



# What's Happening Here!



## APRIL Newsletter

## "Communication for Life"

### Celebrating 50 Years of Improving Kids Lives Through Our Day Care Speech and Language Program

Like so many other efforts throughout the history of improving human services, Rochester Hearing & Speech Center Day Care Speech and Language Program started very small. We are celebrating this program's rich history in April to coincide with the **Month of the Young Child**.

In 1969, a caregiver at a daycare center (no longer in operation) called Rochester Hearing and Speech Center looking for someone to help her find a speech program for a child in her classroom. Due to limited funds and no access to transportation to take the child to speech therapy appointments, the teacher asked if a speech pathologist could come out to their site to see the child and consult with the caregivers and parents. Although the norm today, in 1969 this had never been done before – and we did it! From there, the Rochester Hearing and Speech Center's Day Care Speech and Language Program were born.

Claire Sischy and Nancy Backman, Rochester Hearing and Speech Center employees, began offering their services to various daycare centers in the Rochester area, supported wholeheartedly by the agency's administration and board of directors. The program's initiatives were central to the mission of the agency and it just made sense to reach out to children in need of their services by collaborating with area caregivers.

Rochester Hearing and Speech Center became the first agency in the area to offer on-site services in the community setting and was a forerunner of the current model for service delivery for preschool children with disabilities. Sischy and Backman provided speech and hearing screenings, consultation with teachers and parents, and in-service training for staff; the same services Rochester Hearing and Speech Center continues to provide 50 years later.

Today, Rochester Hearing and Speech Center partners with more than 20 daycare centers. Oregon-Leopold Day Care Center, Ibero-American Action League, and Asbury Day Care Center were among the first that we visited and are still part of the program today.

Although this program began 50 years ago, it remains relevant and continues to demonstrate its effectiveness in identifying preschool children with speech and language delays and other special needs early in their lives, when intervention can make the most difference.

### Hearing Conservation Awareness. Why it is Important?

By Dr. Greg Horton, Au.D.

PHOTO: Dr. Greg Horton, Au.D, RHSC & Bassist, Periodic Table of Elephants  
Courtesy of Brite Side Photography



When most people think about the term "Audiology" the first thing that comes to mind is "hearing aids." It is no secret that audiology is typically a reactionary field, one where we help diagnose and treat individuals with hearing loss and other conditions. What many people often forget is that hearing conservation is a critical part of audiology and protecting hearing is just as important as our reaction to hearing loss.

Prior to 1981, a time before the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) regulated noisy work environments, millions of people were exposed to dangerously loud levels of occupational noise, resulting in permanent hearing loss.

Today's employers have become more responsible about following OSHA regulations. But, there are some industries still not regulated such as small farming operations and the music and entertainment sector.

Most musicians, professionals and hobbyists of all styles, have experienced repeated loud rehearsal and performance environments. Many have already developed permanent damage to their hearing as well as tinnitus (ringing in the ears). Without regulations, it is up to musicians to educate and advocate for themselves when it comes to the risks of prolonged exposure to music genres of all styles.

Rochester Hearing & Speech Center is proud to be hosting a free community workshop on hearing conservation geared towards those exposed to loud levels of noise, such as musicians and those in the entertainment industry. Our Ears & Beers event will be held at Three Heads Brewing on Sunday, May 19th.

Article will be featured in the HLAA Rochester Chapter May newsletter.

Consider making an investment in RHSC by donating online by clicking the "Donate Now!" button.



Communication for Life | #CentennialAnniversary

### UPCOMING EVENTS

April is ...

Month of the Young Child  
National Autism Month  
Occupational Therapy Month

#### Ears & Beers

A Hearing Conservation Event  
MAY 19, 2019 | 1 pm  
Three Heads Brewery  
[Facebook Event](#) | [Click Here](#)



#### Childhood Apraxia of Speech

Continuing Education Workshop  
June 8, 2019 | 8 am - 3 pm  
Al Sigl - Sports Committee  
Conference Center  
[To Register](#) | [Click Here](#)



### CLIENT STORIES

#### YAHVEH'S STORY

"He is doing great! No longer shy in class."



#### JOSUE'S STORY

"Readiness for Kindergarten now possible."



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