



### WORDS FROM CEO Brett Bachmann



I like to think of myself as one who thinks about others. As a lawyer by trade, I've defended those you couldn't defend themselves and I am proud to be at this point in my career where I can see actual change and growth daily while watching the students in our classrooms of HHLA. Cultural anthropologist, Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Our **Listen Up!** Program has been introduced to the community with our first recipient, Rosie Brown has been happily fitted with her free set of hearing aids which makes her a much better volunteer. As we move forward this month, we will be fitting a 73-year old woman, who's 16 year-old niece will donate her volunteer hours to get her aunt's hearing aids! I am continually touched by the humanity that this program inspires and moved by people who want to and can make a difference to see the change we all seek.

Woeefully, the news is not all good. We are facing budget cuts from the state that will significantly impact our HHLA students if implemented. I have reached out to each of you to contact your state senator and congressman to tell them just how important it is that we receive state funding. We've gotten heartwarming letters of support from our clients, parents and grandparents who have sent letters reflecting on the difference we've made to their families. If you have any questions, or need a statement to send to them, please contact me or Wende for the information.

In the meantime, we continue our outreach to the community. Our audiologists are busy with outreach to high schools, like Seneca High School and we continually get student volunteer visits from Bellarmine and Assumption High School. We will also begin outreach to local senior citizen homes and charities to create greater awareness and provide service to their residents.

Finally, check us out in this month's **NFocus** Magazine's Philanthropy edition, where we are one of the featured charities. Special thanks to board member Shannon Cogan for continually promoting us and for hosting a special fundraising event with Von Maur this past weekend. Thanks again to all of your support! Remember, that as a team of winners we can all be the change we want to see in the deaf and hard and hearing world.

*-Brett*



### LISTEN UP! PROJECT LAUNCHES THANKS TO DELTA DENTAL OF KENTUCKY'S MAKING SMILES HAPPEN®

Heuser Hearing Institute launches the **Listen Up!** Project, a new need-based program in Louisville, thanks to a large donation from Delta Dental of Kentucky's charitable initiative, Making Smiles Happen. The **Listen Up!** Project started in early 2016 to help individuals who are financially unable to afford the hearing aids they desperately need. Potential participants and their family members can volunteer at various non-profits around Louisville in exchange for credit towards hearing aids.



Miss Rosie Lee Brown is the first recipient of the **Listen Up!** Project and is a retired chef. She has volunteered for the past 12 years in the Foster Grandparent Program, serving children with exceptional needs at the Jefferson Community & Technical College Early Childhood Development Center. She has been struggling with hearing loss for years, but recently it has become increasingly harder to hear the children as they interact together. Rosie is beyond excited that the **Listen Up!** Project is a resource she can utilize to make this wish a reality!

**For more information visit: <http://heuserhearinginstitute.org/listenupproject>.**



### THE COCHLEAR IMPLANT: DID YOU KNOW?

While the majority of people with hearing loss can be helped with hearing devices, for some, even the most advanced and powerful hearing aids are not enough. Thankfully, with continued advances in cochlear implant technology there may be a solution.

A cochlear implant is an electronic device that mimics the natural hearing function of the inner ear for individuals with severe to profound hearing loss. A cochlear implant system has two parts: an external sound processor and an internal implant. Unlike hearing devices, cochlear implants do not amplify sound; they bypass the damaged part of the inner ear and send electrical signals directly to the hearing nerve.

Cochlear implants can provide relatively fast improvements over hearing devices for those with a severe or profound loss, especially in the crucial area of speech recognition. Studies have shown adults can achieve, on average, sentence understanding of 75% after using a cochlear implant for just three months and 80% after six months, compared to 13% understanding when previously using just hearing devices. Other improvements can follow, such as talking on the phone and enjoying music again.

Cochlear implants aren't for everyone. At Heuser Hearing Clinic, we go through a thorough assessment process to determine candidacy. Patients two years and older are considered candidates if they have severe to profound hearing loss and experience limited benefits from hearing aids. Cochlear implants are not approved for single-sided deafness and are recommended for those with binaural (two-sided) hearing loss. Candidates should also have no significant problems that would make the surgery risky and a strong desire to be part of the hearing world and communicate through listening, speaking, and speech reading.

Treating hearing loss with cochlear implants is a multi-step process. Once the internal component is implanted and healed, the patient is then fitted with the external portion of the implant and the device will be "mapped" to the user's hearing needs using advanced programming technology. After the initial fitting, there are periodic adjustments, checkups, and maintenance.

Cochlear implant users also receive extensive rehabilitation services from our audiologists and speech-language pathologists as they learn to listen, improve speech, use speech reading, and manage communication. Patients are taught how to use the implant and respond to the sounds received. For those who have heard before, sounds through the cochlear implant may seem unnatural at first and must be relearned. Children learn to use the implant as they acquire language and will participate in speech and language education (cochlear implant mapping). Adult implant patients are encouraged to participate in our group rehabilitation course. Group classes include rehabilitation exercises, understanding how to use the processor, telephone training, music appreciation, and practice for real-life difficult listening situations.

#### **Why Choose Heuser Hearing Clinic for Cochlear Implants?**

Heuser Hearing Clinic is Louisville's premier cochlear implant facility. Our team of expertly trained professionals are partners in providing compassionate service and comprehensive care to both children and adults with hearing loss. We work together from start to finish; from determining implant candidacy to performing the surgery and providing follow-up care. Team members include an audiologist, otologist/surgeon, medical specialists, and, as needed, psychologists, counselors, and speech-language pathologists. We understand that many factors determine the success of cochlear implants and each patient's situation is unique.

**If you believe you or a loved one could benefit from cochlear implants, we invite you to call our office at (502) 242-8558 to schedule an evaluation.**

### HHLA TEACHER PROFILE Edwards, Clinical Director, HHI



Ingrid Edwards, Clinical Director of HHLA, loves her job. She does not shy away from the responsibilities of her role – one she has held for 13 years. "Unlike most of my colleagues, I did not have a personal connection to hearing loss, but I was a scientist and artist at heart," says Edwards. A native of Bethel, Ohio, Edwards moved to Louisville to attend The University of Louisville to earn both her BA and MS degree while participating in the former apprentice company of The Louisville Ballet. She also completed her Doctorate from The Arizona School of Health Sciences.

She was told that she could not continue to perform while combining curriculums from pre-med or dental school and the school of music, so she obtained an undergraduate degree in communication and sports management with electives in anatomy and physiology. After completing an independent study in vestibular physiology to learn how to improve her balance, she became a huge fan of the ear. "I was intrigued on how audiology fit my curriculum because it combines communication disorders and the science of the ear, so I was hooked," says Edwards.

When asked the greatest challenge of her role or roles – that of specializing in disorders of dizziness and/or imbalance and diagnostic hearing assessment through use of electrophysiological measures, she is torn. She strives to provide appropriate diagnostics, intervention and human care in a feasible amount of time, while covering costs and adapting to continual changes in reimbursement. Her constant goal is to help all specialists provide appropriate diagnostics and patient care while covering costs while medical reimbursements, grants and private donor amounts decrease.

Nonetheless, Edwards is quite at home in her role. "I love the job at Heuser Hearing Institute because I can help patients access any ear, hearing or educationally-related specialty and feel confident that they are getting the best treatment and resources while working in a supportive, friendly environment," adds Edwards. Edwards has two dreams for deaf and hard of hearing patients -- for the ear to be acknowledged as a hearing and balance organ, not just a hearing organ - and for the medical community to quit looking at hearing and vestibular loss as a benign condition. According to Edwards, the medical community attacks hearing loss in children like an aggressive cancer while allowing treatable or manageable conditions to ruin the quality of lives because of fall risks. Edward concludes, "I simply want the world to see the deaf and hard of hearing person with clear eyes, open hearts and patience; which should be the same as the world sees everyone else."

### FREE HEARING FAIR

On **Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**, the Hearing Loss Association of America KY Home Chapter will hold a **Hearing Fair at the Nelson Co. Public Library**, 201 Cathedral Manor, Bardstown, KY 40004. This is a great time to come in, talk to the Professionals one on one and get your hearing screened. It is also a time to bring your teens in and have their hearing screened. Do they have selective hearing or are they among the 20% of 16 to 25 year olds that have a hearing loss?

Meet with: Vocational Rehabilitation Office, Captioned Phone Representatives, Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Advanced Bionics Cochlear Implants, Learn How Captions are done. CART Representative, Audiologists and Instrument Specialists, Learn about Assistive Devices other than HEARING Aids, Free Telephone Programs, Financing Hearing Aids, and More.

**For more information visit [www.hearinglosskyhome.org](http://www.hearinglosskyhome.org) or email [info@hearinglosskyhome.org](mailto:info@hearinglosskyhome.org).**

### HEUSER EVENTS

**April 14, 2016**  
Jefferson County Farm  
Bureau visits HHLA  
11:00 a.m.  
Downtown campus



As part of our community outreach, HHI's audiologists and hearing aid specialists, **Brandi McGraw, Joelle Beisel and Nick Leahy** visit Seneca High School for a community health fair.

Lyndon Location  
417 Benjamin Lane,  
Louisville, KY 40222

Dupont Location | 502-584-3573  
3900 Dupont Square South, Suite D  
Louisville, KY 40207

Downtown Campus  
111-117 East Kentucky St.  
Louisville, KY 40203