

Communication Matters

Volume 8, Issue 3 • February 2008

For Technical Assistance & Questions About Hearing Loss

- Assistive Technology
- Accommodations
- Workplace assessments
- Resources and programs
- Workshops at your office
- Video Relay Interpreting or Video Relay Services
- Information on legislation and other matters impacting people with hearing loss.

Julie Eckhardt, MA, LPC
Rehabilitation/Marketing Specialist
Michigan Association for Deaf and Hard of Hearing

231-590-2764 Direct line
(800) 968-7327 Voice/TTY

julie@madhh.org or
jewel@chartermi.net



Lions and Rexton Launch

Affordable Hearing Aid Project

Hearing Aids for Low-Income People Now Available in Michigan



OAK BROOK, Illinois, USA, February 5, 2008 —Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and Rexton, Inc. today announces the launch of the Affordable Hearing Aid Project (Lions AHAP) to answer the need for affordable hearing aids for low-income individuals. Ninety-five percent of individuals with hearing loss can be successfully treated with hearing aids yet 30 percent of those individuals are unable to afford hearing aids.

Thanks to a new partnership with Rexton, Inc. of Plymouth, Minnesota, Lions AHAP is now offering two digital hearing aids for low-income individuals through Lions hearing programs and Lions clubs. The program is currently a pilot program available only in the United States. The project enables Lions to provide high-quality, low-cost hearing aids for distribution to individuals who would otherwise never be able to afford hearing aids.

“We are very excited to partner with Lions AHAP for such a great cause,” said Dave Oberg, Director of Marketing and Sales for Rexton.

Early reviews from hearing care professionals have been very positive thanks to the price, durability and quality.

“Making two aids available gives a great choice in range of sound and quality. You could not buy a comparable aid if buying personally, so this is a very valuable program for people who can’t afford aids,” said Walt Schleutermann, a Board Certified Hearing Instrument Specialist in Maryland.

Lions are closely collaborating with audiologists and hearing aid

Continued on page 2

Information or news related to Deaf or Hard of Hearing services may be forwarded to Julie Eckhardt at jewel@chartermi.net. Views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily the views of Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth-Rehabilitation Services. Communication Matters is available on the web at www.michigan.gov/mrs and on the E-Learn Deaf & Hard of Hearing Resource Center.

Lions Affordable Hearing Aid Project

dispensers. The audiologist or dispenser tests individuals selected by the Lions club. The Lions club orders hearing aids from LCIF, which are shipped to the hearing care professional.

Eligibility for aids through the program is determined by income and asset criteria documented on application and income forms. The federal government's poverty guidelines assist in determining the financial cut-off point, depending on the economy locally.

Through Lions AHAP, hearing impaired individuals who would otherwise not be able to purchase hearing aids can now have an increased quality of life.

Lions Clubs International Foundation provides grant funding to Lions districts for large-scale humanitarian projects too extensive for Lions to finance on their own. LCIF is the charitable arm of Lions Clubs International, the largest service club organization in the world with 1.3 million members in 202 geographic areas and countries. The Foundation aids Lions in making a greater impact in their local communities, as well as around the world. LCIF was recently ranked the number one NGO in a Financial Times study. Through LCIF, Lions ease pain and suffering and bring healing and hope to people worldwide. For more information, visit www.lcif.org. For over 50 years, Rexton has provided hearing health professionals with innovative and intelligent solutions for improved hearing. As a leading force in the industry, Rexton provides a full line of hearing instrument products to fit almost all types of hearing losses. Rexton is committed to helping the hearing impaired enjoy a better quality of life through the development of comfortable, easy-to-wear and affordable hearing solutions.

For more information, visit:
www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/lcif_gr_ahap.shtml

To apply for assistance from the Lions Affordable Hearing Aid Project contact your local Lions Club. Information about local clubs is on the Lions web site:
<http://www.lionsofmi.com/pages/links.htm>

ADARA Newsletter Online

Adara is an organization of professionals networking for excellence in service delivery with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The *ADARA Update* is the quarterly newsletter of ADARA. It updates readers on events, resources, legislation, information of national interest, conferences/workshops, and employment opportunities. Information related to local chapters, special interest sections, and national organizations is included in this publication.

Find the *Adara Update* at this link:
<http://www.adara.org/pages/newsletter.shtml>

From REFERENCE POINTS:

New Policy Letter from OCR

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) recently issued a policy letter addressing students with disabilities' access to advanced programs. OCR reaffirmed that section 504 and Title II of ADA require that qualified students with disabilities be given the same opportunities to compete for and benefit from accelerated programs and classes as are given to students without disabilities. The letter can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/print/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-20071226.html>

Educational Direct Scholarship Finder

Look up scholarships specific to people with disabilities on Educational Direct Scholarship Finder.

<http://www.educationdirect.net/scholarships/scholarships.aspx>

Deaf/HH Youth News

Scholarship Updates

Since the last edition of *Communication Matters* on the subject of scholarships, The following updates have been received.

The William C. Stokoe Scholarship is no longer offered by the National Association for the Deaf (NAD). The NAD does recommend the following resources:

List of scholarships:

http://www.cdhh.org/scholarship_listings.php

American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC)

3820 Hartzdale Drive

Camp Hill, PA 17011

717-703-0073

1-866-895-4206

ASDC1@aol.com

www.deafchildren.org

Dawn Sign Press College Scholarship

<http://www.dawnsign.com/about/dpspscholarship.html>

The DawnSignPress College Scholarship is given annually to a worthy deaf or hard of hearing student studying for a B.A. degree and preparing for a career in one of the following fields of study: Communications, Creative Writing, Deaf Education, Deaf Studies, English, Filmmaking, History, Linguistics, Literature, Multimedia.

Amount of Award: \$2,000 for the academic year

Brian McCartney and MADHH Scholarship to High School Seniors

MADHH provides a scholarship to a graduating deaf or hard of hearing senior from Michigan. The scholarship is awarded on a competitive basis by the MADHH Board of Directors' Scholarship Committee.

For more information see: www.madhh.org

RIT Professional Fellowship Program

See page 4 of this *Communication Matters*

Apply at www.rit.edu/NTID/PFP

2008 Summer Academy

Advancing Deaf/HH in Computing

The 2008 Summer Academy is an academically challenging program designed for deaf and hard of hearing students with skills in math and/or science who may be considering computing as a career and are ready to enter or are in college. We will be looking for up to 10 of the top deaf and hard of hearing students in the United States. Admission is extremely competitive, based on an assessment of ability in computing, and enthusiasm to participate in an intensive experience in all things computing.

The Summer Academy is a 9-week program, beginning June 19 and ending August 23, 2008. **Tuition, room, board, transportation and participation in sponsored activities are provided at no cost to accepted students.**

Details are on the web at:

<http://www.washington.edu/accesscomputing/dhh/academy/>



Hearing Loss
Association
of America

Rocky Stone Scholarship to Convention 2008

The Board of Trustees established the Rocky Stone Scholarship Program to encourage young people with hearing loss to attend Hearing Loss Association of America annual conventions. Founder Rocky Stone was a staunch believer in our conventions where people could learn and benefit from mutual support. He believed lives were changed after attending a communication accessible convention focused solely on people with hearing loss. For more information about the scholarship and nomination form, go to:

www.hearingloss.org/convention/RSScholars.asp.

The deadline to apply for Convention 2008 in Reno, Nevada, is April 11, 2008.

A Tuition-Free Opportunity for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Graduate Students

Apply for the Professional Fellowship Program at the Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

The purpose of this program is to increase opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons in the areas of professional and technical employment.

The Benefits:

- Full tuition waiver
- \$15,000 annual stipend paid to you as wages for a part-time job at NTID that will provide training toward your career
- Free housing in a single occupancy residence hall room if you agree to serve as a role model for undergraduate students

The Requirements:

- U.S. citizenship
- A 70 decibel or greater hearing loss in the better ear, unaided
- Bachelor's degree from an accredited postsecondary institution

Submit application materials by **March 31, 2008** for admission the following fall

Apply at www.rit.edu/NTID/PFP

Rochester Institute of Technology
National Technical Institute for the Deaf
Professional Fellowship Program
Alexander Graham Bell Hall Building 50C,
Room A290
52 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, New York 14623-5604

Rehabilitation Counseling with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Adults

4-week orientation program

June 23-July 17, 2008

Regional Resource Center on Deafness

Western Oregon University

Focusing on professionals who are new to serving individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind, this 9-credit orientation program offers 4 weeks of intensive ASL instruction as well as information on such topics as the range of assistive technology, working with individuals with cochlear implants, and what practitioners need to know to better serve deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind consumers. Selected applicants benefit from Rehabilitation Services Administration grant funding, which covers tuition and additionally provides a \$2000 stipend (a reduced stipend is awarded to those participants who reside within a commutable distance to WOU). Participants are charged a \$225 registration fee and are responsible for all housing and transportation costs.

Application and additional information available at:
<http://www.wou.edu/rrcd> and click on RCDHHA
e-mail rrcd@wou.edu or call 503-838-8444 (v / tty)

Orientation to Deafness Program

**Designed for rehabilitation practitioners serving
individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing**

The Orientation to Deafness (OTD) program has a long history with rehabilitation specialists and the University of Tennessee. Although grant funding is not available, the Center on Deafness and the Tennessee School for the Deaf believe this is a program very worthy of support. The 2008 OTD program will provide innovative, hands-on and intensive series of classes / seminars specifically designed to teach rehabilitation practitioners how to work and communicate with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Rehabilitation specialists return to their communities with momentum to share their new knowledge that is both practical and effective.

To learn more visit: <http://centerondeafness.utk.edu/otd/>