

The Family that Hears Together



What We Do

Enhance quality of life through comprehensive hearing services and promote community and professional education to relieve the isolation and misunderstanding caused by hearing disorders

“Now I can call my daughter from a distance and she turns around to respond to me.”

Nichola Horrell-Schmitz with daughter Katrina after they received cochlear implants

Cochlear implants helped a mother-daughter duo hear each other clearly

Dogs barking. Cartoons blaring. Kids screeching.

In the Horrell-Schmitz household, those sounds are music to the family's ears. This year Nichola Horrell-Schmitz and her 6-year-old daughter, Katrina, both received cochlear implants at the Midwest Ear Institute.

“Now I can call my daughter from a distance,” Nichola said, “and she turns around to respond to me.”

Cochlear implants, which are surgically inserted into patients' ears, allow Nichola and Katrina to

perceive sound by electrically stimulating the hearing nerve. The result: clear, crisp sounds. It's a far cry from the muddled noise their hearing aids produced.

Sweet Sound of Life

Like hundreds of other patients each year, Nichola and Katrina turned to the Midwest Ear Institute to help improve their quality of life. It is one of the nation's leaders in cochlear implant technology, drawing patients from the Midwest to the Middle East.

Cochlear implants are just one of the center's broad range of services—all of them aimed at enhancing a patient's quality of life by restoring hearing. The Midwest Ear Institute is also the regional leader in testing for hearing disorders and ear-related balance disorders.

Gifts to the Midwest Ear Institute help people like Nichola and Katrina participate in the hearing world.

Their implants and follow-up training have allowed them to broaden their experiences. Katrina uses her voice to talk with hearing people and is developing listening skills. Her auditory and verbal skills will continue to improve since she was fortunate to receive the implant at a young age. Nichola enjoys access to a broader range of environmental sounds and can't imagine life now without music.

“I'm not taking the deaf world away from Katrina,” Nichola said. “I'm giving her the hearing world. She can now grow up able to succeed in both.”

Visit our web site
saintlukeshealthsystem.org
to make an immediate gift



How You Can Help

Your contribution can provide the gift of hearing to hundreds of children and adults:

- \$50** Education packets for a dozen patients
- \$125** Comprehensive hearing examination for an uninsured child
- \$370** Cochlear implant evaluation for patient with severe hearing loss
- \$750** Support for patient and community education programs
- \$1,250** Hearing aid for a patient whose insurance does not cover this service