



VLHF HISTORY

In June 1978, the International Association of Lions Clubs introduced a program called "Hearing and Speech Action and Work with the Deaf." In response to this initiative, Lion Kenneth S. Hitch contacted Dr. Robert W. Cantrell, then Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery at the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center in Charlottesville, Virginia. They desired to explore the formation of an organization dedicated to supported research on deafness. Interested in pursuing this idea, a committee was formed with representatives from each of the six districts in Virginia, along with three medical personnel. A resolution to form the "Lions of Virginia Hearing Foundation & Temporal Bone Bank" resulted from these meetings and it was unanimously approved by the Lions of Virginia in 1979.

In August 1989, the words "temporal bone bank" were dropped from the name because it was discovered that artificial ear bones are better used for transplants than human ear bones, due to the risk of transferring diseases. The emphasis had shifted from being a "temporal bone bank" (a facility that houses temporal bones) to a "research center".

Over the past 25 years, the Hearing Foundation has grown into a viable resource for hearing research. It is due to this growth and financial assistance to research that has made hearing possible for many deaf and hearing impaired individuals. In 1993 the Foundation purchased \$250,000 worth of equipment for the UVA Temporal Bone Lab to train doctors in basic principles and surgery (including Cochlear Implants) of the ear and skull base. Over the years, VLHF has purchased equipment for the Vestibular and Balance Center so that they may continue their research and through the contributions from VLHF the Newborn Hearing Screening program was initiated. In 2004 the Foundation began a program to bring Noise Awareness to all Virginia 4th graders. We thank all the clubs who have contributed to Virginia Lions Hearing Foundation.



*VLHF AND THE LIONS OF VIRGINIA ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO
PROVIDE HELP AND HOPE FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED.*