

# Communique

A Publication of the Marion Downs Hearing Center Foundation

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## Contact the Foundation

1793 Quentin, Unit 2, Aurora, CO 80045  
720-848-2970 (V) • 720-848-2979 (TTY)  
720-848-2976 (F)  
mdhc@uch.edu  
www.mariondowns.com

## Marion Downs Hearing Center Clinical Services

720-848-2800  
or mdhc@uch.edu

## About the Center Center of Excellence

- Audiology
- Medical
- Technology
- Mental Health
- Speech & Language
- Consumer Services
- Professional Education
- Student Training
- Research

## From the Foundation President

### Cheryl DeConde Johnson

Currently it is estimated that 400,000 people in Colorado have some form of hearing loss. Projecting conservatively, the number of people with hearing loss in Colorado is likely to more than double to over 800,000 during the next forty years. The reasons for hearing loss are varied and often complex, but the number of individuals with hearing loss is growing.

In the midst of this enormous need, the MDHC is the best positioned and best equipped organization to undertake cutting edge research, test technologies, demonstrate best practices, and educate national and international medical markets to serve those individuals who are deaf or who have hearing loss. This translates to training and guiding thousands of practitioners who, in turn, impact millions of individuals in the U.S. and worldwide who, with hearing technology, implants and/or training, can enjoy fulfilling family and community lives, and economic self-sufficiency.

However, today the Marion Downs Hearing Center can only serve 3% of the need in Colorado and less than 1% in the international market. By deepening its resources to better serve the medical and educational communities, MDHC can multiply its impact and help educate more and more professionals. Through its globally recognized in-service training and clinical best practices, MDHC will be in a position to reach millions of lives and help even more deaf and hard of hearing individuals reach their potential.

For 2009 we are stepping up our fundraising and volunteer efforts in order to address the increasing needs of children, youth and adults with hearing loss and the families that support them. Please refer to our sponsorship opportunities on page 3 to see how you can contribute to this effort. We would also welcome some of your time and expertise by volunteering for one or more of our special events, for our newborn hearing screening program, or for assistance with some of our office projects. Please see the details under "Caring for Our Community" for an opportunity that works with your schedule.

Thank you for a great 2008 and with your ongoing help and support we hope to have an even better year next year!

## 2008 Foundation Board Members

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*& Board Member*

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## LaFawn Biddle Awarded Highest Honors for 2008

On October 29, 2008, our long-time friend and supporter, LaFawn Biddle, was given the 2008 Marion Downs Hearing Center Foundation's highest honor for her advocacy and dedication to the children of Colorado who are deaf or hard of hearing. The award was presented at the Denver Country Club hosted by Terry & Elaine Scholes.

The Foundation is very grateful to LaFawn and the Biddle Family for their strength of vision and commitment to the Marion Downs Hearing Center.



Marion Downs, LaFawn Biddle, Al Keeler.

## Caring for Our Community

We are excited about the diverse duties and various scheduling options that we can offer to our 2009 volunteers. We can accommodate most schedules, activity levels, and interests throughout the year and have joined with the University of Colorado Hospital Volunteer Office to help with volunteer application and health screenings. We want to ensure that everyone stays healthy while giving us their valuable time, so we match the volunteer's interest with the project. Contact MDHC if you have any questions, or you can fill out a volunteer application by visiting [www.uch.edu/find-a-job/volunteer/index.aspx](http://www.uch.edu/find-a-job/volunteer/index.aspx).

### Volunteer Options

**Newborn Hearing Screening** – what could be more important than to screen a newborn baby's hearing?

The Newborn Hearing Screening Program takes place at the University of Colorado Hospital Inpatient Pavilion. Hours vary and training is included. Because of the training, we are looking for someone who can screen the babies on a regular basis.

**Event & Program Volunteers** – throughout the year the MDHC and the Foundation hosts several events. We will need many volunteers to support our teen program which includes a day conference, a summer camp, and an outdoor adventure experience. Sign up as your schedule permits, but sign up early.



**Office Volunteers** – we need assistance with various office duties that may include web development, mailings and some work with our data base. The work is varied and the schedule can be flexible.

*To all of our volunteers: Your valuable time and generous hearts are truly appreciated!*

## 2009 Schedule of Events

### February 2009

#### Marion Downs' 95th Birthday Celebration

We are honoring Marion Downs' 95<sup>th</sup> birthday with 200 of her friends and professionals who have worked alongside her over the course of her career.

### May 2009

#### Better Hearing and Speech Month

This month provides opportunities to raise awareness about hearing loss and communication disorders and to promote research toward improving the lives of deaf and hard of hearing individuals. In alignment with our organization's mission, we will advertise BHSM in the community, offer free hearing screenings, and host a fun awareness event for hearing, hard of hearing, and deaf families.

**May 2009  
Fiesta for Families**

Together with Hands and Voices and CHIP, we'll host our annual event for the deaf and hard of hearing Spanish families, providing a supportive networking opportunity. Hosted at General's Park, it is a day-long event with social activities, food, and educational lectures and resources.

**May and June 2009  
Exploration '09 Teen Connect And Grow**

This program will encourage deaf and hard of hearing young adults to interact with peers, explore career-building resources, and develop new strengths for future opportunities. We will connect them with positive role models and outstanding community leaders who will help teach and shape these young adults into realizing their full potential. Skills will be developed through teaching, mentoring, and encouraging young adults into becoming something they may not have thought possible!



**June 2009  
Wine and Chocolate Gala**

Our annual Gala is a semi-formal event celebrating and honoring our numerous sponsors, our dedicated volunteers, and our committed staff members, all who believe passionately in the Marion Downs Hearing Center mission. Media will be invited.

**October 2009  
Building Communication Bridges**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual conference for professionals and community members to learn about technology, amplification, and strategies in a hearing world. Attendees and exhibitors will participate in this event which is held on the University of Colorado campus.

**December 2009  
Holiday Event**

This event will provide another opportunity for families with deaf and hard of hearing members to gather and receive support from one another. We'll offer mini sign language classes, resources to parents, and networking opportunities to teenagers and young adults.

**2009 MDHC Sponsorship  
Levels & Benefits**

**Diamond Sponsorship - \$50,000**

- Listing on first page of MDHC's website
- Listing on the quarterly newsletter
- 6 tickets to Marion's 95th birthday party
- 4 tickets to annual Wine and Chocolate Gala
- 2-page donor/company advertisement in the program for Marion's celebration
- Signage and literature at all MDHC events
- Company literature displayed in our building

**Emerald Sponsorship - \$15,000**

- Listing on first page of MDHC's website
- Listing on the quarterly newsletter
- 4 tickets to Marion's 95th birthday party
- 2 tickets to annual Wine and Chocolate Gala
- 1-page advertisement in the program for Marion's celebration
- Company signage and literature at two MDHC events during 2009

**Gold Sponsorship - \$10,000**

- Listing on the MDHC website
- Listing on the quarterly newsletter
- 2 tickets to Marion's 95th birthday party
- 2 tickets to annual Wine and Chocolate Gala
- ½ page advertisement in the program for Marion's celebration
- Company signage and literature at two MDHC events during 2009

**Silver Sponsorship - \$5,000**

- Listing on the MDHC's website
- ¼ page advertisement in the program for Marion's celebration
- Listing on the quarterly newsletter
- 2 tickets to either Marion's 95th birthday party or the Wine and Chocolate Gala
- Company signage and literature at one MDHC event during 2009

**We can not thank our generous donors enough! Without your help and support, the MDHC programs would not be able to move forward and reach more and more deaf and hard of hearing individuals and their families. The Marion Downs Hearing Center Foundation is making a difference in people's lives and you are responsible!!**

**Friends of  
Marion Downs  
Hearing Center**

Ashlock, Shirley  
Auer, Cynthia  
Barthgate, Margaret  
Bartholomew, Mary  
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Peterson, Marcy

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Renslow, Donna  
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Smith, Raymond  
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Stonehocker, Roswitha  
Stool, June  
Straub, Jo Anne  
Taylor, Marilyn  
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Weaver, Marlin  
White, Lori  
Williams, Tina  
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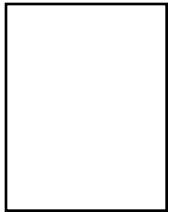
**Key Supporters  
\$200+**

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1793 Quentin, Unit 2  
Aurora, CO 80045



## The MDHC Foundation Mission

To provide financial support to the Marion Downs Hearing Center.

## The MDHC Mission

To provide culturally sensitive services, resources, education, and research to support the needs of individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Hearing, their families, and professionals. All activities value individual and family choice in communication and use of technology, striving to optimize the quality of life for all that it serves.

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### **Bronze Sponsorship - \$2,500**

- Listing on the MDHC's website
- ¼ page donor/company advertisement in the program for Marion's celebration
- 2 tickets to either Marion's 95th birthday party or the annual MDHC Wine and Chocolate Gala
- Company signage and literature at one MDHC event during 2009

### **Patron Sponsorship - \$1,000**

- Listing on the MDHC's website
- 2 complimentary tickets to either Marion's 95th birthday party or the annual MDHC Wine and Chocolate Gala

To become a sponsor or for more information please contact the MDHC Foundation at 720-848-2970 (V) or email [mdhc@uch.edu](mailto:mdhc@uch.edu).

## **Hearing Aid Consultation**

Because you are a Friend to the Marion Downs Hearing Center, we would like to extend a no-charge Hearing Aid Consultation to you and your family. Our experienced licensed Audiologists will offer technology options that meet your needs, or if you currently have a hearing aid, we can offer a complete assessment in order to make sure you are getting the most out of the technology.

Call the Marion Downs Hearing Center at 720-848-2800 to schedule your consultation.

Hear for the Holidays!