

Spring/Summer 2010

For alumni, faculty, staff,  
students and friends of CID

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*The mission of CID is to teach children who are deaf and hard of hearing to listen, talk, read and succeed. We partner with families and collaborate with universities, educators and other professionals worldwide to help children communicate to achieve their fullest potential.*

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Proud member



United Way of  
Greater St. Louis

## Big move for L.J.: A family's drive for success

Four years ago, Nemi and Telia Rodgers rejoiced in the growing vocabulary of their one-year-old. They had fun helping L.J. discover how to say "Bye-Bye" and "Momma," "Daddy" and "Granny." He was doing great. Then, at about 13 months, they noticed he wasn't saying some of the words he knew. At 16 months, he stopped talking.

A doctor treated L.J. for an ear infection, but his speech did not return. Two months later, a hospital ABR test showed he had severe to profound hearing loss affecting both ears.

L.J. had hearing aids for five months, then received a cochlear implant before his second birthday. Once a week for a year, the Rodgers drove an hour from their Russellville, Arkansas home for an hour of speech therapy in Little Rock, but L.J. made little progress. The Rodgers realized he needed more, so they decided to visit St. Louis.

"We toured other schools, but when we visited CID, we fell in love," Telia said. "CID

showed us successful children and we were comforted to learn that our son could maybe go to a regular school."

"CID had everything L.J. needed – educational expertise, speech therapy, audiology, occupational therapy – the full package," Nemi said. "It was the middle of the school year, but they said they would take him as soon as we could get there."

Nemi took immediate action, landing a new job while he was still in St. Louis. Telia went home and, with L.J.'s sister, Maya, and grandma, Yetta Edwards, began to pack. They found a house on the internet, loaded a rented truck and left their family and friends.

Snow and ice added two hours to the nine-hour trip to St. Louis. Yetta, who drove the truck while the others took the family car, later relocated, too, so she could witness her grandson's progress. Like Nemi, Yetta left a well-paying job. "I didn't want to hear L.J. talk just over the telephone," she said.



Maya, Telia, Isaiah, L.J., Nemi and Yetta

According to Yetta, the sacrifices have been worth it. "Before L.J. came to CID, he could make sounds, but he didn't say 'boo,'" she said.

"Within the first few months, L.J. was saying 'Hello' and 'Daddy.' That was just huge for us," Telia said. "Now, every time he comes home from school, he says something different."

L.J. recently joined a CID class designed to help him develop the speech, language, pre-literacy and pre-academic skills he will need to do kindergarten level work next year.

*"I am so thankful for the support of family – from my own mom's loving advice to Yetta and Maya, who left a lot behind to help L.J. We all know CID is where he belongs."*

— Telia Rodgers

*A lasting legacy: helping deaf children learn to talk*

## Sessler's bequeath \$1 million

When Jessie Belle Sessler died in April at age 90, she bequeathed over \$1 million to benefit CID students through the Charles H. and Jessie B. Sessler Trust.

Mrs. Sessler was a CID student in the 1920s. She graduated from high school in 1940 and worked for a life insurance company. She and her husband lived in Richmond, Missouri.

"We are grateful for Mrs. Sessler's family's dedication to helping others like herself – coming to fruition decades after she graduated," CID executive director Robin Feder said.

"This amazing gift provides needed support at a time of increased enrollment in a tight economy. Their generosity will help many children learn to talk."

*"This amazing gift provides needed support at a time of increased enrollment in a tight economy."*

— Robin Feder



Jesse Belle Sessler



Robin M. Feder, MS, CFRE  
Executive Director

rfeder@cid.edu

Robin Feder's granddaughter,  
Mackenzie, is a student in  
the CID pre-k peer program.



## Show Me ... the challenge of planning

*"When our kids toss out their first words and bring tears to our eyes, or when they use the phone for the first time with confidence – we know it's because of your dedication, determination and love. The support we receive from CID is more than we could have imagined. When we found CID, it changed us forever. 'Thank You' isn't big enough to express how near and dear CID is to our whole family."*

– Tara Brengle

New families arrive at CID facing the challenge of a lifetime. Cradling their new baby or holding their adorable 3-year-old's hand, they wonder, "Will my child learn to talk?" "Will she ever attend our neighborhood school?" "Will he have friends?" "Is this the school that will finally have answers for us?"

We guide these families every step of the way to get through those most difficult times. And then the cloud begins to lift. A baby gets her first hearing aid and turns to hear her mother's voice. A 2-year-old says "Daddy" or "Mommy" or "cookie."

At CID, we know about challenges and how to guide our families and children through them with expertise, compassion and wisdom. And we also know how to

challenge ourselves to do our best to help those we serve. In fact, challenge has become the operative word at CID.

CID staff members challenge themselves professionally. For example, in the past two years, staff have pursued two AuDs, a PhD, two master's degrees and eight other advanced certifications.

We also challenge ourselves as an organization. In January, we embarked on a journey with Missouri Show Me Challenge (SMC), sponsored by the Excellence in Missouri Foundation. This foundation recognizes organizations in business, health care and education based on Malcolm Baldrige criteria for performance excellence. We undertook the SMC's rigorous self-assessment to reveal strengths and opportunities for improvement in all we do. Nearly every staff member provided information to help us set goals for our new 2011–2014 strategic plan.

CID is a vibrant organization whose staff routinely challenge themselves to be the best they can be. In the past six years, the number of families we serve has grown 87 percent. In the past two years, we have added new workshops, in-services, guided observations and distance consultations for professionals.

When we receive your generous investments in our future – and letters from parents like the one from Tara Brengle above – we know we are on the right track.—RF

## Our friend, Ellen Clark 1959–2010

With great sadness, we report the passing of Mrs. Ellen Clark in March of 2010. Clark succumbed to cerebrotretinal vasculopathy (CRV), a rare hereditary disease.

Mrs. Clark received audiology services at CID as a child. She had a severe-profound hearing loss. She helped raise more than \$1 million for CID through her involvement with Ultimate Picnics since 1998, when she co-chaired the event. She will be fondly remembered and missed by many.

We extend condolences to her family, including her husband, Robert Clark. Mr.



Ellen  
Clark

Clark is past CID executive director, past president and a current member of the CID board of directors.

Mrs. Clark spent her last years promoting stem cell research, working for a cure for CRV and counseling families with a history of CRV on how to have children free of the disease.

## Congratulations, graduates!

*At CID's graduation ceremony in May, we celebrated nine students who will attend neighborhood schools in the fall. Front row: Travion Ferguson, 5, of St. Louis, Addison Fenneberg, 5, of Rock Hill, Missouri, Malakai Askew, 7, of Kirkwood, Missouri, and Jacob Williams, 7, of Jennings, Missouri. Back row: James Williams, 7, of Jennings, Avani Shandilya, 7, of Clayton, Missouri, Bailey Skultety, 9, of Troy, Illinois, and Daijah Stayton, 7, of St. Louis. Nia Whitehead, 10, of Florissant, Missouri, is not shown.*



## Ultimate Picnic raises \$203,000

*A riverfront venue, fun decor, generously donated auction items and a children's performance made for a festive and successful Ultimate Picnic 2010: "Garden Party" at the Four Seasons Hotel St. Louis in April. We are especially grateful to our wonderful committee and its chair, Laurie Miller, graphics by Laura Lyons, decorations by Ellen Clark, Doris Devereux, Bette Hess, Michele Lux and Kim Miller, auction by J. Kim Tucci, premiere event sponsors Louis S. Goltermann, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. F. Lee Hawes and Anabeth and John Weil, paddle sponsor S.M. Wilson, Bowers Harbor Winery Scott Harvey Wines and other wineries in Missouri and Napa Valley. 215 donors and 313 guests helped the event raise more than \$203,000 for CID! \*full sponsor list at <http://cid.edu>*





## Ira J. Hirsh, PhD

1922–2010

Dr. Hirsh is recognized as one of the codifiers of modern audiology. His work and ideas had profound influences on the speech and hearing sciences.

CID director emeritus and research director emeritus **Ira J. Hirsh, PhD** died of cardiovascular failure in January of 2010 in Durham, North Carolina. He was 88.

Dr. Hirsh conducted pioneering research in human hearing, auditory perception, communication, speech, language and communication disorders. His research helped explain the way our brains and ears process and interpret sounds such as speech and music. His work led to the development of improved hearing aids and teaching methods for deaf children.

Dr. Hirsh held a master's degree from Northwestern University (1944) and a PhD from Harvard University (1948). In 1951, he assumed a research appointment at CID, along with an assistant professorship at Washington University. He became assistant director of research at CID in 1958 and was director of research from 1965 to 1983. He also served as director of CID from 1992 to 1994, when he

became an honorary member of the CID board of directors.

Dr. Hirsh had an illustrious career at Washington University, where he was a professor of psychology and audiology. He served as dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (1969–1973) and chaired the Psychology Department (1983–1987). In 1984, he was named Edward Mallinckrodt Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Audiology.

Dr. Hirsh authored a seminal textbook, *The Measurement of Hearing*, and more than 100 scholarly articles and papers. Many of his publications are cited as the basis for research that revolutionized the fields of audiology, acoustics, psychoacoustics and deaf education.

"Ira Hirsh was a star in CID's constellation of scientists working in hearing and deafness," CID board member and fellow scientist Jerome Cox, ScD, said. "He was also a charming, stimulating and loyal friend. We will all miss him deeply."

## A beautiful little boy, Ta'Qwon Reeves 2006–2010

Ta'Qwon Reeves came to CID with a moderate hearing loss when he was 1½. Sadly, on January 5, 2010, he died as a result of a car accident. He was 4 years old and a student in the CID pre-k.

The families, students and staff at CID deeply mourn the loss of this beautiful little boy, whose nickname was "Grandpa." We offer our support and love

to Ta'Qwon's family, including his sister Ta'Niyah, a student in the CID school.



Ta'Qwon Reeves

Dr. Hirsh was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, served as president of the Acoustical Society of America, and was a fellow at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. He chaired the National Research Council Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, served on the American National Standards Institute and International Commission on Acoustics, and was consultant or advisor to the Office of Noise Abatement, the National Institutes of Health and the National Bureau of Standards.

His prolific honors include a Gold Medal from the Acoustical Society of America, the Peter H. Raven Lifetime Achievement Award from the Academy of Science of St. Louis, a Whetnall Medal from the Royal Society of Medicine and Honors from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Dr. Hirsh's rich baritone is the voice of the CID W-22 Word Lists used in speech perception research. He was also a radio announcer and directed and/or sang in the choirs of the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis, the St. Louis Chamber Chorus and the Bach Society of St. Louis. He and his wife, Shirley, a fellow scientist, were semi-professional ice dancers.

Dr. Hirsh was a giant in his field and in the hearts and minds of those who knew him – at CID and throughout the world. His influence lives in the cascade of lives enhanced by his research and academic contributions.



*Maritz recently donated \$10,000 to support family literacy at CID. Family literacy activities complement classroom lessons and capitalize on the parents' role as their child's first teachers and important partners for educators. Maritz has contributed more than \$116,000 to CID since 1995.*

## In memory: CID family

*With full hearts, we mourn the loss of the following members of the CID family.*

1964 CID alumnus **Dennis Abel**, age 57, of St. Louis, passed away in April 2010. Mr. Abel was a volunteer at a local hospital and shelter.

1925 CID alumna **Helen McDonald Coley**, age 91, of West Chester, New Jersey, died in January 2010. Mrs. Coley was a retired keypunch operator and teacher.

**William H. Daniels**, age 90, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, passed away in January 2010. Rev. Daniels was the father of Paul Daniels (class of 1964) and the husband of former CID teacher Jane Daniels.

**Sara Goldstein**, age 96, a CID board member from 1985 to 2003, died in July 2009. In 1964, Mrs. Goldstein began a drama program to help the CID students produce plays. She later established a scholarship fund at CID.

1936 CID alumnus **Ralph Katz, Sr.**, age 83, of Minneapolis, died in January 2010.



Sara Goldstein Ralph Katz



Michael Poole

Mr. Katz was a retired businessman who loved to travel.

St. Louis philanthropist **E. Desmond Lee**, age 92, died in January 2010. Mr. Lee was a CID Sponsor.

**Kathleen Macauley**, age 46, died in January 2010 from complications after cancer surgery. Ms. Macauley was a CID houseparent/teacher aide from 1982 to 1987 and again from 1988 to 2001. Many alumni will remember her with fondness. She was an honorary CIDAA member.

1983 CID alumnus **Michael Poole**, age 38, of St. Louis, died in October 2009. Mr. Poole worked for a car repair shop. He is memorialized at <http://inmemoryofmikepoole.webs.com>.

**Jack Spencer**, age 82, CID's business manager from 1979 to 1992, died in January 2010 after a long illness.

**Sylvia Thea**, a former CID clinic client, died in January 2010. Her husband, Alfred, taught at CID in the 1930s.



*"When my daughter has a question about her hearing aids, she walks across the hall to see her audiologist."*

– Kara Murphy

## Twins work hard to catch up

Before fraternal twins Kaitlyn and Kelsey Casey came to CID, they attended elementary school in Columbia, Illinois. Kaitlyn was diagnosed with severe hearing loss when she was 2 years old. She was fitted with hearing aids and attended an early intervention program, but by age 6 it was clear that she would not be ready to work at the first grade level.

Nancy Jones worried about both of her daughters. Kelsey, too, was beginning to fall behind at school.

The school district provided limited support services for students with hearing loss. On the advice of a special education teacher, Jones traveled across the river to St. Louis to visit CID and consider what else might be possible for Kaitlyn.

It would be an unwelcome commute, but Jones said she soon fell in love with CID's small classes and the teachers' ability to make learning possible

for children who are deaf and hard of hearing. By the spring, she had arranged a school district contract that included a daily bus ride to CID. Kaitlyn enrolled in fall 2007.

After a few months, Jones saw Kaitlyn begin to do better at CID – her confidence and reading ability were improving – but Kelsey continued to fall behind at her neighborhood school. A succession of ear infections finally ended with a definitive test showing permanent moderate to severe hearing loss. Kelsey joined her sister at CID in fall 2008.

"Despite their late start, both girls have made progress toward the goal of getting back to school with their hearing peers," CID co-principal Barb Lanfer said.

The Casey twins recently celebrated their 10th birthday. They say they are excited about the idea of returning to their local school in the future.

## School audiology is integral to success

The first goal of an audiologist in CID's educational setting is the same as that of an audiologist in a hospital or hearing clinic — to get each child to hear at the best possible level. CID audiologists, however, have additional responsibilities not encountered in medical and clinical settings. These include meeting parents' educational and emotional needs, ensuring consistency of the sound signal and meeting the rehabilitation needs of each student daily – from the time he or she comes to CID until he or she moves into another educational setting.

Parents are often overwhelmed by the amount of information there is to process about their child's hearing loss. CID audiologists take time to explain everything as often as they need to hear it, and to answer all of their questions fully, as they arise. The goal is to become true partners in giving every child the best

possible access to sound and speech – at school and at home.

CID audiologists rely on students, parents and teachers to report how devices are working – and they educate and coach parents to ensure their children wear their devices during every waking hour. For babies, having a consistent sound signal begins to train them to listen. In general, when they have the extra practice of listening throughout their non-school hours, children listen and do better in school.

Having audiology on-site at CID ensures the children's devices are working properly at all times. It is extremely convenient for everyone. Teachers and audiologists learn from one another and solve problems or provide loaners on the fly, so a child misses little information in the classroom. Parents who don't have to go off-site for services miss less work – and their children miss less school.

CID audiologists have a good working relationship with audiologists at local hospitals and clinics that may refer children to CID. Clear, established lines of communication with local audiologists and surgeons is especially important for the families of children who have cochlear implant surgery.

This year, CID audiologists served 136 CID students with a total of 253 devices – cochlear implants and/or hearing aids. Complete educational audiology services – including a commitment to professional development, equipment and technologies – and a daily partnership with parents, teachers, students, hospitals and clinicians, is integral to the success of every child at CID.



**St. Louis alumni and families: Join us Saturday, August 8 at the annual Summer Bash! RSVP to [cidalumni@gmail.com](mailto:cidalumni@gmail.com)**

## COC at CID – young professionals group has a lot to offer



**Volunteers**  
Kerin Kowach, Kristin Messey and A.J. Otto helped host a COC party for children who ran the Go! St. Louis marathon. CID students Avere McCarty and Eve Murphy and Sara Robertson participated.

The CID Outreach Committee (COC) is a group of young professionals dedicated to supporting CID's mission through networking and volunteering opportunities throughout the year. Recent COC activities have included hosting a pizza party for CID students after the Go! St. Louis marathon, being CID ambassadors at a cocktail hour for RiverCity Professionals and hosting the

annual Trivia Night, which netted \$16,000 in February.

Begun in 2002, the COC has 21 active members from diverse backgrounds in the St. Louis business and professional communities. In the past five years, COC Trivia Nights have raised more than \$85,000 for CID.

This year's officers are CID board member Mariquita Barbieri, committee chair;

Eric Koestner, membership chair; Kristin Messey, communications chair, and Matt Linsenbardt and Megan McBride, social co-chairs.

Find the rest of the committee and event updates, including opportunities for networking and volunteering with this energetic group, at <http://cid.edu/SupportCID/COC>.

Or contact Bree DeGraw at CID, 314.977.0163.





*CID's Joanne Parrish Knight Family Center*

## Growing and evolving with babies and parents

CID services for children under 3 include pediatric audiology plus regular visits to homes of families like the Gregorys, who benefit from a parent educator skilled in meeting their needs.

## CID board welcomes four; one retires

In December, the CID board of directors welcomed four members: **Kayla Mays-Madkins, Theresa Secrest, Jeffrey Tucker** and **Jennifer Winfield**, and expressed appreciation for the friendship and service of **Doris Blanchard**, who retired.

Kayla L. Mays-Madkins is president/CEO of Ability Building & Restoration LLC, a St. Louis American/St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association Top 25 Regional Minority Business. She also serves on the boards of Habitat for Humanity, St. Louis University's John Cook School of Business Center for Entrepreneurship and the United Way Women's Leadership Initiative.

Theresa Secrest is a principal with Edward Jones.

Jeffrey R. Tucker, a 1987 CID graduate, is a lawyer at Bryan Cave, LLP. He also serves on the board of Starkloff Disability Institute and is a teacher in the Junior Achievement program. He was one of the *St. Louis Business Journal's* "30 Under 30" future community leaders in 2007.

Jennifer A. Winfield is Special Assistant United States Attorney, United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Missouri-St. Louis.



Doris Blanchard is a 1932 CID school graduate. She served on the board for 13 years.

In June of 2009, Dareon Gregory did not pass the newborn hospital hearing screening in Kansas City, Missouri. Within a few months, he was diagnosed with a moderate to severe progressive hearing loss. The hospital audiologist spoke highly of CID, and the family was already planning to move to St. Louis for Dad's job. The Gregorys contacted CID and in September became one of 76 families of children birth-3 receiving early intervention home visits from the Joanne Parrish Knight Family Center.

In the children's homes, CID parent educators focus on developing speech and language in the context of the whole family and the whole child. They provide intervention within eight domains of knowledge. Exactly what is addressed at any given time depends on the services and information the child and his or her family need at that time.

The domains of knowledge are audiology, listening/auditory skill development, counseling/social support, child development, family rights, speech/articulation and receptive and expressive language. CID educators constantly assess these areas to identify and help the parents meet specific needs.



CID uses family coaching and direct therapy with the child for the purpose of modeling behavior for caregivers and family members. One study shows that an hour of family coaching results in the carryover of strategies for 12 hours during the day.

Another best practice is using real-life activities to engage a family with language. "We leave our toy bags behind and go into homes ready to work with the family's stuff," nurseryclass administrator Jenna Voss said. "We model behavior and help give parents cognitively and developmentally appropriate language to use during daily activities like taking a walk, preparing a meal or taking a bath."

When children turn 2, they may attend CID's nursery class, designed as a natural extension of the home. Just as in life, everything is done for a reason. If the kids play with chalk, they have a reason to wash their hands and learn language associated with hand washing. If they play with oatmeal, they may need to vacuum the floor – all while having fun and learning language.

Typical 2-year-olds exert independence, want to help, and mimic their parents –

The pins on this map show residential locations of CID birth-3 families since 2008. In some cases, home visits also take place beyond age 3. CID parent educators travel as far as an hour away to visit children and their families in their homes. Families who live more than an hour away – and as far as 3 1/2 hours away from St. Louis – may bring their children to CID for services.



In the CID nursery class for 2-year-olds, teachers, parents and their "little helpers" do and talk about real-life activities that take place in the home.

conditions ripe for learning language around household chores. During a month-long Little Helpers nursery class theme, parents learn to engage their children while getting real-life work done.

"As in home visits, a big emphasis in the nursery class is on the adult learner," Voss said. Parents and family members are invited to observe often and to participate every two weeks, on Family Day. In addition to being a time for teachers to engage parents in understanding and communicating with their children, Family Day provides informal social support.

Here, parents can meet other parents, seek and give advice and see what the other kids are doing.

Family Day also gives teachers opportunities to ob-

serve parent-child interactions. If a child can do something at school but not with the parent, it may be necessary to work with the family within another domain of knowledge.

This year, monthly meetings have been devoted to thinking more critically and giving a high priority to enhancing CID's family center nursery and home visit programs. The result has been a process of planning, doing, reflecting and documenting the service delivery model.

"Our goal is to create a framework to ensure families receive the same information, resources and high standard of service within the eight domains of knowledge," Voss said. "This way, we can completely individualize the CID experience to meet every family's needs."



*More than 80 years of family service at CID*

## Meissner legacy continues

Edwin B. Meissner, Jr.  
in 1972

Edwin B. (Bud) Meissner, Jr. takes special pride in both the physical and intangible marks his family has left on the city of St. Louis and on CID.

His father, EBM Sr., built the family business, St. Louis Car Company, into a grand industrial manufacturer of subway and railroad cars, military vehicles, airplanes – even the capsules that still carry visitors to the top of the St. Louis Arch – and helped create the Missouri Museum of Transportation.

EBM Sr. became a member of the CID board of directors in 1927 and served as president from 1937 until he died in 1956. He was a respected leader in the community, and is credited as a driving force behind the completion of the CID clinic and research building on Taylor Avenue, a site that played a significant role in developing the science and profession of audiology over more than four decades.

“My dad built that place,” Meissner said, adding “The same man who built our parents’ house also built the anechoic chamber,” one of the first almost completely silent

spaces designed for hearing and deafness research.

Meissner later became a driving force of his own – leading the way in 1959 to enable more families from other states to bring their children to CID. Meissner and then-CID treasurer Harold Burgess helped CID buy property along the north side of Clayton Avenue and, in 1962, opened a new residential facility, expanding CID’s capacity to meet growing demand. The houses on the south side of the street continued to accommodate families who moved to St. Louis so their children could attend CID.

Meissner grew up in a prominent St. Louis family. CID founder Max Goldstein, MD was the family ear, nose and throat doctor. Max and Leonore Goldstein were close social friends with Edwin and Edna Meissner. Bud’s Clayton office is still the home of the director’s chair from Goldstein’s medical office on Vandeventer Avenue, given to his father after the first CID school building opened in 1916.



Edwin B.  
Meissner,  
Sr. in 1955

The summer after high school, in 1937, Meissner worked for the family business. Then his father sent him to Wharton Business School in Pennsylvania “to learn how college kids act.” Four years later, before he could apply his new knowledge to help the company, he was drafted into the Army. He rose to the rank of major and was a paratrooper in the last airborne division in Europe in World War II. He met his wife, Nina, after the war, when she returned from working with the Red Cross in Germany.

In 1946, Meissner came back to St. Louis and the family business. He joined the CID board in 1957, the year after CID’s second director, S. Richard Silverman, PhD, delivered his father’s eulogy. “Dick Silverman was almost a member of the family,” Meissner said.

In 1958, Meissner was proud to attend the cornerstone ceremony for “dad’s research building.” In 1962, they held another ceremony – for the residence hall Meissner helped plan and build.

Meissner served as president of the CID board from 1971 to 1973. He introduced CID’s third director, Donald Calvert, PhD (1972–1989) to the board.



## CID is in board’s DNA

The CID board of directors is composed of 60 professionals, from age 29 to 92 and many walks of life, serving on eight active governing committees.

New members are elected every year (see page 5) to bring fresh expertise to an already multi-talented, dedicated CID board. Currently, 27 members have served for less than 10 years, 15 have served between 10 and 20 years and 15 have served for more than 20 years. Five life members have over 40 years of service: Paul Arenberg and Florence Hawes, parents of CID graduates, 1954 CID alumnus William Bixby Sheldon, Edwin B. Meissner, Jr. (see article to the left) and John Weil.

At least seven board members and the executive director have parents and/or grandparents with history at CID. Laurie Miller (shown above with her second cousin, board president Ralph W. Kalish, Jr.) is the great granddaughter of

CID founder Max Goldstein, MD, the granddaughter of Helen Wolff, and the daughter of Norman C. Wolff, Jr., board members from 1922 to 1945 and 1966 to 2009, respectively.

The lineage of current CID board members also includes: life member Michael Freund’s grandmother, Sadye Edison, who served from 1937 to 1979; Steve McMillan’s grandmother, Arla McMillan (1958–1985) and father, William B. McMillan (1985–2005); Edwin B. Meissner, Jr.’s father, Edwin B. Meissner, Sr. (1927–1956), and William B. Sheldon’s mother, Lillian Bixby Sheldon (1943–1969). Barbara Morris’ mother, Mary Burton, served from 1956 to 1983. The table in CID’s conference room was her family dining room table.

The list also includes executive director (and non-voting board member) Robin Feder’s mother, Joy Melman, a CID teacher in the late 1940s.

\*Known current board members’ family with past service also include S. Charles Baer, Jr., S. Charles Baer Sr., Sidney Baer and Marie Baer (Faye-Beth O’Byrne’s son and late husband, brother-in-law and mother-in-law), Sara Goldstein (Linda Goldstein’s mother-in-law), Nancy Fox (Michael Freund’s daughter), I.A. Stevens, Wade Childress and Fielding Childress (William Sheldon’s great uncle, grandfather-in-law and uncle-in-law). Tom Jayne and his son-in-law, Kwame’ Curtis currently serve together on the board.

## United Way allocates \$192,693

As a proud member of the United Way of Greater St. Louis, CID receives significant annual funding, including \$192,693 for the year 2010.

The United Way contributes to a healthy community by helping CID teach children who are deaf and hard of hearing to listen, talk, read and succeed. Each year, CID meets a series of

guidelines to maintain this important affiliation. A team of United Way volunteers and board members meets to review governance, programs, finance and administration.

Generous St. Louis community support enables the United Way to target funding for more than 200 local charitable agencies, including CID since 1923.



Bud Meissner remembers his dad, EBM Sr., buying turkeys wholesale and roasting them to serve at annual board meetings. In 1966, Bud continued his family tradition, doing the honors with fellow board member James Grove.





## *CID: A Journey* Photography by Tom Rollins

2006 CID graduate Ryan Roberts became the subject of photographer Tom Rollins' attention as he had fun with a classmate in second grade. Zoë and Leila were engrossed in reading in the CID pre-k.

*CID: A Journey* is a vivid way to share the story of CID. Find it at <http://cid.edu>.

*Looking for a gift for a person who has everything? Consider a tribute donation to CID to honor a loved one, to help celebrate a special occasion or milestone – or just to acknowledge someone who has special meaning in your life.*

## CID Tribute Gifts 11/1/09–4/30/10

### IN HONOR OF:

**John Arenberg**  
Mr. Steven M. Arenberg

**Steven M. Arenberg**  
Mr. John Arenberg  
Mr. Paul M. Arenberg  
Ms. Susan Arenberg  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Arenberg

**Sally Atkins**  
Mr. W. Scot Atkins

**The Campbell Family**  
The Thomas Family

**The Carver Family**  
The Thomas Family

**Sue Christman**  
Ms. Lucy Christman

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*CORRECTIONS: In a previous issue of sound effects, we incorrectly stated two facts. Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz holds an EdD (not a PhD). His wife, Vicki, left CID for public school in 1958 (not 1954).*



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## Mother and daughter celebrate together

Avani and Geeta Shandilya

In May, Geeta Shandilya had a lot of accomplishments to celebrate. She earned a master's degree in deaf education from the Washington University School of Medicine Program in Audiology and Communication Sciences (PACS). Her daughter Avani graduated from CID.

Geeta and her husband, Vijay, moved their family from India to Florida when Avani was 6 months old. They planned to return to their country in a few years, but about a month later they began to realize Avani was not receiving auditory information. Testing revealed profound

deafness – news with extra cultural implications for the family.

“In an Indian school, you have to know at least three languages to survive,” Geeta said. “These include the national language and both parents’ regional languages. It was horrifying to think Avani would not have any language.”

So the family spent all of their money on cab fare to go to speech therapy twice a week while they explored programs to help Avani learn to talk. She received a cochlear implant at 17 months and attended Clarke School in Florida, where Mom

became interested in teaching. “In deaf education, I saw a miracle happening right in front of my eyes,” Geeta said. “I wanted to be part of that.”

Geeta and Avani have continued their educations in St. Louis for the past two years. In May, mother and daughter participated together in the traditional shared recognition ceremony among nine graduates of CID and 22 future audiologists and teachers of the deaf from PACS.

Avani is 7. In the fall, she will attend second grade in a neighborhood school and her mom will join the CID teaching staff.