IAC, model: 252 series, size: 29"x39", mini booth, w/ wheels & two doors for right or left opening of the door, assembled.
3. Make: IAC, model: 401-ase, size: 48"x56", disassembled.

for more information, pictures and pricing please Email: audiologypro777@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 2nd Bronx Zoo



Clarke's Listening Walks are centered around a self-paced Listening Scavenger Hunt. Children who are deaf or hard of hearing, and their friends and siblings, are encouraged to use their listening skills to discover new sounds, like the honk of a flamingo or the squeak of a bat, as they seek out the Listening Stops located throughout the zoo.



There is still time to get AMPEDup at CAMPEDup this summer! CAMPEDup is a summer program located in Manhattan for cochlear implant and hearing aid users using an auditory based communication approach. The camps mission is to provide a community in which each child will be able to socialize with other children with hearing loss, gain self advocacy skills and have a blast in a unique listener friendly environment!

For info visit: [CampedUp](https://www.campedup.org).



Turning Hope Into Hearing... so that all may hear the universal language of music