

## A note from the Executive Director



This is the time of year to take a moment to count our blessings and share our gratitude

with those who make our lives wonderful. I feel especially blessed to have the gift of working at EHSC and to see all of the lives we impact each and every day. This is the season to take in the beauty of the sights and sounds as well as to share how much we care about our friends, our families and our community. For many, the ability to communicate with our loved ones, to hear their words or the music of the season is an incredible challenge.

Thanks to the amazing generosity of our donors, the collaborative partnerships with extraordinary organizations and the countless hours of volunteer time, we are able to experience the magic moments of a child saying the words "I Love You" to their parent for the first time or a senior regaining the ability to hear. We are in the unique position to watch little miracles happen every day for our patients. These are the gifts you make possible all year long.

*"The Holiday Season is a time of joy and charity. May God make you very rich in both."*

- Phillips Brooks

Wishing you a year filled with joy.

Doris G. Towery



## EHSC Cochlear Implant Services Amplifies Life for 98-year-old

Lou Willingham enjoys an unusually active life for a person his age. He volunteers at his church, tends his garden, and helps others every chance he gets. These days he also enjoys television, talking on the phone and sharing a laugh with friends and family with the help of his cochlear implant. Lou, or "Uncle Lou," as friends and family call him, recently had his implant activated at the Eugene Hearing and Speech Center.

Lou had surgery last May to implant the device. Cochlear implants have external parts and internal (surgically implanted) parts that work together to help individuals with severe to profound hearing loss perceive sound. In June, he came to EHSC for his first mapping session to activate his implant. "It was a treat for me when (the audiologist) turned it on," he said with a grin. Lou's niece, Susan, says she noticed a tremendous change after his implant was activated. "He started enjoying life more, watching television and communicating more. It's helped in all aspects of his life," she says.

EHSC provides mapping services (to program the implant) and evaluation services for Cochlear Implant candidates. "Lou was an excellent candidate for an implant," says Jessica Eggleston, Au.D., EHSC audiologist, and pediatric and cochlear implant specialist. "He's very motivated to learn how to use his implant in his everyday life. He's doing great!"

Dr. Eggleston says Lou is doing well enough now that he only needs to come in for mapping in six months, and then once a year thereafter.

"Cochlear implants do not restore hearing to normal," cautions Dr. Eggleston. "And they may not be suitable for all patients." All candidates are required to undergo a series of evaluative tests.

"It's very rewarding to be part of this process," she enthuses. "I most enjoy seeing the transition in my patients who at first feel socially isolated or disconnected. After the implant surgery, I guide the rehabilitation process using cochlear implant programming and auditory training techniques to make the most out of the device and help patients re-integrate into their lives." EHSC serves cochlear implant patients from mid to southern Oregon. Elsewhere, patients must go to Portland for mapping services.

"If I hadn't gotten this, I'd be deaf," states Lou. Years of working as a millwright affected his hearing. But, hearing loss didn't slow him down! Willingham retired at 62, but has worked on and off in family businesses until last year. "I love to work," he says. "And, I thank the Lord for every day!"

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## Gifts Up to \$499:

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Heather O'Leary  
Martha & Warren Pavlat  
Pay It Forward/ Susanne Cox  
Chris & Rosie Pryor  
Cindy Roane  
Desiree Robinson  
Deborah Rock

## Your Year-End Gift Will Help Kids Like Grant

This time of year is filled with the joyous sounds, sights and sharing of the season. Unfortunately for many, not having the gifts of hearing and speech prevent them from truly taking in the joys of the season. It is during this time that I pause a bit longer to be thankful for all the gifts in my life. I am especially grateful for the big hearts of donors like yourself who give of your resources to make the whole year brighter for the thousands of individuals we serve at Eugene Hearing and Speech Center.

Access to services at EHSC is especially important for children with severe hearing or speech/language difficulties who require more help. Without the more intensive therapy they need, these youngsters often experience extreme frustration, acting-out behaviors, social isolation from peers, and academic failure. Your gift this holiday season will help kids like nine-year-old Grant receive the services he needs to be successful in life.

Grant started coming to EHSC four years ago. Because of the severity of his speech and language difficulties, he requires individualized and intensive ongoing therapy beyond the services he receives in school to address his needs. "For children like Grant, each sound, word, and sentence is a struggle and requires hard work," says his speech/language pathologist, Mark. Grant's mom, Bonnie, says he's made some very real and positive progress. "When he started speech therapy, Grant was using a very limited number of words. Since then he's worked on sentence formulation, and his sounds like 'p,' 'f,' and 'v.'" She adds that other developmental disabilities make it more challenging for him to express himself. "In the time we've been seeing Grant, he has become a much more confident communicator," says Mark. Today, Grant is better able to express his emotions, communicate his needs, make choices and express ideas. He is doing well in his class at school, and loves playing with friends. "He really enjoys learning math and reading," says

Bonnie. Grant is only eligible to receive 12 sessions per year through his insurance. He relies on financial assistance made possible through donations to EHSC to subsidize twice-weekly therapy sessions. Your gift today will help ensure therapy sessions will continue for Grant and hundreds of other youngsters at EHSC whose futures depend on improving their hearing, speech and language abilities.

Communication skills are essential to academic success and learning. The ability to communicate with peers and adults in the educational setting is essential for a student to succeed in school. For more than 55 years, EHSC was and is the only non-profit agency in Lane County dedicated to improving lives by providing outstanding hearing and speech services, regardless of a patient's ability to pay. But we can't do it without you.

Please join us in making the whole year brighter for youngsters and grownups alike by giving the gift of communication. And don't forget—you can double your gift to

the Eugene Hearing and Speech Center if the company you work for matches your charitable giving. For your convenience a gift coupon is located on the back. Or, you can make a donation directly online at: <http://www.eugenehearingspeech.org/donations.html>

If your gift is received by December 31, you will be eligible for a 2011 tax deduction. Please take a moment today to make your gift and invest in brighter futures. Thank you for your ongoing support and generosity!

### Your gift will help change lives.

A gift of \$500 would provide a child like Grant seven sessions of speech/language therapy, and the priceless opportunity for a successful future.

Don't let this season of joy and giving pass without remembering kids like Grant and hundreds of others at EHSC.



# Communication Skills Group Begins for Parkinson's Patients

Services for Parkinson's patients at EHSC are expanding with the addition of the Communication Skills Class. In partnership with Parkinson's Resources of Oregon (PRO), EHSC is offering the class for patients interested in improving their speech and communication.



According to PRO, about 75% of Parkinson's patients experience changes in their speech, voice, and swallowing ability. This can manifest as a soft voice, mumbled or fast speech, loss of facial expression, and problems communicating.

Class meets for one hour per week for 10 weeks, and is led by a certified speech/language pathologist. The first group at EHSC was so large, two classes were formed. Karlie Geiser, EHSC Speech Director and Speech/Language Pathologist, and Linsey Zeller, EHSC Speech/Language Pathologist, lead the classes at EHSC.

Each session includes vocal warm-ups, oral motor exercises, facial expressions, communication and memory strategies, reading, singing, and intonation work. The sessions are not intended to replace one-on-one speech/language therapy, however. They are targeted to help patients beginning to experience vocal decline and provide support and opportunities for interaction and vocal practice.

Vocal practice is important for graduates of the Lee Silverman Voice Therapy (LSVT®) program, like 62-year old Kevin Watts. Watts just completed the LSVT® program at EHSC about a month ago. The LSVT® program is an intense, innovative and clinically-proven method for improving voice and speech in individuals with Parkinson disease. Watts has been dealing with Parkinson's Disease for the past 19 years.

"Physical things came easily for me," says the former football, basketball and golf coach at Churchill High School. "Now, I work on not getting discouraged," he says. So far, his favorite activity in the Communication Skills Group is playing the game *Apples to Apples*. "It teaches you ways to communicate in a different way," he says.

The current EHSC Communication Skills class ends December 12<sup>th</sup>. The next session is slated for January 23<sup>rd</sup>-March 19<sup>th</sup>. To sign up, register online at [www.pro.eventbrite.com](http://www.pro.eventbrite.com) Registration fee is \$45; limited scholarships are available.

## Gifts Up to \$499:

Frank & Pauline Rock  
Michael & Michele Rodeen  
Charles & Virginia Roffe  
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Barry & Carolyn Rubenstein  
Kristi & John Rysdam  
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Dode Weyhe & Nancy Steele  
Shari Wood  
8 Anonymous Donors

## Gifts of \$500 and Above:

Frederick J. Artz & Jane C. Artz  
Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation  
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Doug McKay  
Charlotte Oien  
Denise & Abe Sorom  
Jeff & Doris Towery  
Luree Wilson  
V. Gerald & Ann Woeste

## In Kind:

Bob Welch  
Richard Pickering

**We deeply appreciate the following foundations and organizations that support EHSC!**

**Juan Young Trust:**  
\$5000 to aid in purchase of new ABR equipment.

**PacificSource Charitable Foundation:**  
\$20,000 hardship fund assistance.

**Trust Management Services:**  
\$8,772 clinical computer systems hardware/software upgrade.

**Weyerhaeuser Foundation:**  
\$5000 hardship fund assistance.

## 2011 EHSC Department Wishlists

### EHSC's audiology department

EAR insert tips	\$645
Pocket talker	\$169
Soldering tips	\$15
REM probe tips	\$250
Drill chuck	\$20
Buffering wheels	\$10
Buffering compound	\$10

### Large Item Wish List

Video Micro Otoscope	\$10,000
26 chairs (14 patient, 12 waiting room)	\$5,200
Upgrade to Noah (7+ users)	\$900

### EHSC's speech department

Waiting room chairs	\$3,000
Apple iPads (4)	\$500/ea
iTunes gift cards (for therapy applications)	\$25
Sheet music (for Parkinson's singing group)	\$100
Gift cards to major retail stores such as Target, Costco, Wal-mart, Elephants Trunk etc. These will be used to buy various games and materials used in therapy.	\$25



Make a wishlist donation directly online at: <http://www.eugenehearingspeech.org/donations.html>



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### Upcoming Events:

- Winter Early Literacy Session, January 25 - February 29, 2012  
enrollment now open - limited scholarships available
- OASIS Seminar "Basic Hearing Aid Maintenance," includes overview of hearing loss and when to seek professional help, Wednesday, February 8, 2012, 10:45 am – 12 noon, at OASIS.



### EHSC Holiday Closures

EHSC will be closed December 23, 26, 27, and 29, 30, 2011. EHSC will be **open** Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, to assist patients requiring hearing aid adjustments, on a first come, first served basis.

EHSC will be closed Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012, in observance of the New Year Holiday, and will reopen Tuesday, January 3, 2012, at 8 am. *Happy Holidays!*



Yes, I want to help  
**CONNECT PEOPLE THROUGH COMMUNICATION!**

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**Payment Type**

Check enclosed (payable to Eugene Hearing & Speech Center)  
 Automatic monthly deduction from my bank account

Attach a voided check. Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deductions occur January through December on the 20th of each month

**Charge my credit/debit card:**  
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