



2301 Research Blvd., Suite 110
Rockville, Maryland 20850
301.424.5200
Fax 301.424.8063
TTY 301.424.5203
www.ttlc.org

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CONTACT
Kristin Fletcher
301.424.5200, ext. 270
kfletcher@ttl.org

TLC's Family Hearing Center Helps Others Hear Through Walk4Hearing Proceeds to Benefit Non-Profit's "Help Others Hear" Program

Rockville, MD— On **Saturday, October 17**, patients and staff of [The Family Hearing Center](#) at [TLC-The Treatment and Learning Centers](#) are joining thousands of walkers in the **Washington DC** walk of [Walk4Hearing](#), a nationwide event produced annually by the [Hearing Loss Association of America](#) (HLAA) in twenty major US cities. Now in its third year, the walk raises funds for hearing loss awareness and supports hearing loss prevention and education programs, helping end the stigma associated with hearing loss. TLC-The Treatment and Learning Centers is a nonprofit organization founded in 1950 that offers a full range of hearing healthcare services for all ages along with educational, therapeutic and vocational services for individuals with special needs.

Family Hearing Center director **Susan Yaffe-Oziel** will be joined by patients on the walk, including **Marcie Wolf-Hubbard**, a mother of two children with hearing loss, who is walking with her son Rigel. Says Marcie, "I'm happy to spend time with my son and TLC's team to help others get the support they need. I understand the difficulties of finding the resources for your children, and paying for hearing aids is not easy. It's not like eyeglasses; you can't just walk in and try on hearing aids and be done with it. It's a long process, and IF your insurance helps that makes it a little easier financially, but many people get no help from insurance."

Forty percent of the proceeds raised by the Family Hearing Center walk team will fund the nonprofit's **Help Others Hear** program that provides hearing aids to those who could not otherwise afford them. The team has raised 69% of its \$1,000 goal to date.

Yaffe-Oziel, who has been fitting hearing aids for 30 years and whose staff serve 900+ patients each year, was all too familiar with the instruments being cost prohibitive and wanted to do something about it. The Help Others Hear fund was established in 2008; donations from current patients and the Trawick Foundation have since provided "life-changing" hearing aids for five individuals in the past year. Nancy, the most recent patient to receive a new set of hearing aids, had this to say:

" I don't think I can begin to thank you enough for all the help you provided me in fitting me with TWO hearing aids through the "Help Others Hear" program. They work better than I could have ever imagined. I am not only able to hear communication between people, but I also hear the birds singing in the morning and other wonderful sounds that I have not heard in YEARS! I wish I could think of something more than a thank you note to express my gratitude, but hopefully you understand how very much you have enabled me to live a more fulfilling life!"

For more information on hearing loss, TLC's Family Hearing Center and the Walk4Hearing, visit our website at www.ttlc.org.

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A Non-Profit Organization Serving Individuals With Special Needs Since 1950

The Outcomes Service • The Family Hearing Center • The Katherine Thomas School
The Early Learning Center • The Outpatient Services • The Testing and Tutoring Service • TLC's Summer Programs

Facts About Hearing Loss

- September 28-October 4 is designated as **Hearing Aid Awareness Week** by [The International Hearing Society](#) (IHS) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's National Health Information Center.
- According to International Hearing Society president James Ogurek, only about one fifth of the nation's 31.5 million hearing impaired citizens with a measurable loss that could benefit from hearing aids are currently using amplification.
- Today's hearing aids, have an average cost of \$1800 for the instrument, fitting, and follow-up, according to the [Better Hearing Institute](#) (BHI). BHI estimates that hearing loss affects over 30 million Americans, or 1 in every 10 people, and that hearing aids could treat 95% of all hearing loss, yet Medicare and most other insurance plans expressly exclude coverage.
- According to the [American Speech-Language Hearing Association](#) (ASHA), the number of Americans with a hearing loss has evidentially doubled during the past 30 years.
- Children who are hard of hearing will find it much more difficult than children who have normal hearing to learn vocabulary, grammar, word order, idiomatic expressions, and other aspects of verbal communication (ASHA).
- A study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* found that approximately 42 percent of adults over the age of 65 have some degree of hearing loss.
- Hearing health researchers from University of Washington and Columbia University recently published a study that concluded subway and train noise can cause permanent hearing loss with as little as two minutes of exposure twice a day.
- A recent study released in Britain revealed that many relationships fail due to unmanaged hearing loss. Over half the people surveyed over the age of 55 stated that losing hearing is the worst thing about growing old and that relationships with partners, friends and family had suffered due to poor hearing.
- In the U.S., half of baby boomers surveyed in one study said their marriages have suffered because of a spouse's hearing loss. In this same study, 57% of the boomers feel their spouse is reluctant to get a hearing evaluation, and 46% think that this is due to denial of a hearing problem.
- It used to be that adults around age 55 noticed changes in hearing; however, research now shows that the effects of noise are being noticed in some young adults.