

Celebrating
100
1921-2021 *Years*

Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center

A CAMPAIGN FOR THE NEW CENTURY

Making Every Connection Possible

In 2023, Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center (CHSC) was delighted to celebrate the conclusion of the “Campaign for the New Century!”

Our comprehensive campaign started in 2021, during our 100th anniversary year. A culture of caring runs deep at CHSC and, through that lens, we witnessed communication needs growing greater than ever throughout our community in the pandemic era. CHSC wanted to ensure we could meet our neighbors’ needs by continuing to provide quality direct care, regardless of ability to pay. With this in mind, the CHSC CareFund Assistance Program was launched as the primary focus of our Campaign for the new Century.

The campaign had three major initiatives: the **CHSC CareFund Assistance Program**, a **Clinical Fellowship in Adult Services and Outreach**, and **Project ELLA: Early Language and Literacy for All**. Each impactful program is detailed below.

With our initial goal of raising \$1 million for the Campaign for the New Century, we send sincere gratitude to the nearly 90 individual and foundation donors who went on to provide \$2.5 million in gifts and pledges! Because of you, we will continue to serve our clients and their families into our next century of service. Thank you!



Executive Director, Dr. Jennell Vick, celebrating the “Campaign for the New Century” conclusion with Co-Chairs Phil Carino and Michael Goler.



For information on giving to CHSC, contact Karen Bain Hiller, Director of Development at khiller@chsc.org or 216-325-7503.

The CHSC CareFund Assistance Program

The ability to communicate is a basic human need and critical to the most important connections in our lives – including at home, school, and work.

People from every walk of life experience the difficulties of hearing loss, speech-language delays and disorders, deafness and communication challenges. For many, the barriers to receiving care are insurmountable. The CHSC CareFund Assistance Program ensures that cost is not an obstacle to receiving CHSC’s life-changing care through any of our programs and services.

More than 85% of our clients receive financial assistance from CHSC to receive clinical services in Audiology and Speech-Language and Learning, and 100% of services in our Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing are provided at no cost. The CareFund helps clients of all ages – from an infant born without hearing, to a child who stutters, to an aging adult recovering from stroke.



The CareFund helped Gabby Young (here with her father, Damon) receive stuttering services, even when not covered by her insurance.

Clinical Fellowship in Adult Services and Outreach

The Clinical Fellowship in Adult Services and Outreach is generously supported by a donor family whose beloved matriarch experienced loss of connection due to brain disease. This Fellowship was created to increase and improve direct care to adult clients, emphasizing care for adults with aphasia (a loss of the ability to express yourself or understand language), and overall understanding of aphasia among Cleveland's caregiving community.



Our first of three Fellows, Lauren Perry, joined CHSC in 2023.

Aphasia is a language disorder that affects a person's ability to communicate and can develop slowly or occur suddenly after a stroke or injury. The goal of the Fellowship is to train young professionals in aphasia care, providing greater Cleveland's next generation of speech-language pathologists with skills to help the increasing population of aging adults.



For information on services, contact Alicia Verhovitz, Coordinator of Adult Services at averhovitz@chsc.org or 216-325-7558.

Project ELLA: Early Language and Literacy for All



A child's talking and listening skills in the first five years of life can predict how successful they will be well into adulthood, because of the connection of early language with later literacy. The literacy rate of a community strongly correlates with the overall economic health of individuals and the entire region.

Project ELLA (Early Language and Literacy for All) helps young members of our community who are falling behind in the early language development they need to be ready for reading. Project ELLA removes financial barriers to care by providing free diagnostic and treatment services at our University Circle facility for children ages 0 to 5.

Project ELLA meets the community where they are geographically, by providing outreach services using a community health worker model to embed our education,

training, and playgroups in the neighborhoods where our services are needed most. Project ELLA raises community awareness about the long-term risks of early communication delays and disorders and seeks to improve future literacy in Greater Cleveland.

Thanks to generous campaign support we received for Project ELLA, CHSC can implement this innovative model of service over the next 5 years.



For information on services, contact Rebecca Mental, Director of Speech-Language and Learning at rmental@chsc.org or 216-325-7541.