

THE B.I.G. NEWS

BUFFALO IMPLANT GROUP

COMMUNICATING ▶ SHARING ▶ COUNSELING ▶ SUPPORTING



UPCOMING EVENTS

B.I.G. Meeting	June 6
B.I.G. Picnic	July 27
HLAA Walk	Sept. 30

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MEETING NOTICE:

Wednesday, June 6

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center
50 East North St. - Buffalo 14203

Pete Unger's Cochlear Implant Journey

By Peter Unger

In January 2004, I had an acoustic neuroma removed on my right side which effectively eliminated any possibility of hearing on the right side as the acoustic nerve, middle and inner ear had to be removed.

My left side was affected by Meniere's disease since I turned 40 in 1990. Hearing fluctuated and then slowly deteriorated. I tried a couple of hearing aids (one inside the ear and another behind the ear with a mold insert). They never helped with word recognition. All they did for me was amplify sounds, thus making it worse in noisy places. Finally, I was so bad at word recognition that a CI was the only alternative.

Dr. Howard Francis, who did the CI surgery at Johns Hopkins, made every effort to restore natural hearing on the one ear since that was all I had left. Without natural hearing, I have the advantage of simply turning off the external processor to eliminate annoying sounds. I really like that feature. Being deaf when I want is actually relaxing. The CI surgery was almost a walk in the park: a slight headache for about 48 hours afterward reminded me of the concussion I suffered in 8th grade football. I was deaf for four weeks before activation, but I was up and about after a few hours and started working out at the gym eight days after surgery. (That is not recommended but I go crazy if I do not workout).

When first activated in December 2007, the voices were almost exactly as I remembered them. This happened immediately. I started using a phone that day and just had to get used to holding the receiver against the microphone above the ear and not on the ear. Cell phone sound quality can pose a challenge for me, but I went four years without ever having the ability to use a phone.

The Med El Sonnet is so small that I do not even notice it on my ear sometimes and never have suffered from fatigue or irritation of the ear lobe.

Though not perfect, I can function again in almost all environments without adjusting the programming. However, since I only have one microphone on one side, all sounds blend together making it difficult in noisy places. If one has some hearing on both sides, I suspect



that this would not be as much of a problem. One at least would have directionality and the ability of the brain to sort out what sounds it wants to focus on.

I love my device. The Med El CI Fine Structure Processing really gives me clarity for speech, and music enjoyment is better than ever. The CI saved my job and an active social life style. If it wasn't for my device, I would never have been elected as chair of a major international organization, as the demonstrated hearing improvement to my international peers was deemed good enough to chair large meetings of 200+ people.

My only regret is that I wish I had been qualified a couple of years earlier. Hearing loss caused me tremendous stress on my job and at home. I had a heart attack in 2006, perhaps brought on by the stress of the hearing loss.

Among other reasons, Med El was my choice because it is the only FDA-approved device which does not have to be removed in order for me to undergo an MRI on the brain, which is necessary in my case since the acoustic neuroma was removed.

Service, on the rare occasion when I need help from Med El, has been very responsive either via email or phone. I firmly believe Med El has the best technology as I have a great deal of respect for the Med El founders, Ingeborg and Erwin Hochmair, who have devoted their entire careers to development and improvement CI technology.

President's Corner

By Sue Wantuck



Hello!!
Spring is here according to the calendar, but not showing yet in the forecast at the time I am writing this. I know everyone is ready for some warmer temperatures

and sunshine! My dog, Max and I need to get back into our walking routine. During these past few storms I have been focusing in on the new sounds I am able to hear. The wind blowing, sleet and rain on the roof, windows and house. This is all new for me. At first I did not like these noises as they made me feel nervous. I am trying to push myself to be more curious and aware and also to be calm, knowing that I am safe when I am inside. Have any of you shared similar experiences with the wild weather?

Last month's B.I.G. general meeting had six high school and college students sharing their personal stories with cochlear implants and hearing loss. I was quite impressed with all of them and really enjoyed the discussion. I appreciated their openness and honesty when talking about themselves, as well as answering questions of others. A B.I.G. thank you to Joshua, Katelyn, Elise, Jillian, Maddy and Kate!

I look forward to seeing you soon at the next meeting on June 6, 2018!

From the Editor

By Gail Cronin



Last October, at the Buffalo HLAA Walk4Hearing, I met a wonderful man at the Med-El information table. His name was Peter Unger and he

was a CI user and volunteer for Med-El, a national premier sponsor of the Walk4Hearing program. Peter had formerly lived in Buffalo but is now living in the Washington D.C. metro area. He still has family ties here, so he came up to participate in the HLAA fundraiser and share information as a member of the Med-El Patient Support Team. He and I chatted for a long time after the Walk, and I asked him if he would share his story with us. Within days he emailed me with his completed article, and that is our cover story for this issue. I am grateful for all the time he spent with me and for his willingness to share his story with all of us.

In our last issue, Katelyn Koester graciously shared her story on our cover. Unfortunately, I spelled her name incorrectly throughout that issue. I was completely at fault. I did not realize my error until I met her in person at our last general meeting, when she was a member of our youth panel. I sincerely apologize for misspelling Katelyn's name. I am grateful to her for sharing her time and talents with us, and for her forgiveness.

Once again, we find ourselves in need of a volunteer to step up for an officer position. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the position of corresponding secretary has opened up again. This volunteer position requires monthly attendance at our Board

meetings (as often as possible), answering a bit of mail, and writing letters on behalf of the organization. It is not a huge time commitment, and the other Board members are always supportive and willing to provide assistance. If you have good writing skills and can give us a little of your time, please consider volunteering for this position. Please let us know at the June 6 meeting if you are interested, or contact President Sue Wantuck.

In this issue you will find the latest news about our organization, and information on upcoming events. We have also included the latest report from the New York Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program, submitted by Speech-Language Pathologist and Board member Jessie Holst. At first, it might seem surprising that this article is dated 2016, but keep in mind that it takes a full year to compile the data on all babies born within the entire state. This report was just released and represents the most recent statewide data we have on newborn hearing screening and follow-up. It is very interesting to see how many babies were born in the state, how many had their hearing tested during the newborn period, and what happened with follow-up. The fact that children in the U.S. are being identified with hearing loss and deafness in infancy, and receiving cochlear implants around their first birthday, is a direct result of the EHDI program!

Also in this issue, you may notice that I have included all the information about our upcoming meeting, and also all the information about this year's Sunset Dinner Picnic on Friday, July 27. I've focused on both because there will not be another issue of The B.I.G. News in July before the picnic. I will be having surgery in mid-June and will be on bed rest for at least 2 weeks. Follow-

ing that I will have 10 additional weeks of very restricted activity. Please take note that I will probably not be checking my email for the second half of June, nor will I be picking up mail from our P.O. Box. So please be patient if I don't give you a timely reply. It is my hope to attend the picnic on July 27, but I won't be doing any lifting if I am there. It is also my intention to put together a Summer issue in August if possible, assuming that I have progressed enough in my recovery and am able to do so. Since this is the last issue before the picnic, please mark your calendar now and RSVP to Melissa as soon as you know how many in your party will be attending. The picnic is always a wonderful event, rain or shine.

Over the past few issues I have had multiple options for cover stories, but at this point I am tapped out. There are no articles that I am holding for the next issue. So please share your story with us. I am looking for cover stories for upcoming issues, as well as other articles. They can be about a particular experience that you or a family member have had, or a question or a concern, or some advice that you would like to share. Don't feel shy if you are not an experienced writer because we can help you with grammar and editing. Just talk to me at the June 6 meeting or email me at gdchronin@roadrunner.com in July.

Please keep up to date with us by checking our website (www.buffaloimplantgroup.com) regularly. In the Fall there will be information about the HLAA Walk4Hearing in September, a Fall fundraiser that we hope to hold in October, and our Fall general meeting, as well as other events. On our website you can find the email addresses for all our officers and Board members. Don't be a stranger!

Meeting Report

By Gail Cronin

Our last general meeting was held on Wednesday, March 14 at St. Mary's School for the Deaf. As a follow-up to the success of our "couples panel" at our Fall 2017 meeting, we held a "youth/young adult panel" in order to hear from our younger generation.

We had six young people on our panel. This included two college students. Katelyn Koester is a senior at Gallaudet University and Joshua Meyers is a sophomore at The National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) at Rochester Institute of Technology. We also had four participants in high school. Jillian Kolis is a senior at Lancaster High School with plans to attend NTID in the Fall. Maddy and Kate Shuffler are twins who are juniors at Frontier High School. Elise Watson is a sophomore at St. Mary's School for the Deaf.

Sign Language and voice interpretation was provided by Rachel Bailey and Valerie Ward. The panel was moderated by B.I.G. Board member and speech-language pathologist Jessie Holst.

All the young people were very open and shared their experiences with hearing history, schooling, extracurricular activities, their social lives and communication styles.

The students shared their humor, their struggles, and their overall positive attitudes with the crowd. They offered many keen observations. Jillian Kolis said, "I have the best of both world. I can hear everything and I can hear nothing." All the teens agreed that it is sometimes nice to be able to tune out by turning off their devices. Jillian also offered advice to new CI users by saying, "Patience, patience, patience!" All the other participants agreed.

The college students, Katelyn and Josh, stated that they are seeing an increase in the use of cochlear implants on college campuses. Katelyn estimated that at Gallaudet about 40% of the students have implants. Josh stated that at NTID approximately 60-70% of the students now use CIs. That is an amazing development when you consider that when cochlear implants first became available, there was much resistance and even opposition at institutions such as these. It really shows how much the culture has changed regarding embracing technology for hearing.

The students also talked about the role of sign language for people with cochlear implants. Some of the students did not sign, but were encouraged by the signers to learn sign language so that they can communicate with more people, and as a skill to use during the times when their CI is not working or on. Our B.I.G. President, Sue Wantuck, also offered the same encouragement and shared with all of us that she didn't learn sign language until she entered college.

At this meeting we had over 60 people in attendance, ranging in age from elementary school to senior citizens. The program was very well received. Following the panel presentation we enjoyed refreshments and fellowship. There was pizza and soft drinks provided by B.I.G., and an array of desserts provided by our members.



Photos courtesy of Will Licata

Treasurer's Report

By Lisa Hill Nowicki



Hello everyone. Thank you to everyone who has kept their dues up to date. As I write this, over half of our membership is up to date on their dues. Great job!!!! Unfortunately, we have 52 members who have not renewed. At a membership rate of \$20 for the calendar year, this amount is significant and impacts our bottom line. In previous newsletters I stated that our biggest expenses are the newsletter and the summer picnic. These are things that we all enjoy and hope to continue. Please take a look to the right of your

name on the address label to see if your membership is current or has expired. For the first quarter of 2018, as with past years, our income exceeds our expenses with only one newsletter complete and paid for. Again, if you cannot attend our B.I.G. meeting please use the renewal form in this newsletter and send your payment to our Post Office box. Have a great day!



Reflections on: Listening to Your Heart

By Margie Fitchlee

How many times in our lives have we thought things were impossible, risky, pointless, or not worth striving for? In this world full of perilous times we might answer plenty. We might go as far as to say there is no light at the end of the tunnel. We might personally feel these things when referring to our hearing loss. We might want step back and look at the words of an unknown Author as they give us their perspective on these very emotions.

"It's impossible,"

Said pride.

"It's risky,"

Said experience.

"It's pointless,"

Said reason.

"Give it a try,"

Whispered the heart.

I certainly felt much struggle in dealing with my deafness late in life. I often wondered if it would be possible for me to forge on and accept what I was dealing with. I knew the implant surgery was risky and many times felt it was pointless to expect success from a surgery I knew little about. Then, after meeting and talking with other implant recipients, I decided to give it a try, to follow my heart. I felt it was the right thing to do. I also felt I had no choice. Nine years later I am so happy that I

listened to my heart and had the life altering surgery.

I am sure many of you who made the decision to have the surgery felt that way too. I am sure many of you who are contemplating implant surgery have also struggled with these emotions. I say to you...follow your heart. Allow it to guide you, and lead you, and steer you in the right direction. I read a sign that stated, "Don't let fear of what might happen hold you back from following your heart."

My friends at the Buffalo Implant Group have helped me weather the storm. They have given me much insight into how they handle their profound hearing loss. They have shown me strength, dignity, courage and how to persevere. They are like a second family to me. I want to thank them for always being there for me.

Paul Mark Sutherland brilliantly sums up my feelings about listening to your heart. I hope his words help lessen your struggles too.

Listen to your heart,

It harbors sacred things.

Give from your heart;

Abundance it brings.

Pray through your heart;

Guidance in need.

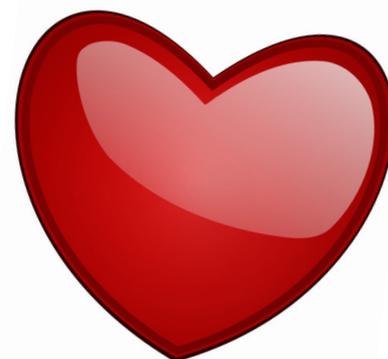
Follow your heart,

It knows how to lead.



I read those words over and over and reminded myself that indeed there is hope, hope for all of us. Perhaps these words will help you when we feel those days where doubt creeps in.

There is a reason to care. There is a reason to think better times are ahead. They made me think about the trials I have encountered with my hearing loss and how the human spirit kept me going.



The Annual Picnic and Raffle Baskets

By Sr. Dorothy Feltz

As you probably know from previous issue of The B.I.G. News, our good friend Fr. Robert McArtney passed away in July of 2017. He loved B.I.G. and attended the Board meeting as well as our summer picnic.

Fr. Bob was very generous in allowing us to use the upstairs of his little house to store and assemble our raffle baskets that are available for raising scholarship funds at our annual picnic.

Fr. Bob worked diligently with me at assembling the baskets and then he transported all of the baskets and tables to the park, set up everything and then sold tickets.

Margie Fitchlee, Jan Telban, and Diane Mogavero were willing to join me to continue with the project for our next fundraiser, but needed a place to get the job done.

For several years now Rev. Monsignor Peter J. Popadick, pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in Cheektowaga, has made his rectory dining room available for our monthly B.I.G Board meetings. He is most welcoming and always offers to help us in any way he can. When he learned of our predicament regarding the need for a space to work, he did not hesitate to offer us a room in the parish school building.

The "basket brigade" is now settled in and working at creating magnificent baskets for the scholarship fund raiser at our next picnic.

If anyone wishes to donate an assembled basket, gift cards, or any other articles for the contents of a basket, we would be most grateful. Contact any Board member regarding dropping off items. Raffle donations can also be brought to our next general meeting on June 6 at Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center, or assembled baskets can be brought directly to the park on the day of the picnic. Please bring your donated baskets early enough so that they can be included in the raffle. If the baskets arrive too late, after tickets are already sold, they cannot be entered into the raffle and will have to be stores for our future fundraiser in the fall.

Our next Sunset Dinner Picnic will be held at 5:00 pm on Friday, July 27. We will be in shelter #5 at Westwood Park in Lancaster.

The picnic is always a delight. There is plenty of time to socialize, and then comes the wonderful finger foods, scrumptious dinner, and dessert. Children are welcome too! There are activities and a nearby playground.

Don't miss out on all the fun. Come with a healthy appetite and a pocket full of money. :) We look forward to seeing all of you at our next general meeting on June 6 and again at the picnic on July 27.



Save the Date! HLAA Walk4Hearing

The second annual HLAA (Hearing Loss Association of America) Buffalo Walk4Hearing will be held on will be held on Sunday, September 30, 2018. This time the Walk will be held in a new location at South Park Ring Road, part of the Buffalo Olmstead Parks Conservancy, near the Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens.

Last year, Buffalo Implant Group became an Alliance Group organization with HLAA and sponsored a Walk Team and we hope to do so again. Funds raised are split between HLAA, a national organization that advocates and lobbies for people with hearing loss, and the Alliance Groups. Our portion of what we brought in came to almost \$1,000. If you are interested in participating in the HLAA Walk-4Hearing, let us know and/or keep an eye on our website for an update.

If you would like to learn more about HLAA, check out their website at www.hearingloss.org. To learn more about the Walk4Hearing, or to register, go to www.walk4hearing.org.



Be a Proactive Driver (With Hearing Loss)

By Gloria Matthews

As a “new” driver and an individual with hearing loss, I wanted to know how to communicate with officers effectively in the case of potentially getting pulled over.

About two years ago, a man by the name of Daniel Kevin Harris was shot and killed by a North Carolina State Trooper in an attempted traffic stop (<https://goo.gl/zXd65z>). You may have heard about this young man, as he was Deaf and could not respond to verbal orders as told by the officer who fired the gun. But what this officer did not know, was the fact that Daniel was Deaf. So, what do you do as a Deaf or Hard of Hearing driver when you get pulled over? This is a very important question to ask as a responsible driver who happens to be Deaf or Hard of Hearing.



There have been many ideas floating around about how law enforcement could better identify drivers who are either Deaf or Hard of Hearing. I will list a few:

A sticker with the hearing loss symbol

Visor Cards (Like the one pictured in my visor)

An alert should pop up once registration is put into the system by the officer

Training officers how to recognize Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals

And many more...

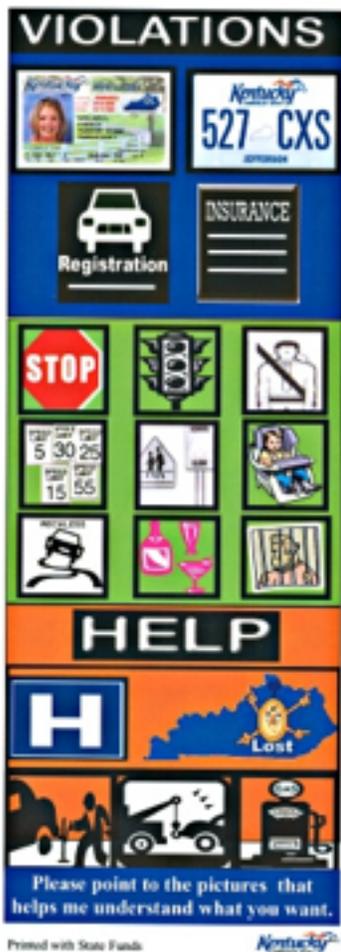
Not many were sold on the sticker idea, but it was a start to a conversation long before the shooting of Daniel had happened. The sticker would have acted like a decal that you would see on the back of cars. It would have featured a hearing loss symbol

to notify drivers and law enforcement that the individual is either Deaf or Hard of Hearing. The only issue was, no one wants to announce to the world that they are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. There were safety issues that came up regarding this idea. In a group discussion that I was involved in a while back, one person said, “If I was by myself and someone noticed the symbol but decides to take advantage of my situation, I’m at higher risk of being mugged or worse.” Basically, having a Deaf or Hard of Hearing symbol would attract potential unwanted crimes. No one wants that, so that’s out!

A visor card is a card that you keep in your visor with two rubber bands. On my current visor card, it is alerting the officer that I am in fact Hard of Hearing and my ability to communicate effectively may be hindered by the outside noises going on, as well as other factors listed on the back of the visor card. It’s very detailed in my opinion, but it is a start. Along with the visor card, I also received a wallet size to include in my registration folder, from Hearing Loss Help (www.hearinglosshelp.com). In the event that I am pulled over, the officer will see the card and know that I am not trying to be smart or difficult with communications. I must also note, Erie County also has its own version of the Visor Card available at the Office for the Disabled located at 95 Franklin Street, RM 625, Buffalo, NY 14202.



Soon, Niagara University First Responders and the State of New York will be announcing a more statewide visor card program that will resemble what Kentucky has available below. There is also another resource called Pullover Pal which you can view at <https://thepulloverpal.com/>.



I am a Deaf Person



Communication Card for Law Enforcement Officers

This card will help you communicate. Please point to the pictures on the other side of this card.

When communicating with me:

- Get my attention first.
- Look at me when you speak.
- For simple communication writing notes **MAJ** help, but not always.
- I cannot lip-read everything you say.
- A hearing aid does not allow me to hear everything you say.
- Avoid shining a flashlight in my face as this will hamper my ability to communicate.

If I am arrested or asked to come in for questioning I will need:

- A Kentucky licensed sign language interpreter.
- To make a phone call (high-speed internet connection and a computer, TTY and/or my wireless device).
- Other accommodations.

To locate an interpreter in Kentucky

Call 800-372-2907
<http://finance.ky.gov/kidsh/>

This voluntary informational program was developed by the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing with the endorsement from Kentucky State Police.

www.kcldh.ky.gov

The third idea is an alert sent to the officer once they scan or put in your registration number. This is a process where it has been noted in the DMV computer system that you are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. It would prompt the officer to immediately change the way he or she would communicate with the driver. This will allow officers the opportunity to utilize pen and pad, VRI (Video Remote Interpreting on iPad), or other methods of communication provided in a safe manner. As of now, I do not know if NYS has this set up. If not, they really should!

Lastly, all law enforcement should receive more training. One of the goals of Niagara University First Responders Disability Training Program is to educate ALL law enforcement agencies across the country about how to approach different situations that arise with individuals who have disabilities. Now, more needs to be done to fully educate all law enforcement and first responders regarding the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities.

All these ideas are productive, and some have been tried and others are a work in progress. If we continue to advocate not only for ourselves but for others as well, we can push to make our lives safer as well as making it safer for law enforcement to deal with us in a respectable and appropriate manner. It's a matter of educating and creating awareness as we may not always get lucky with a good officer who is understanding and aware. So, let us know your thoughts, ideas or

experiences. If you have had a bad or good experience, what would you suggest improving the situation and why? I'm interested!

Did you know that on your driver's license you have a code that identifies you as Deaf/Hard of Hearing? On the front, under your birth date you'll see an "R: F1." You'll also find this information on the back of your State ID, Learner's Permit and Driver's License. It will spell out on the back what it means. "R: F1 Hrg. Aid/Full View Mirror." This is only on your ID IF you checked off the box on the DMV form where you select your disability/limitations when you applied for your ID of choice.

To learn more about Niagara University First Responders Disability Training programs please go to <https://frdat.niagara.edu/>.

Our Next Meeting: Panel Discussion

Buffalo Implant Group Board of Trustees Panel

The Buffalo Implant Group is pleased to present a panel of our Board members to discuss the roles and duties of each Board member and elected officer and brainstorm with you better ways to serve our organization.

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

6:00 -8:00 PM

Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center
 50 East North St. Buffalo 14203

The meeting will be held in the lower level conference room. Limited free parking is available in the lot behind the building. Sign language interpretation will be provided.

A brief business meeting will be held at the beginning of the evening, followed by our panel discussion. The treasurer will be collecting dues payments for 2018. Our t-shirts will be available for purchase. Please support this fundraiser. Pizza, pop, and water will be provided. Please consider bringing a dessert to share if you are able. Social time will follow. Friends and family are always welcome.

New York Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program Year 2016



The New York Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (NYEHDI) Program is the state's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program. Through strategic efforts, statewide collaboration, systems building, education, outreach, and ongoing evaluation, the NYEHDI Program strives to ensure that babies are **Screened by 1 Month of Age, Diagnosed by 3 Months of Age, and Enrolled in Early Intervention by 6 Months of Age**. The NYEHDI Program and its partners have successfully increased the number of babies screened, reduced the percentage of babies

In 2016 New York had the highest percent of babies screened by 1 Month of Age since individual level reporting began in 2014—98%.

lost to follow-up (LTFU), and increased the percentage of babies receiving timely diagnosis of permanent hearing loss and referral to early intervention, as well as provided specialized support to Part C Early Intervention Programs, including the Child Find Program, which locates infants who are LTFU.

The NYEHDI Program and its partners continue to explore ways to strengthen systems; increase use of proven quality improvement strategies; increase local capacity for screening; improve timely and accurate data

entry into the New York Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Information System (NYEHDI-IS); expand and sustain collaboration with statewide partners; and use data and ongoing evaluation to inform programmatic decisions. NYEHDI's efforts are designed to create a sustainable, successful EHDI system supporting families and their children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

In 2016, birthing hospitals, birthing centers, midwives, and audiologists screened 97% of babies born in New York, with 98% of these babies screened by **1 Month of Age**. This is a significant improvement compared to 2014 when the documented screening rate was 90%.

In 2016, 63% of the babies diagnosed with permanent hearing loss were diagnosed by 3 Months of Age - the most to date.

The NYEHDI Program and its partners increased the percent of babies born in 2016 receiving complete diagnostic audiology services by **3 Months of Age** by 23% as compared to 2015.

In 2016, 322 babies were diagnosed with permanent hearing loss in NYS. The NYEHDI Program supports timely referral and enrollment of infants to the New York State Early Intervention Part C Program (NYSEIP) by **6**

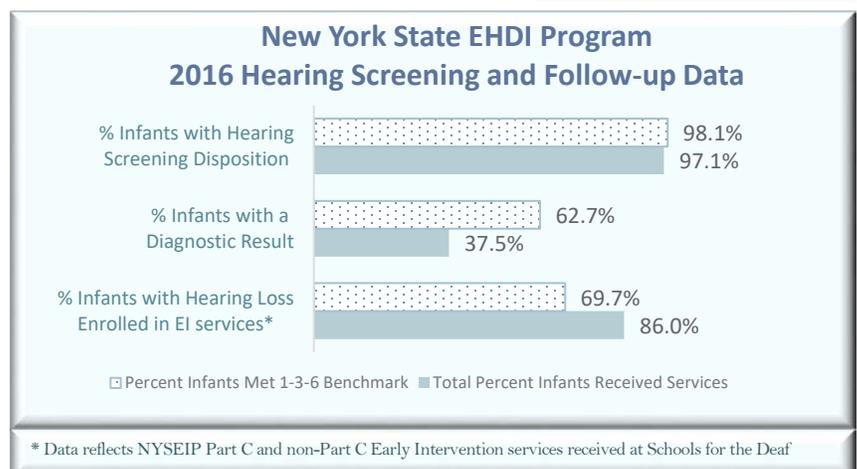
Months of Age. Timely enrollment in early intervention services has been demonstrated to improve developmental outcomes for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. New partnerships in 2017 include the NYS Association of Schools for the Deaf, which supports the 8 specialized schools for the deaf across the state.

- ➔ Birthing facilities and birthing centers, midwives and audiologists conducted 228,058 initial hearing screenings.
- ➔ Audiologists and birthing facilities conducted 28,320 follow-up screenings.
- ➔ Audiologists performed 987 diagnostic evaluations identifying 322 infants with hearing loss.
- ➔ Audiologists referred 287 infants with hearing loss to NYSEIP Part C program.
- ➔ NYSEIP Part C Program provided services to 265 infants born in 2016 identified as deaf or hard of hearing.

The NYEHDI Team in the Bureau of Early Intervention:

Lori Iarossi, Program Coordinator
 Alexandra Hamburg, Follow-Up Coordinator
 Sharon Wu, Data Coordinator
 Constance Donohue, AuD, Bureau Director
 Kirsten Siegenthaler, PhD, Assistant Bureau Director

Phone: 518-473-7016
 Email: nyehdi@health.ny.gov



Vision

Ensure that all infants receive a timely and accurate newborn hearing screening so that those with hearing loss can be identified and receive appropriate intervention, enabling each child to reach his or her full potential.

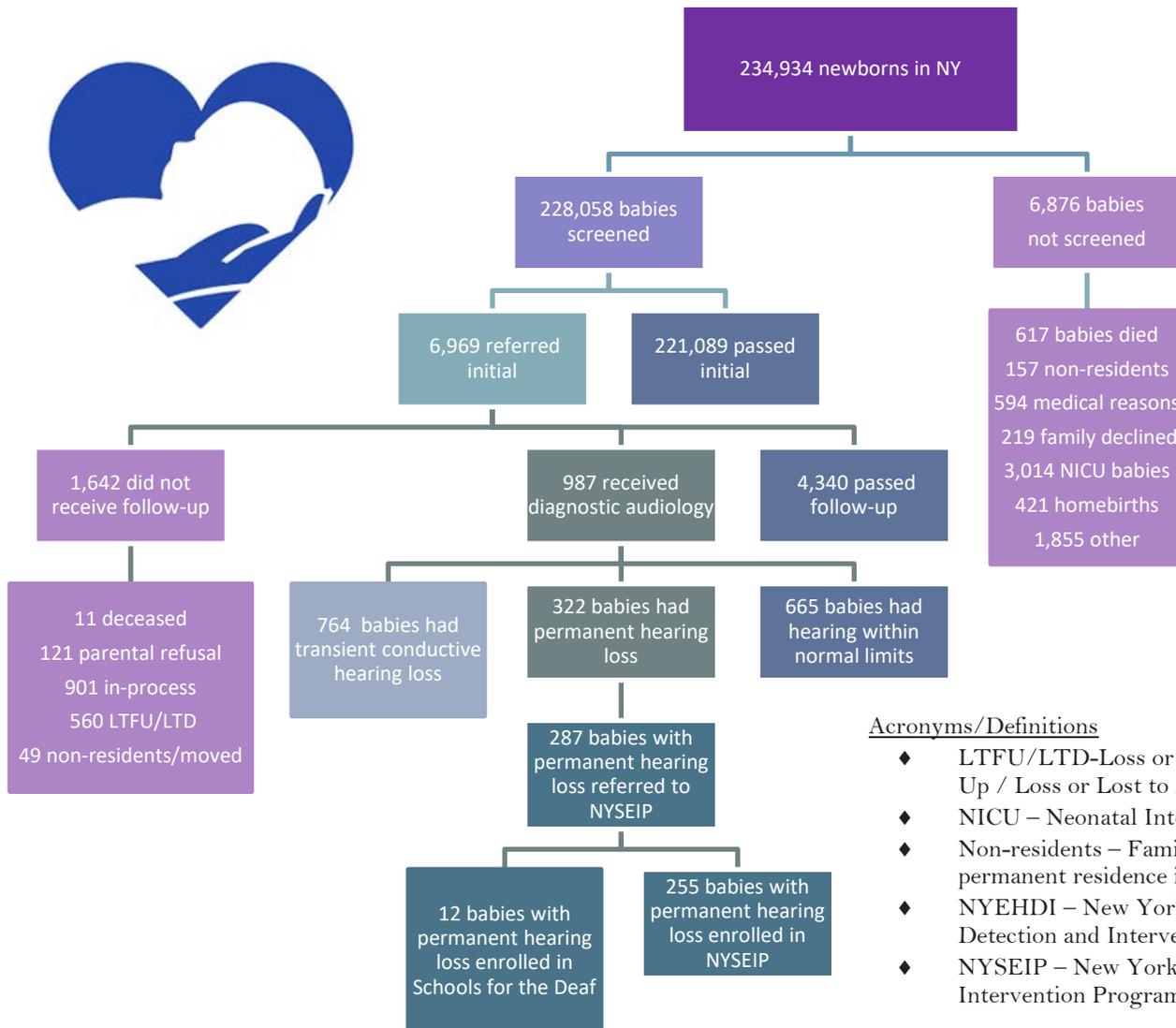
Mission

The New York Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (NYEHDI) Program engages and supports systems of care to ensure that all infants have an initial hearing screening and, that any infants who do not pass the initial hearing screening, have timely follow-up screening, diagnostic evaluations, and, if needed, referral to Early Intervention services. The NYEHDI Program provides evidence-based, culturally sensitive information to families, providers, and stakeholders, and meaningfully engages families to ensure the system of care meets the needs of their children and families.

Guiding Principles

- ◆ We work on behalf of the well-being of children and strive to optimize their potential.
- ◆ We drive change and decision-making with sound and valid data.
- ◆ We are dedicated to innovative development and sustainable solutions.
- ◆ We respect ourselves, our team, our families and their infants, and our community.
- ◆ We forge new and nurture existing collaborations and partnerships.
- ◆ We value parent perspectives in family support, program design, and process improvement.

Screening, Diagnosis, and Early Intervention 2016



Acronyms/Definitions

- ◆ LTFU/LTD-Loss or Lost to Follow-Up / Loss or Lost to Documentation
- ◆ NICU – Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- ◆ Non-residents – Families whose permanent residence is not NY
- ◆ NYEHDI – New York Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program
- ◆ NYSEIP – New York State Early Intervention Program

Picnic Alert!

Mark your calendars for our annual...

Sunset Dinner Picnic

Friday, July 27, 2018

5:00 – 8:00 pm

Once again, dinner will be catered by Bobby J's Italian American Grille, served at 6:00 pm.

Water and pop will be provided. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

Westwood Park, Shelter #5 - 175 Pavement Road - Lancaster, NY 14086

The entrance to Westwood Park is on Pavement Road between Walden Avenue and Broadway. Shelter #5 is just past the enclosed pavilion (where restrooms are located) on the left side, with parking right in front. The children's playground is a short walk away.

The picnic is FREE to all who want to come. We do encourage you to participate in our fundraisers if you are able to do so.

Our Basket Raffle fundraiser helps provide funds for our new annual scholarship, awarded to a student entering college. Additional basket donations are appreciated. Baskets can be brought to our June 6 meeting, dropped off to any Board member by prior arrangement, or simply brought to the picnic promptly by 5 pm. (Late arriving raffle donations cannot be accepted once the raffle begins, but will be held for use at our Fall fundraiser.) A basket donation form can be found in this newsletter. Please fill one out for each basket you are donating in order for us to have a description of the contents of your basket. Baskets that appeal to men and children are always needed. The Basket Raffle is once again being coordinated by Sr. Dorothy Feltz.

A 50/50 raffle will also be held to help us with our regular operating funds. Our grey and teal B.I.G. t-shirts will also be on sale to help us raise funds.

We need a general idea of how many members will be attending, so RSVP to Secretary Melissa Burroughs at 716-523-2991 (voice or text) or email melissab@smsdk12.org by July 20 (one week prior to the picnic) if possible, to let us know that you are coming and how many people will be with you.

Friends and family are welcome! We look forward to seeing you there!

Many Thanks

Rachel Bailey

Tracy Balon

Lisa Brewster

Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center

Melissa Burroughs

John Cady

Craig and Jackie Carpenter

Joe Cronin

Kathy Danahy

Deaf Access Services

Sr. Dorothy Feltz

Everett Fitchlee

Margie Fitchlee

Jean Frigioni

Sr. Linda Glaeser

JoAnn Hammer

Lisa Hill Nowicki

Jessica Holst

Tonya Huntington/Emerson Leger

Katelyn Koester

Jillian Kolis

Will Licata

Kathy Maroney

Gloria Matthews

Joanne Mayers

Janet McKenna

Joshua Meyers

Dianne Mogavero

Lawrence Osswald

Norine Rinker

St. Aloysius Gonzaga R. C. Church

St. Mary's School for the Deaf

Mary Schneider

Kate Shuffler

Joe Sonnenberg

Mark & Alicia Stradley

Jan Telban

Debra Tilkins

Mary Thorpe

Peter Unger

Sue Wantuck

Karen Ward

Mike Ward

Valerie Ward

Elise Watson

Zenger Group

Michael Zogaria



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Buffalo Implant Group Basket Raffle Donation Form

Basket Theme/Name: _____

Contents of Basket:

Expiration Date (of any gift certificates or coupons contained): _____

Total Estimated Value of Basket: _____

Donated By: _____





BUFFALO IMPLANT GROUP

P.O. BOX 350

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