

A publication focusing on issues related to hearing loss

# The MI-SHHH-IGANIAN

Michigan Self Help For Hard of Hearing People

Volume 10 Number 1

SPRING 2005

## SHHH & YOU

More than 24 million people in the U.S. have a hearing loss that can hinder daily communication. That translates to one in ten people. By age 65, one in three people has a hearing loss. This invisible condition affects us, family, friends, co-workers and everyone around us. SHHH believes that people can help one another, can be helped, and can participate successfully in society. The mission of SHHH is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, advocacy, and support.

*Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc. (SHHH) is the largest international consumer organization dedicated to the well-being of people who do not hear well.*

If you are not a member of national SHHH, you are encouraged to join. Membership includes the bi-monthly SHHH journal, Hearing Loss, an outstanding information source. Dues are \$25 for USA individual/family, \$50 for Professionals. Make checks payable to "SHHH" and mail to:

SHHH National Office  
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
V/301-657-2248  
TTY/301-657-2249  
[www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

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## An Important Notice For All Our Readers

In 1996, the *MI-SHHH-IGANIAN* newsletter made its debut with the help of a Tech 2000 Grant obtained by Michigan SHHH from the Michigan Disabilities Rights Coalition (MDRC). This allowed MI-SHHH to provide the newsletter free of charge for many years. This grant was available for several years, however, each year the amount received was reduced, until the grant period ended in 2002. Since that time, Michigan SHHH has subsidized the newsletter costs that were not covered by generous donations and sponsorships. It costs approximately \$1500 to produce each issue. It was our hope to make the newsletter self-sustaining, but this has not happened and budget decisions must be made.

Starting with this first issue of the year 2005, some changes have become necessary in how we distribute the *MI-SHHH-IGANIAN*. Throughout 2004, the newsletter committee urged our readers to contact MI-SHHH in order to help efforts to update our database. To those of you who took the time to respond to our plea, we say, "Thank you!" As stated in the Winter 2004 issue (*page 2, lower left-hand column*), if you had not responded by January 1, 2005, MI-SHHH reserves the right to delete your name from the newsletter database. This is one of the actions needed in order to reduce our newsletter production costs and to avoid going to a subscription fee.

If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter in the mail, please take the time, right now, to fill out the top portion of page 7 and return it to MI-SHHH. Please know that Michigan SHHH considers the newsletter a valuable communication tool. We are committed to producing the newsletter on a quarterly basis, free of charge, for as long as we are able to do so without draining resources from other programs.

In order to reduce production costs of the newsletter, Michigan SHHH has approved the following policies:

- All persons who are members of SHHH NATIONAL will continue to receive the newsletter through the mail, unless they choose an alternative option.
- MI-SHHH will continue to mail the newsletter to the service providers currently in our *updated* database.
- Beginning with the Summer 2005, issue, interested parties can receive an e-mail notification when the quarterly newsletter is available online.
- To sign up for the e-mail newsletter notification service, please send a message to: [newsletter@mi-shhh.org](mailto:newsletter@mi-shhh.org). Be sure to type "Newsletter Notification" in the SUBJECT line of your message. All requests for e-mail notification of the Summer issue, must be received by May 1, 2005.
- Current issues of the newsletter can be downloaded from our web site:

[www.mi-shhh.org](http://www.mi-shhh.org)

We wish to express our gratitude for your patience and understanding as we go through this transition.

Sincerely,  
Caroline Caughell, Editor

The **MI-SHHH-IGANIAN** is the official newsletter for Michigan Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (MI-SHHH)

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The MI-SHHH-IGANIAN is published quarterly. Submit letters and questions by April 30, 2005 to:

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**www.mi-shhh.org**

E-mail:  
**info@mi-shhh.org**

For information about MI-SHHH Programs, call:

**517-487-2583 V/TTY**

*Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the person submitting the information and not necessarily of Michigan SHHH.*

*Mention of goods or services does not mean endorsement by Michigan SHHH, nor should exclusion suggest disapproval.*

## Could Your Dizziness Be Caused By Meniere's Disease?

By: **Betty Saputo RN, MSN**

**At age 42, I had a mysterious, sudden hearing loss in my left ear.** Although I was unhappy about needing a hearing aid at my relatively young age, I soon adapted. Later that same year, I developed an irritating ringing noise in my ear as well as pressure. It felt as if my ear was plugged with wax or I was underwater. Then, I had my first episode of vertigo! I wasn't riding a Tilt-A-Whirl or a roller coaster when it happened. One moment I was sitting quietly, and the next moment the room was moving, spinning rapidly as if I was on the inside of a tornado. Vomiting started within seconds. I was unable to move, walk or keep my eyes open. That attack lasted about 20 minutes but it felt like hours. This was my first step in a long journey with Meniere's disease.

**Meniere's is classified as an inner ear disease.** The inner ear contains the cochlea and the vestibular system. The cochlea contains tiny hair cells that send sound messages to the brain. The vestibular system keeps us upright and balanced. The inner ear is very complex. It is imbedded in bone and surrounded by fluids. Although the cause of Meniere's is not known, one theory states that there is too much of a specific fluid in the inner ear.

### How is Meniere's diagnosed?

In my case, I was referred to an otolaryngologist (ear, nose and throat physician) who specialized in vestibular disorders. Because dizziness and/or vertigo are common symptoms of many diseases, a process of elimination is necessary. A physical exam, blood tests, a CT scan, hearing and balance tests were performed over a period of several weeks before a diagnosis was made.

### What is the treatment plan for Meniere's?

Meniere's is a chronic disease. Although it is not curable, it can be managed. Conservative treatments are the first course of action. Lifestyle changes are recommended first, including no tobacco, no caffeine, no alcohol, avoiding fatigue and stress. Many times a low salt diet and a diuretic are prescribed in order to affect the fluid balance in the inner ear. Anti-vertigo and anti-nausea medications are also helpful.

**The Plan A**, described above, did not make much of a difference in my case. My vertigo attacks continued to occur every 7-10 days at work, at home, or at the movies. Some people with Meniere's experience a warning feeling or "aura" that an attack is imminent. I was lucky to have a few seconds warning because one of my attacks happened while I was driving. The aura gave me enough time to pull over to the side of the road.

**Plan B**, in my case, was ear surgery to implant a tiny shunt. Since the surgery was unsuccessful, the next step would be to have **Gentamicin** injections through my ear drum into my inner ear. The purpose of the injections was to destroy the vestibular part of the inner ear so that the vertigo would stop. Because the vertigo was impacting the quality of my life, I decided to go for it. Fortunately, after several treatments the vertigo did stop. I had some residual balance difficulty and received physical therapy to help me regain my balance.

**Meniere's disease affects individuals differently.** Some people have mild cases that are managed with conservative measures. Others, like myself, must try other procedures to gain relief.

**For me, the most difficult part of having Meniere's was** coping with the anxiety of not knowing when or where an attack would occur. I found a local Meniere's support group to be very helpful. I also joined **VEDA** (Vestibular Disorder Association) to educate myself about symptom management and new treatments.

**With vertigo attacks permanently out of my life, I feel independent and confident again. My hearing loss continues and now I wear 2 hearing aids. I also have SHHH to help me find ways to live with my hearing loss.**

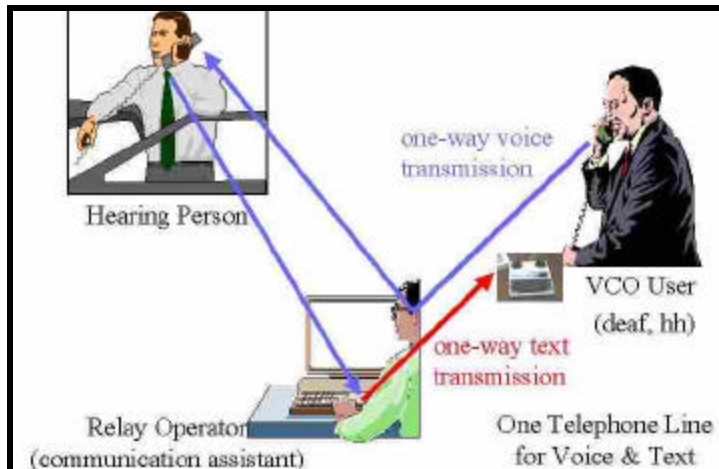
# DEMYSTIFYING VOICE CARRY OVER (VCO)

By: Brenda Stimson

Can't hear on a conventional telephone? Don't have good typing skills for using a TTY? Voice Carry Over (VCO) may be the answer for you! VCO allows the user to place/receive a call using their own voice and to read the incoming message on the screen of their VCO phone or TTY. VCO is relatively easy to use, once you understand how the Telecommunication Relay Centers work, in addition to having either a VCO phone or a conventional TTY. VCO phones are telephones that have a view screen on the front of the unit, on which the person with a hearing loss can read incoming text. Uniphone and Dialogue manufacture VCO phones. Krown makes a portable VCO attachment that can be used on cordless and cellular phones. Check with assistive listening device carriers for more information on the VCO phones they carry.

Telecommunication Relay Centers are the result of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA)-Title IV. Each state must have a relay service available to assist persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or who have speech impairments, with access to phone services and the opportunity to make calls related to their leisure, work and personal business. The ADA also mandates that this service be free to all users; your normal phone charges apply when conducting a long distance call. Also newly implemented, is a national three digit number that will connect you to the relay service in your calling area. That number is 711. This works the same way as 911 or 411. No longer do you need to memorize the relay number in the state where you reside or are visiting.

With permission from the Michigan Relay Center, below are the directions for placing a VCO call from either a VCO phone or a TTY. These directions and other information can be found on their website at: [www.Michiganrelay.com](http://www.Michiganrelay.com).



\* Above diagram republished with permission from:  
[www.audiologyonline.com](http://www.audiologyonline.com)

**Go ahead and let a loved one hear your voice, you'll be glad you did!**

## MAKING A VCO CALL FROM A VCO PHONE

1. **Dial 711.**
2. The Michigan Relay Representative (REP) will answer by typing: MRC REP ##### (number) F or M (female or male) GA (go ahead).
3. **Press the "VCO on GA" button on your VCO phone.**
4. The REP will acknowledge by typing "VCO on GA."
5. **Voice the area code and phone number, then say, "Go Ahead."**
6. The REP will acknowledge, dial the number, announce the call and explain relay to the hearing party, if necessary.
7. **After the REP informs you that the call is connected and you see the "GA", speak into your phone with your own voice to the other person. Remember to say "Go Ahead" at the end of your response, so the other person knows you are finished and to begin to speak. You should be able to read the message from your VCO phone.**
8. The Rep will type to you what the hearing party is saying. Wait for the "GA" before speaking into the handset.
9. **Repeat steps 5 and 6 until you are finished with the call.**

## MAKING A VCO CALL FROM A TTY

1. **Dial 711**
2. The Michigan Relay Representative (REP) will answer by typing: MRC REP ##### (number) F or M (female or male) GA (go ahead).
3. **Type the area code and phone number you are calling, then type in VCO GA.**
4. The REP will acknowledge, dial the number, announce the call and explain relay, if necessary.
5. **After the REP informs you that the call is connected and you see the "GA", pick up the handset and speak into it with your own voice to the other person. Remember to say "Go Ahead" at the end of your response, so the other person knows you are finished and to begin speaking. Put the handset back on your TTY to read the message.**
6. The REP will type what the hearing party has to say. Wait for the "GA" before picking up the handset to speak into it. Proceed with steps 5 and 6 until you are finished with the call.
7. **If you would like to place another call - DO NOT type the number. Please continue to VCO your instructions to the REP.**

# MI-SHHH Chapter Activities

By: Marla Schindler

Happy Spring to all of you!! Springtime is a season of growth and newly found energy. We get inspired to do more, see more, and try new things. It is the perfect time to venture out to an SHHH Chapter meeting in your area, where you can make new friends and find a wealth of knowledge that will help you and your loved ones deal with hearing loss.

If you are interested in what SHHH Chapters around the country are doing, try doing a search on the SHHH website: [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org). If you are already a member of SHHH you might get new ideas for your chapter meetings. If you are not a member of SHHH, we encourage you to join., you will get a good idea of some of the topics that are covered at SHHH meetings around the country.

Listed on these two pages are local MI- SHHH Chapters. Take a step toward self-help. Come to a meeting in your area and see for yourself what SHHH has to offer.

## **BIRMINGHAM AREA SHHH**

March 10: Hearing Loss and Hospital Access

April 14: Learn about programs provided by MADHS (Michigan Association for Deaf, Hearing and Speech Services) from guest presenter, Nan Asher.

May 12: Hearing Aids, The Newest Advances

Each meeting includes a speech reading practice session that begins at 1:45 pm.

## **CAPITAL AREA SHHH**

March 8: Doug Logel, a young audiologist who has a hearing loss and wears hearing aids, will present at this meeting. Doug is very familiar with the negative stigma of hearing loss and will share his experiences and how to deal with negative stereotyping. For April and May meeting topics contact the Capital Area SHHH Chapter.

## **DEARBORN AREA SHHH**

March 16: Coping Strategies for Persons with Hearing Loss

April 20: Demonstration of Hearing Assistive Devices

May 18: Captioned video, "Sound and Fury"

## **DOWNRIVER AREA SHHH**

The March meeting featured a visit from Kenya Lowe, who works for the Michigan Relay Center. She spoke about CapTel phones. April and May topics are as yet undetermined. CART services are provided at every meeting.

## **GRAND RAPIDS AREA SHHH CHAPTER**

May 11 - The newly formed chapter will kick off the 2005 season with a presentation by David Myers, PhD., a nationally recognized social psychologist, author, and speaker. The topic will be, "A Quiet World: The Psychology of Hearing and Hearing Loss". A permanent state-of-the-art loop system has been installed in the meeting room ensuring access for those with a T-coil on their hearing aids. Please join us for an extraordinary evening! For meeting location contact: [grand-rapids@mi-shhh.org](mailto:grand-rapids@mi-shhh.org)

**Self Help in Michigan...** If you do not already belong to a MI-SHHH Chapter, we hope you will find one near you and plan to attend their meetings. Programs benefit not only those with hearing loss but also their families and friends. Everyone is welcome at all MI-SHHH functions.

Please contact the individual chapters for further meeting information at the addresses below.

## **BIRMINGHAM AREA SHHH CHAPTER**

Meets 2nd Thursday of the month

12:30 - 2:30 PM

Birmingham Area Senior Citizen Center

2121 Midvale Avenue, Birmingham

Contact: [birmingham@mi-shhh.org](mailto:birmingham@mi-shhh.org)

## **CAPITAL AREA SHHH CHAPTER**

Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month

6:30 - 8:30PM

Foster Community Center, Room 110

200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing

Contact: [lansing@mi-shhh.org](mailto:lansing@mi-shhh.org)

## **DEARBORN AREA SHHH CHAPTER**

Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month

12:30 - 2:00 PM

Dearborn Senior Center

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center

15801 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn

Contact: [dearborn@mi-shhh.org](mailto:dearborn@mi-shhh.org)

## **DOWNRIVER AREA SHHH CHAPTER**

Meets 1st Tuesday of the month

1:30 - 3:00 PM

Ford Senior Center

6750 Troy ST, Taylor

Contact: [taylor@mi-shhh.org](mailto:taylor@mi-shhh.org)

## **GRAND RAPIDS AREA SHHH CHAPTER**

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Metropolitan Hospital (West Conference Room)

1919 Boston SE, Grand Rapids

Contact: [grand-rapids@mi-shhh.org](mailto:grand-rapids@mi-shhh.org)

## **HEAR ME NOW SHHH CHAPTER**

Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month

9:30 - 11:30 AM

Waterford Senior Center

6455 Harper, Waterford

Contact: [waterford@mi-shhh.org](mailto:waterford@mi-shhh.org)

## **Hi/Low TONES - ROYAL OAK SHHH CHAPTER**

Meets 4th Tuesday, monthly (except July & August)

6:30 PM Social, 7:00 PM meeting

1st Presbyterian Church at 6th & Pleasant

Contact: [royal-oak@mi-shhh.org](mailto:royal-oak@mi-shhh.org)

**JACKSON AREA SHHH CHAPTER**

Meets 3rd Tuesday of every other month  
 6:30 - 8:30 PM  
 Disability Connections  
 409 Linden, Jackson

**KALAMAZOO AREA SHHH CHAPTER**

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month  
 7:00 - 9:00 PM  
 First Congregational Church  
 Corner of W. Michigan & Park St.,  
 Contact: kalamazoo@mi-shhh.org

**MACOMB COUNTY SHHH CHAPTER**

Meets 4th Thursday of the month  
 1:00 - 3:00 PM  
 Knox Presbyterian Church  
 25700 Crocker Blvd., Harrison Township  
 Contact: macomb-co@mi-shhh.org

**MID-MICHIGAN SHHH CHAPTER**

Meets 4th Monday of the month  
 7:00 - 8:30 PM  
 Butman-Fish Library  
 1716 Hancock, Saginaw  
 Contact: saginaw@mi-shhh.org

**NORTHERN LightSHHH CHAPTER**

Meets 2nd Sunday, monthly (except July & August)  
 1:30 PM  
 Traverse Area District Library  
 610 Woodmere Ave, Traverse City  
 Contact: traverse-city@mi-shhh.org

**WASHHH CHAPTER**

Meets 1st Monday of the month  
 7:00 PM  
 Lewis Room, First Presbyterian Church  
 1432 Washtenaw St., Ann Arbor  
 Contact: info@washhh.org

**WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY SHHH CHAPTER**

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month  
 6:30 - 8:30 PM  
 Garden City Hospital  
 6245 Inkster Rd.  
 Contact: wayne-co@mi-shhh.org

**WESTSHORE SHHH CHAPTER**

Meets 4th Monday of the month  
 6:30 PM social, 7:00 - 8:00 PM meeting  
 Roosevelt Park Community Center  
 Corner of Roosevelt Rd & Glenside Blvd., Muskegon  
 Contact: muskegon@mi-shhh.org

*Don't let what you cannot do  
 interfere with what you can do.*

*John Wooden*

**Hi/Low Tones - ROYAL OAK SHHH CHAPTER**

Royal Oak members take turns arranging for meeting programs. The March 22 meeting will be a "Rap Session". Several members of this chapter have really enjoyed being part of various EXPO committees in the past. Due to this, they are looking forward to volunteering their efforts on several levels for the 2006 EXPO.

**JACKSON AREA SHHH CHAPTER**

At the February meeting, the topic was Sorenson Video Relay. The next meeting of the Jackson Area Chapter will be on April 19. The topic is undetermined at this time.

**KALAMAZOO AREA SHHH CHAPTER**

March 9: Constance Brown Hearing and Speech Center will provide an update on their work with the young as well as new technology and treatments being used.  
 April 13: Representatives from local hospitals will tell us what they have available for accommodating patients with hearing loss. Then we're going to tell them about our needs.  
 May 11: Paws With A Cause will visit.  
 June 8: Betty Yagi will show and teach about stamp collecting, especially stamps relating to hearing loss.

**MACOMB COUNTY SHHH CHAPTER**

This chapter met for the first time on January 27, 2005. Outside it was cold, windy and snowy... but inside it wasn't long before everyone was feeling warm camaraderie. We are getting to know each other and growing together.  
 March 24: Coping Strategies for HOH persons  
 April 28: Audiologist Glenn Clippart will speak about hearing loss and Hearing Aids.  
 May 26: Assistive Listening Devices for HOH people  
 June 23: Old Fashioned Pot Luck

**NORTHERN LightSHHH CHAPTER**

During the winter months, this chapter offered "Open Houses" to familiarize the public with SHHH and issues of concern to people with hearing loss. NLSHHH is discussing the idea of conducting joint meetings with other organizations in order to learn about their work and to network while simultaneously modeling the use of assistive technology -- assistive listening device and real time captioning for example.

**WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY SHHH CHAPTER**

Spring programs undetermined at time of printing. Please contact chapter for specific information.

**WESTSHORE SHHH CHAPTER**

The February meeting was a presentation by Ruth Fox titled, "All About Captioning".  
 March 28: "Empathy Toward Hard of Hearing", by a local audiologist.  
 April 25: This meeting will feature a T-Coil program  
 May 23: Cochlear Implants  
 June 27: Improving Speech Reading

*Continued on Page 7*

# Special Thanks to Our Sponsors!

## Platinum Level

Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
P.O. Box 30659  
Lansing, MI 48909  
877-499-6232 V/TTY

*Information about sponsorship opportunities may be obtained by contacting Michigan SHHH at: [jhaines@mi-shhh.org](mailto:jhaines@mi-shhh.org)*

## *For Your Information!*

### **An Opportunity to Sponsor The MI-SHHH-IGANIAN!!!**

Here's a chance to support the quarterly MI-SHHH newsletter in a BIG way! The remaining 3 newsletter issues of this calendar year (summer, fall and winter) will list Business as well as Personal sponsorships. The details are listed below:

#### **Diamond Decibels - \$500 donation**

5 line listing, with 30 characters per line, will include contact information of business.

#### **Golden Decibels - \$200 donation**

2 line listing, with 30 characters per line, no contact info

#### **Silver Decibels - \$100 donation**

1 line listing, with 30 characters per line, no contact info

Sponsorships must be postmarked by May 1, 2005.

The following information must be included with your check in order to be listed as a sponsor:

- Name
- Address
- E-mail address
- Exact wording of sponsorship listing

Please make checks payable to MI-SHHH and send to:

**MI-SHHH  
PO Box 4808  
Troy, Michigan 48099-4808**

**More information can be obtained by contacting  
MI-SHHH at: [jhaines@mi-shhh.org](mailto:jhaines@mi-shhh.org)**

### **20th International SHHH Convention**

**Washington, D.C.**

**June 30 - July 3, 2005**

**Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of SHHH  
in our nation's capital!!!**

*Join Self Help for Hard of Hearing People in Washington, D.C. as we commemorate 25 Years of Opening the World of Communication for people with hearing loss.*

The conventions offers:

- Five tracks of educational and interactive workshops: Hearing Aids and Assistive Technology, Cochlear Implants, Family and Relationships (coping strategies), Health/Hearing Health/Medical Science, and Accessibility and Public Policy Issues.
- Numerous social activities for attendees.
- An Exhibit Hall showcasing a wide array of products and services for people with hearing loss.
- Special workshops and roundtable discussions for chapter and state organization members to share and develop skills in advocacy, marketing, fund raising, newsletter production and more.
- The Annual Research Symposium. This year's topic is: **Stem Cell Research and Hearing Loss.**

To learn more about the convention, check out the 2005 issue of January/February **Hearing Loss** magazine or go to: [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

### How to receive this Newsletter

There is no subscription or membership fee required to receive The MI-SHHH-IGANIAN. We would like all hard of hearing people to receive it regardless of ability to pay. At the same time, we must use the dollars wisely that have been contributed. If you wish to be added to the mailing list or continue to receive this newsletter, please fill out this coupon, or return a photocopy of this page. *If you have responded in the past twelve months you will continue to receive it and do not need to respond again.* This newsletter is separate from local and National SHHH memberships. **If you have been receiving this newsletter for the past year and have never responded, this may be your last issue.** Contributions will be listed in the next edition unless you request to remain anonymous. Remember no contribution is necessary, but notification is a must.

**I would like to receive (or continue to receive) this newsletter. Please read the above paragraph.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

I learned about this newsletter from: \_\_\_\_\_

- ? Enclosed is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support the outreach programs of the Michigan SHHH. Donations are tax deductible and will be acknowledged in the next newsletter.
- ? I wish to remain anonymous.
- ? I cannot contribute but would like to receive the newsletter.

**Donations should be made payable to: Michigan SHHH  
Please send to: Michigan SHHH, PO Box 4808, Troy, MI 48099-4808**

*Continued from page 5*

#### WASHHH

WASHHH Chapter has been active within the community. In August and November, the members helped to install 2 audio loops. The first was at the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living's (AACIL) conference room in Ann Arbor, and the other was in a conference room of the Turner Geriatric Resource Center. In both cases, the installation was done free of charge, using donated amplifiers and microphones. WASHHH supplied the loop wire that was needed.

Hopefully, small grants from local charities will become available to help pay for equipment needed for additional looping projects, the next one being the Washtenaw County Library. The goal is to install 2 or 3 loops each year in major public meeting areas.

Last Fall, WASHHH also began a "linking" project to recycle old computers and make them available, at no cost, to local HOH and Deaf people. The purpose is to help people have access to the Internet. One computer system, complete with monitor and printer, has already been donated and three more computers are being prepared, but monitors and printers are needed. Contact Neal at [nealzilla@probestar.com](mailto:nealzilla@probestar.com) for more information.

Lastly, we are working with Michigan Association for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Speech Services in its continuing program to collect old and used hearing aids to be repaired and resold at very low prices to persons unable to afford new aids.

#### TAX TIME IS HERE!!!

- *You may qualify for a Disability Exemption on the Michigan 1040 Form! Turn to page 11 of the Instruction Booklet and check the definitions under Line 9: Special Exemptions for Deaf, Blind or Disabled tax payers.*
- *Do you pay income taxes to the City of Detroit? You may also qualify for a Disability Exemption on the Detroit 1040 Form.*

# Thanks

*It costs approximately \$1500 to print and mail out each edition of this newsletter. Please consider helping to defray our costs. We are a non-profit, all-volunteer organization. Without your generous support, we are unable to continue this newsletter.*

*Thank you! To the following donors:*

☐ Sophia Cesiel	☐ Howard/Georgia Potrude
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Downriver Area SHHH Chapter  
WA-SHHH Chapter  
Anonymous - 10

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## ***Recycling Old Hearing Aids... It's A Good Thing!***

People who need hearing aids, but are unable to afford them, may apply to receive prescribed, reconditioned hearing aids through a program offered by **Lions Clubs of Michigan** and **Michigan Association for Deaf, Hearing and Speech Services (MADHS)**.

### **Program Details**

MADHS and Michigan's Lions Clubs receive donations of used hearing aids from people who no longer need them. The used hearing aids are delivered to a hearing aid laboratory. In return, the laboratory provides a credit for each used hearing aid received. A "withdrawal" from this credit account is made when an order for a hearing aid comes from a participating Lions Club.

When MADHS receives an application from an individual who meets income guidelines, it is forwarded to the Lions Hearing and Speech Committee Chairperson or one of the 11 Lions Districts.

The Local Lions arrange for an audiological screening at a reasonable cost. The audiogram is forwarded to the laboratory where the hearing aid is made. A hearing aid is then constructed, based on the audiogram, that is tuned to the person's specific hearing loss. The hearing professional fits and adjusts the hearing aid. Depending on the number of donated aids and supporting funds, most people receive a hearing aid in approximately two months.

### **How to Apply**

People who are low income or are on a public assistance program may apply to receive hearing aids. Obtain a "Hearing Aid Financial Assistance" application from MADHS. The contact information is provided below.

#### ***Please Donate Used Hearing Aids***

***The hearing aid distribution program depends on the donation of used hearing aids. If you know of someone who is getting new hearing aids, suggest that the old hearing aids be donated to this program. To donate hearing aids contact your local Lions Club or MADHS. Some Post Offices have hearing aid donation boxes.***

#### **Michigan Association for Deaf, Hearing, and Speech Services**

2929 Covington Court, Suite 200  
Lansing, MI 48912-4939  
V/TTY 800/YOUR-EAR  
V/TTY 487-0202  
FAX 517/487-2586

E-Mail: [yourear@madhs.org](mailto:yourear@madhs.org)  
<http://www.madhs.org>

**Find the Lions Club near you!**

[www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/resources\\_club.shtml#](http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/resources_club.shtml#)