

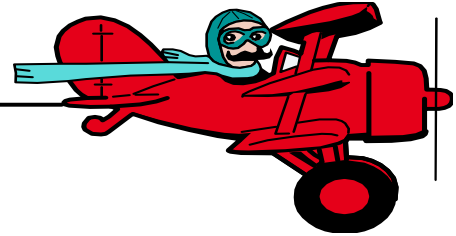


The Eardrum

Virginia Lions Hearing Foundation
and Research Center, Inc.
Box 800477, UVA Health System
Charlottesville, Virginia 22908-0477
434-296-5466
Website: www.lions24b.org/VLHF



Celebrating 25 Years of Service



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is my honor to be serving as President of your Virginia Lions Hearing Foundation & Research Foundation, Inc. during the twenty-fifth anniversary year. Over the previous quarter of a century this foundation has exemplified our motto "We Serve". The work that the UVA Medical staff has performed with the assistance of the Virginia Lions is something that you can't put a price on. We know that many who could not hear at all now hear. Many who did not hear well, now hear much better and for those who had no hope in the past it is likely that the latest research will provide a means to correct their hearing deficiencies. To all involved, thanks for 25 years of wonderful accomplishments that we can be proud of as we look to the next 25 years.

Our Annual Meeting was well attended this year. Most of us had our first chance to tour the new facilities at the University of Virginia Medical Center. We saw first hand some of the latest equipment for advanced medical procedures and auditory research. Each time I have toured these facilities, I always come away more impressed with what is being done to help the deaf and the hearing impaired.

Lions, Lionesses and Leos, this is your Foundation and we need your financial support and that of your club. We welcome club and individual donations. Please invite your District Hearing Chair to visit your club for a presentation this year. At each our District Fall Conferences there is to be a person representing our Foundation, be sure to utilize them toward your District hearing plan. This is truly what Lionism is all about, our service to those in need making a positive impact on their quality of life. Your Hearing Foundation is doing this on a regular basis.

Please feel free to visit the Hearing Foundation at UVA whenever you can. I hope all of you have a very productive year in Lionism as we serve those in need.

Yours in service,
Dan Bowling, President



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.



THE BEGINNINGS

Founding Clubs: (Their names are inscribed on a plaque in the Hearing Foundation office)

24-A

Alexandria Lincolnia Lions
 Alexandria Watergate Lions
 Arlington Host Lions
 Arlington Northwest Lions
 Arlington South Lions
 Bailey's Crossroads Host Lions
 Burke Host Lions
 Clifton-Fairfax Lioness
 Dale City Lions
 Engleside Lions
 Fairfax Host Lions
 Falls Church Lions
 Mason Neck Lions
 Merrifield Lions
 Mt. Vernon District Lions
 Mt. Vernon Lioness
 Park West Lions
 Reston Lions/Lioness
 Springfield-Franconia Host Lions
 Vienna Host Lions

24-B

Brandermill/Midlothian/Woodlake
 Danville Morning
 Richmond Lakeside
 Richmond Northside
 Richmond South AM

24-C

Charlottesville Host
 Charlottesville Lioness
 Charlottesville Thos.
 Jefferson

24-D

Aragona-Pembroke
 Denbigh Lions/Lioness
 Kempsville
 Mariner (Newport News)
 Northampton
 Norfolk Suburban Breakfast
 Plaza Golden
 Portsmouth Host
 Southside
 Thalia
 Wards Corner
 York

Founding Members: These individuals made significant contributions to the Foundation in the beginning years. Their names are also inscribed upon the plaque.

John Anderson, PDG
 Kenneth S. Hitch
 RR Larmore
 Orrin A. Larson, PDG
 Sheffey B. Massie
 John Ross
 Frank W. Harman
 Paul Holder
 Elsie Larson
 Joseph S. Lipomi, PDG
 Charles G. Motley, PDG
 Edwin W. Rubel, PhD

Founding Foundations and Organizations

Helen Keller Foundation
 Lion of Virginia Foundation
 Nathaniel Gordan Post VFW
 Walton Jones Foundation

THANK YOU



THE LIONS OF VIRGINIA

Through your hard work and dedication to the VLHF, we were able to raise our donations to \$90,312.00. “Thank you” to all the Lions Clubs who contributed this year. Below are the clubs that donated \$1,000 or more.

24-A

Arlington South
Burke Host Lions
Culpeper Mid-Day
Falls Church
Fredericksburg Host
Lake Ridge
Leesburg Host Lions
Merrifield Lions
Park West
Vienna Host Lions

24-B

Farmville Lions
Lynchburg Host
Mechanicsville
Richmond Host

24-C

Charlottesville Host
Harrisonburg
Lake of the Woods

24-D

Poquoson

24-F

Bristol Host
Wytheville



FACTS ON HEARING LOSS

- In Virginia, hearing loss affects more people than heart disease, cancer and blindness combined.
- 10% of Virginians have a hearing loss.
- 25% of Virginians over 60 are hearing impaired.
- Sensorineural Hearing Loss (nerve deafness) is the most common, preventable cause of irreversible hearing loss and its main cause is NOISE damage.
- Exposure to a large tractor for 1-2 hours or to a chain saw for 15-30 minutes or to a single gun blast will cause serious injury to the inner ear hair cells which are vital for transforming sound waves into electrical signals for the brain: without these hair cells a person suffers from permanent hearing loss.
- Research indicates that 1 in 1,000 normal infants will be born with a hearing loss. These odds increase to about 1 in 25 for those infants whose birth condition requires hospitalization in an intense care unit, or who have 1 or more of the following characteristics:
 - a) relatives with hearing loss
 - b) congenital infection
 - c) abnormalities of the head or neck
 - d) Jaundice

Virginia Lions Hearing Foundation and Research Center, Inc.
Board of Directors
2004-2005

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW TREASURER

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Audiology
 Communication and Balance Disorders
 PO Box 800713
 Charlottesville, VA 22908-0713
 Phone (434) 924-2050; Fax (434) 972-0700

Hearing Aid Options for Patients Approved for Assistance

Through the Lions Club Hearing Aid Program

For mild-to-moderate hearing loss:

• Micro-Tech MT 13 AGC-O	
• Cost \$175	
• Lions Club Contribution	Patient's Responsibility
\$100	\$75
\$125	\$50
\$150	\$25
\$175	\$0

For severe hearing loss:

• Micro-Tech MT 13 PPX	
• Cost \$215	
• Lions Club Contribution	Patient's Responsibility
\$100	\$115
\$125	\$90
\$150	\$65
\$175	\$40
\$200	\$15
\$215	\$0

Please note that the cost of the hearing aids listed above reflects strictly the cost of the aid and the ear mold utilized to couple the instrument to the patient's ear. Not included in that cost are the charges associated with the audiologic evaluation utilized to determine the patient's candidacy for amplification; unless UVA Health System Audiology is authorized by the sponsoring Lions Club to bill those charges to the club, the patient &/or his/her insurance will be expected to assume those charges. Neither the patient nor the sponsoring Lions Club is charged a fee for the time & services involved in the actual fitting of the hearing aid.



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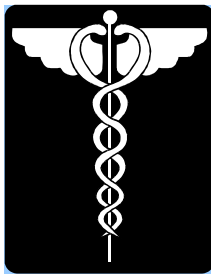
Message to Lions Clubs of Virginia Concerning Hearing Aid Assistance Program at UVA

As you are aware, through the collaborative efforts of the local Lions Clubs in our area and the University of Virginia Health System Division of Audiology, many hearing-impaired individuals who would otherwise be unable to afford much-needed hearing aids are, in fact, able to be fitted with hearing assistive devices at relatively minimal cost to the patients and their families. This joint program is made possible through the generosity of the local Lions Clubs, the availability of low-cost, but good quality, hearing aids through our vendors, and the ability of our clinical staff to provide the fittings and initial follow-up care without charge to the patients for the time and expertise involved in the delivery of services. We are pleased to be able to work closely with the Lions Clubs in the area to provide these much-needed services to our patients, and our patients and their families are extremely grateful to the Lions Clubs for the opportunities that this program makes available.

It has come to my attention, however, that some of the details concerning the financial aspects of the program—i.e., the actual amount of funding assistance provided by the individual Lions Clubs—are possibly being inadvertently shared with some of our patients through correspondence from the Lions Clubs. As a result, these patients may assume that the cost of a standard hearing aid fitting through our office is in the range of \$175-\$215 (the amount covered through both the Lions Club funding assistance program and the balance owed by the patient). That erroneous assumption may then be passed along to family and friends who will be, at the very least disappointed, if not incensed, when informed of the actual cost of a privately-purchased hearing aid through our office. That cost is, minimally, over \$700; that figure encompasses not only the cost of the device itself, but the time involved in the fitting and two years of follow-up care, the expertise of the audiologists involved in the provision of care, etc. As noted above, the exceptionally low cost of the hearing aids provided to patients receiving funding assistance through the Lions Clubs is the result of a special cooperative arrangement among the Lions Clubs, the Division of Audiology and our vendors and is not available to the general public. I would therefore like to request your assistance in assuring that the financial details of this arrangement not be shared with those individuals applying for funding through the Lions Club program, so that patients, their families and acquaintances are not inadvertently misled.

Please know that we in the Division of Audiology are most appreciative of the generosity of the Lions Clubs in assisting our patients in need. Your kindness and good works are enjoyed on a daily basis by the many patients who have been able to avail themselves of the assistance offered through the Lions Club program. We look forward to continuing our joint efforts in this most worthwhile cause.

Sincerely,
Janet E. Sturtevant, M.Ed., CCC-A
Audiology Supervisor



MESSAGES FROM THE MEDICAL BOARD

Dear Lions of Virginia,

It is my honor and privilege to join the Board of the Virginia Lions Hearing Foundation. I thank you for your support and promise to continue the superior work of those that have preceded me and those currently serving on the Board.

By way of background, I grew up right here in Virginia, born and raised in Norfolk. After attending Princeton University, I returned to Virginia to attend the University of Virginia Medical School. I stayed at UVA for my internship and residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. After completion of my residency, I ventured to Los Angeles, where I studied otology and neurotology as a fellow at the House Ear Clinic. Following my fellowship, I was in private practice at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. My Virginia roots drew me back, and I accepted a faculty position in the Otolaryngology Department at UVA July 1.

I have spent the summer working with Dr. Robert Jahrsdoerfer in our Department learning the finer points of surgery for congenital ear malformations. These malformations involve children born without an ear and ear canal (and, of course, no hearing in the affected ear). A plastic surgeon reconstructs the outer ear or auricle, while we drill an ear canal, free the middle ear bones to vibrate, place an eardrum graft, line the canal with a skin graft, and bring the skin graft out through the reconstructed opening. The surgery is technically quite challenging, and Dr. Jahrsdoerfer has performed this difficult operation on more children than anyone in the world. Dr. "J" will be retiring in a couple months, and I hope to carry on this tradition of excellence at the University of Virginia.

I also hope to study the mechanisms of hearing loss, cochlear hair cell loss, and hair cell regeneration in the lab. The long history of generous support from the Lions Foundation has paved the way for basic science research into the development of the inner ear and cochlear hair cells. We hope to identify the signaling pathways that allow basic embryonic cells to develop into the specialized cells of the cochlea called hair cells.

I thank you again for all your support and look forward to continued collaboration in the years to come.

Warmest regards,
Bradley W. Kesser, M.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery



MESSAGE FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Virginia Lion's Hearing Foundation. The foundation was established in conjunction with the University of Virginia Health System and the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. The purpose of this collaboration was to foster and support programs to address hearing loss and treatments for hearing loss. Needless to say, the foundation has been successful in this endeavor on many fronts. The mission of the foundation covers education, research, medical care, and outreach programs.

Current and former members of the foundation, and indeed, Lion members throughout the commonwealth of Virginia, should be proud of the Foundation. The foundation has supported a noise-awareness education program for grade-school children, and foundation volunteers have spent countless hours in the preparation and delivery of presentations in elementary schools throughout the commonwealth. Other educational success stories include support of the VLHF Temporal Bone Dissection Lab at the University of Virginia. In this teaching facility, physicians who treat ear problems have received instruction on ear surgical procedures. These physicians have been able to learn new surgical procedures or refine their surgical skills in a laboratory setting, and this translates to better outcomes for the patients of these physicians.

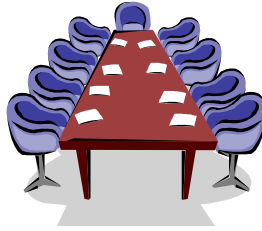
Support from the foundation has fostered continued research in hearing disorders. Dr. Jeffery Corwin has been investigating the possibility of recovering or regenerating the hearing organ in the inner ear. Laboratory equipment for his lab has been purchased by the VLHF. He has also had students working and learning in his lab, supported by a special educational fellowship program through the foundation. Dr. Roger Ruth has had support from the VLHF, as well as the LCIF, on investigations of noise-related hearing loss in patients being treated in intensive-care units of the hospital. Research on hearing loss related to bacterial meningitis has been investigated in an animal model, and this project has received support from the VLHF as well. In all of these research projects, national presentations and publications have indicated the tremendous support from the VLHF.

Care of patients with hearing disorders has also been assisted by the VLHF and Lions Clubs throughout the commonwealth. Individual Lions Clubs have contributed directly for the provision of hearing aids to needy individuals. In this special program, patients are able to obtain a high quality hearing aid that they might not otherwise be able to afford. Also, the Cochlear Implant Program at the University of Virginia has received support from the VLHF for several years. A cochlear implant is an electrical device that is placed into a patient's hearing organ and the cochlear implant is often able restore the ability to "hear" sound in patients who are otherwise very hard of hearing. Because of the high cost of a single cochlear implant, the VLHF is not able to purchase a cochlear implant for a needy individual, but the VLHF is able to provide salary support for the Cochlear Implant Program. This enables the Cochlear Implant Program to provide rehabilitation services to deaf or hard of hearing patients who are able to receive a cochlear implant.

The VLHF has supported programs that reach across the commonwealth and even beyond. The RAM project in Wise County, Virginia, has been supported by Lions Clubs and the VLHF for several years. The services provided by the Lions' Sight and Hearing Vans, volunteers, and medical personnel have increased in scope and volume since the project was initiated. Additionally, the VLHF has supported, in a small but meaningful way, Project Ear, a charitable program providing ear care for needy patients in the Dominican Republic. This project allows direct medical care from volunteer physicians from the University of Virginia to patients in the Dominican Republic, but more importantly is directed towards the education and training of Dominican Republic physicians to provide quality medical care for ear and hearing problems on an independent basis.

I am very proud of the Virginia Lions Hearing Foundation, and look forward to the next 25 years of productive collaboration. I cannot thank enough the individual Lions who have supported the foundation over the years. It is truly a worthwhile endeavor.

George T. Hashisaki, MD
Medical Director
VLHF



**DISTRICT HEARING CHAIRS
2004-2005**

DISTRICT 24-A

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**Support us in our commitment of
helping Virginia's hearing impaired
through research, education, diagnosis
and treatment.**

***PLEASE SEND IN YOUR
DONATION TODAY!***