

THE VOICE



For the friends of Children's Hearing & Speech Centre of BC

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www.childrenshearing.ca

Fifty candles *ablaze*

Every now and then something

happens that makes us stop and listen to the birds sing. Turning 50 can make us do that. "The Centre's 50th anniversary year has provided amazing opportunities to step back to see the big picture in surround sound," said Stephen O'Keefe, the Centre's board chair and alumnus. "It has been particularly moving for me to see how the Centre (Children's Hearing & Speech Centre of BC), which started in a condemned wing of the Princess Margaret Children's Village (now Sunny Hill Hospital) in 1963 has impacted so many people across British Columbia."

Stephen has been involved with the Centre since its early days, first as a student and now in leadership. His hearing loss was detected when he was 18 months old. His parents were told that Stephen would never speak intelligibly. But that doctor was wrong. Stephen has not only learned to listen and speak, he has earned a law degree from University of British Columbia, has become an entrepreneur, a motivational speaker, a husband and father, and has served on Children's Hearing & Speech Centre of

BC's board of directors since 1997.

"When I was a boy, the auditory method was considered to be experimental," said Stephen. "Things have advanced so much that if given the right support at the right time, deaf and hard of hearing children can learn to speak beautifully."

Along with advances in teaching methods and early screening, the technology has improved immensely.

"My early hearing aids made me look like a suicide bomber," said Stephen. In contrast, today, there is talk of a cochlear implant that has no visible hardware.

While much has changed, two things have remained constant: the passion and commitment of the staff and the need to raise funds. Teaching deaf and hard of hearing children to listen and speak is the staff's life work, not a job. "Fundraising is a big part," said Stephen. "What we can do for the children is directly linked to the dollars we raise."

At 50, the candles are ablaze. The board is young, dynamic and business oriented. The vision is clear: to strengthen the Centre's core services,

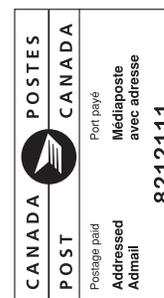
to open a satellite site in the Fraser Valley and to expand the tele-practice division to serve all of BC's deaf and hard of hearing children who want to learn to listen and speak for themselves! "We are looking beyond sustaining to growing our programs and expanding our reach," said Stephen. "It is an exciting vision that can only be realized with donor support." Donors provide for key and critical services, as only 65 per cent of the Centre's funding comes from government.

One in 300 children in BC is born with a hearing loss. Stephen said, "The board and donors are working to make sure every child—regardless of where in BC they live—has the opportunity to be fully engaged in the hearing world and have the same opportunities—social and economic—as their hearing peers." 



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-Stephen O'Keefe, Board president & chair and alumnus



Children's Hearing & Speech Centre of BC
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Harnessing technology to maximize potential

Every bit of learning at the Centre hinges on the child's ability to access sound. That's why access to sound is at the centre of each child's Individualized Education Plan.

Our sound effort begins in the walls, literally. The Centre is built with custom-designed acoustics that help certain kinds of sound travel and other, distracting sounds, absorb into the walls, the floor and the ceiling.

In 1978 we dug deep, fundraised and hired an onsite audiologist. With the help of our donors, we have been offering onsite audiology services ever since. Among other things, the

audiologist regularly tests and monitors the child's access to sound and calibrates hearing devices.

Our classrooms are wired for sound. Each room is fitted with a sound field system designed to enhance speech understanding. Additionally, the children have personal FM systems. The teacher speaks into the hands-free microphone. The child hears the sound directly without competing background noise, helping to increase attentiveness, comprehension, participation and concentration. Regardless of where the child sits in proximity to the teacher, they have equal access to the sound of the teacher's voice, giving them greater access to the specialized teaching strategies used at the Centre.

Once a child has learned to make sense of the sounds they hear, they can soar academically. And that's not all, they can hear friends talking, they can hear the rain on the roof and they can hear a song on the radio—the soundtrack to their lives. 🦋

Why Paula Jensen is a hero

Paula Jensen's son, Cole, was a very normal baby. But with time it became apparent that something was not right. "His speech was delayed and difficult to understand," said Paula.

Cole was almost four when his hearing was tested and the family learned that he had a bilateral moderate to severe hearing loss.

"We enrolled Cole in the pre-school program at Children's Hearing & Speech Centre of BC and oh-my-goodness what a difference that made," said Paula. In only two



years Cole developed strong listening and speaking skills, as well as some remarkable friendships.

Today, you'll find him in the Grade 4 classroom at HT Thrift Elementary School in South Surrey. He is inquisitive, confident, smart and fully engaged in the classroom. "I don't know where he would be today without the Centre," said Paula.

"During our years at the Centre, our family was fortunate to benefit from funding acquired through other people's generosity. Now that we are able, we

are happy to give back," said Paula. The Jensen's support the Centre through the monthly-giving program. She said, "It's easier to give a little each month than to write a larger cheque once a year." She added, "At the end of the year, when the tax receipt arrives, it is awesome to see that the small monthly amount really adds up." People pay monthly for their mortgage, utilities and insurance. Why not give monthly to the Centre?

Our monthly donors are our hearing heroes. You can be one too. Sign up, using the form opposite. 🦋

Spring concert raises over \$20,000 for audiology program

It's hard for a concert not to be a hit when the performing artist is 2014 Grammy Award Winner for Best Children's Album Jennifer Gasoi. The two sold-out concerts on April 12th at the Rothstein Theatre exceeded every expectation. Jennifer's magical performance appealed to children and adults alike. She engaged full audience participation with laughter, clapping, singing and dancing through her repertoire.

"Many of the children in the audience had a hearing loss," said Loretta Evans, who co-chaired the event along with Heather Clarkson. "To see our children enjoy music and to sing along with their hearing friends really captures what the Centre is about: Giving deaf and hard of hearing children the same opportunities in life as their hearing peers have."

In its third year, the spring concert raised over \$20,000 for the audiology program at the Centre. The Centre has a fully equipped audiology suite including a booth for audiology testing. "We invest in audiology, because everything we do at the Centre links to the child's ability to access as much sound as possible...in order to facilitate maximum learning," explains Janet Weil the Centre's executive director and principal. The onsite audiologist regularly monitors each child's hearing status and listening devices and provides ongoing consultation to the students and their families. 🦋

The Centre is grateful to its concert sponsors:

Media: CTV, Vancouver Courier, WestCoast Families

Platinum: Michael Levy & Family



Jennifer with children at the concert.

Photo by Chris Gehlen

Gold: Anonymous, Underhill Geomatics

Silver: EV Holdings, London Drugs, Mel & Gerri Davis, Royal Bank of Canada

Bronze: Borden Ladner Gervais LLP, dys Architecture, Fomosa Travel Ltd., Doreen & Charles Laszlo, Kustner & Associates, Pediatric Dental Group Inc.

Photography: Chris Gehlen

We would also like to thank all of our **Supporters.**

Many thanks to the production committee:

Heather Clarkson (Co-Chair), Loretta Evans (Co-Chair), Cecille Cohen, Gail Feldman, Laurie Gasoi, Marla Groberman, Catherine Kalchbrenner, Andrea Manchon, Rose Mikelburg, Thoralee Nomm, Gita Silver, Janet Weil, Alison White

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DONATION FORM

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO CHILDREN'S HEARING & SPEECH CENTRE OF BC

Please charge \$_____ to my credit card

Please charge my credit card: VISA MasterCard

Card # _____ Expiration: _____

Signature(s) _____

I give permission for Children's Hearing & Speech Centre of BC to contact me in the future using the information I have provided on this form. I understand the information will never be sold or traded to other organizations.

Charitable Business No. (BN) #11928 2044 RR0001

MONTHLY PARTNER

I wish to become a Monthly Partner & support Children's Hearing & Speech Centre with a gift each month.

By becoming a Monthly Giving Partner you will:

- Have your donation automatically charged to your Visa or MasterCard.
- Receive one consolidated tax receipt at the end of the year.
- Save time and money with reduced administration.
- Never have to send in credit card information or a donation cheque again.
- Be able to change or cancel your monthly donation at any time. You will maintain full control of your investment.



Pictured above, L to R: Janet Weil, CHSC Executive Director/Principal, Jack Zaleski, Rotary Club of Vancouver, Joanne Enns, CHSC Financial Administrator, Peter Clarke, President, Rotary Club of Vancouver

To the heroes, the cheque writers, the new friends and the long-time friends, thank you! thank you! thank you!!
 To the parents, the grandparents, the corporations and the foundations, we take our hats off!



Pictured here L to R: Roberta Beiser, Edith Lando Charitable Foundation and Janet Weil, CHSC Executive Director/Principal

Some recent gifts include:

- Rotary Hearing Foundation toward the Speech and Language Program.
- Variety, the Children's Charity of BC toward the Sensory Motor Integration Program.
- The McLean Foundation toward the Language Acceleration Program.
- Edith Lando Charitable Foundation toward supporting our 2013/14 school-year music program and for renewing support with a multi-year gift to the Speech and Language Program
- CKNW Orphan's Fund toward bursaries.

 For the very latest news and info, visit our facebook page. That's where we post regular updates and fun facts.
 You'll find us at www.facebook.com/chascbc

Vision 2020

To give a voice to deaf and hard of hearing children across BC, by:

1. Strengthening the core by increasing access to our one-on-one instruction programs from twice a week per child to five times a week per child.
2. Making services accessible throughout BC by expanding tele-practice delivery and opening a satellite site in the Fraser Valley.
3. To continue supporting parents who need a helping hand to pay for tuition fees and specialized services.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Stephen O'Keefe, President & Chair
- Scott MacKenzie, Vice President
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- Joanne Enns, Financial Administrator
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Yes! I want to support Children's Hearing & Speech Centre of B.C.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY DONATION OF

- \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000
- I prefer to donate \$ _____
- Enclosed is my cheque/money order.
- I have left a gift to Children's Hearing & Speech Centre of BC in my Will.
- Please send me information about leaving a gift to Children's Hearing & Speech Centre of BC in my Will.
- I would like to become a Hearing Hero.
- I wish to remain anonymous.



PLEASE COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION BELOW

Miss Ms Mrs Mr Dr First Name _____

Last Name: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

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City: _____ Prov: _____

Postal Code: _____ Tel (home): _____

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