

# MIDWEST EAR INSTITUTE

Founded in 1980 by Charles Luetje, M.D., the Midwest Ear Institute is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life by restoring or improving hearing in patients of all ages. Patients find their way to MEI for various reasons—because they're experiencing hearing loss or deafness, or have unexplained dizzy spells. The following programs can help:

## Cochlear Implant Program

The institute has performed hundreds of cochlear implants and has a national reputation. Founder Charles Luetje performed the 60th cochlear implant in the nation. A cochlear implant is a computerized, bioelectrical device that is surgically implanted between the skin and the skull. The electrode array bypasses non-functioning parts of the ear and sends signals to the auditory nerve and then to the brain, even for the most profoundly deaf. The institute participates in many clinical trials, offering patients the most advanced treatment options.

## Audiologist Services

The institute provides comprehensive diagnostic audiological testing by certified audiologists, consultation services to explore hearing restoration options, and auditory training to help patients and their families maximize the benefit of their cochlear implant or hearing aid.

## Hearing Aid Program

The hearing aid program offers a wide variety of hearing instruments, allowing patients to select the best hearing aid for their individual need. Institute audiologists are state certified and hold master's degrees in audiology. Regular educational seminars offer information on hearing loss and an objective analysis of various hearing aid technologies.

## Balance Disorder Lab

A state-of-the-art vestibular (balance) testing center assists physicians in diagnosing balance disorders. The institute collaborates with Saint Luke's Hospital's outpatient rehabilitation services to provide a complete balance rehabilitation program.

## Hearing & Balance Center

The institute offers a large collection of print and electronic resources on hearing and balance disorders and treatment free to the public. Certified audiologists are available to answer questions.



## Breaking the Sound Barrier

Dogs barking. Cartoons blaring. Kids screeching. In the Horrell-Schmitz household, those sounds are music to the family's ears. This year Nichola Horrell-Schmidt and her 6-year-old daughter, Katrina, both received cochlear implants at the Midwest Ear Institute. They became two of the approximately 70,000 Americans each year who receive the devices, which help recipients perceive sound by electrically stimulating the hearing nerve. Charles Luetje, M.D., of the Midwest Ear Institute, helped pioneer the use of the implant in the 1970s.



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