

PHONAK life is on

New Product Demonstrations
Kirkland - Wednesday, March 10
Redmond - Thursday, March 11
Bellevue - Friday, March 12

Wine-and-Cheese reception
Join Phonak audiology expert
Nikolas Klakow and our doctors of
audiology for a special night.

Thursday, March 11th
5:00-6:30pm - Kirkland office

You're Invited!

Join us March 10, 11 and 12 for a three-day special event introducing our new products and partnership with Phonak. Technology expert and audiologist Nikolas Klakow will be present to assist you with any questions on the new hearing instruments and provide you with more information on Phonak. Call 425-454-1883 or email info@everhear.com to reserve your spot in the three-day special event.

We'll also host a wine-and-cheese reception in our Kirkland office, on Thursday March 11th from 5:00-6:30. You'll have the opportunity to sample Washington wines while asking questions to Nikolaas Klakow and the doctors of audiology from Evergreen.

If you are interested in joining us for the wine-and-cheese reception, please RSVP to Jody at info@everhear.com or 425-882-4347.

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Evergreen Speech & Hearing Clinic

We're Getting Social!

Join us online for new product information, special events and community involvement. We'll also have special contests and deals through our fan page.

So go ahead, jump online, and join the social movement.

Find us by searching Facebook for Evergreen Speech and Hearing Clinic, or click on the link on the "Contact Us" section of everhear.com.

everhear.com

Evergreen Speech & Hearing Clinic

Managing your hearing, speech, and balance needs since 1979

Winter 2010

New Technology Partnership Welcoming Phonak to the Clinic



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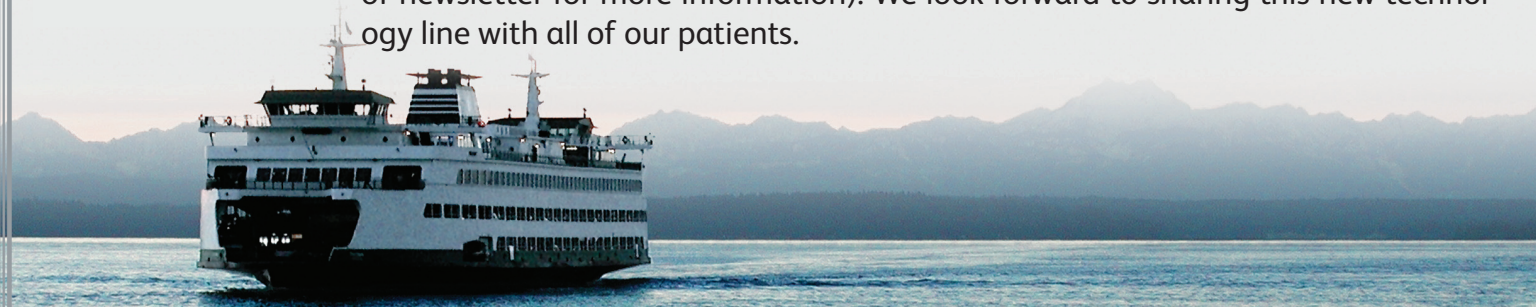
4 You're Invited! Phonak special event information
We're getting social

As a part of continuing efforts to provide the newest and most efficient hearing-instrument technology, Evergreen Speech and Hearing is excited to announce a new partnership with hearing instrument manufacturer Phonak. Headquartered near Zurich, Switzerland, Phonak has developed, produced and globally distributed state-of-the-art hearing systems and wireless devices for more than 50 years. The partnership matches the professional expertise of the clinical audiologists with the mastery in acoustics allowing the clinic to significantly improve people's hearing ability and speech understanding.

Phonak brings a new level of hearing technology to the clinic with the Audéo SMART, the world's smallest hearing instrument with full wireless functionality, manual control and unlimited connectivity. This addition allows patients to be even more in control of their hearing in all of the various everyday situations they face. The features of Audéo SMART include SoundRecover, which brings high-frequency information down into the patient's more audible lower frequency range; ZoomControl, which allows the ability to choose the direction of hearing; SoundFlow, which provides smooth transitions between different listening situations; Directionality with VoiceZoom, which is a dual microphone technology with improved speech intelligibility in noise; and DuoPhone, which provides optimal understanding on the phone through bilateral hearing.

"We have had excellent feedback from our patients and audiologists over the Phonak line of instruments, and we have been able to deal more effectively with feedback issues and hearing performance in background noise," said Thomas Norwood, Doctor of Audiology. "Patients are reporting that the instruments are more natural in sound quality than what they have experienced in the past."

In celebration of the new partnership, Evergreen will host a special event for our patients March 10-12 in all three locations to introduce the new products (see back of newsletter for more information). We look forward to sharing this new technology line with all of our patients.



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SPEECH ORIENTATION

In a continual effort to improve our patient care and communication between therapists and families, the speech department has recently revamped our orientation process. We know starting therapy can sometimes be a daunting process full of mixed emotions, and we want to make sure we provide our families with the support they need! Effective therapy truly is a partnership between our families and our clinicians, and there is no better time to establish this partnership than from the very beginning of the journey.

We recognize that you have many clinics to choose from in our area, and we believe the orientation process to be invaluable in establishing a relationship with you! By providing an orientation, we strive to convey the ways in which therapy happens by helping you learn what to expect, as well as providing a brief and comprehensive look at our clinic and philosophy. The initial session of therapy is dedicated to opening the door to an ongoing dialogue about your journey and our role in it. We look forward to sharing our new process with you and hope you see the benefit of this jump start to a journey of communication.

PROMPT: *The speech department adds a new approach to speech therapy*



The speech department seeks to stay up-to-date in the field of speech-language pathology through best practices and continued education. Each therapist at Evergreen is encouraged to attend courses, workshops and classes, keeping the therapy skills of the team at the highest level of patient care.

In November, speech-language pathologist Kate Piant attended a PROMPT (Prompts for Restructuring Oral-Muscular Phonetic Targets) training workshop

in downtown Seattle. The PROMPT program utilizes a tactile-kinesthetic approach within therapy. During therapy, the speech therapist is able to help manually guide articulators to better support the jaw movement and alignment required for speech. This process allows patients to maximize his/her potential for communication by developing and improving motor control, cognitive skills and social interactions.

The entire speech team has dedicated weekly meetings to discussing the approaches of PROMPT and proper use in therapy settings. PROMPT therapy will be added to our current therapy approaches for the articulation and phonology programs.

Community Spotlight: Global Foundation for Children with Hearing Loss, *making hearing health care a global issue*

At a recent conference, Evergreen Speech and Hearing Clinic was introduced to a local non-profit organization, Global Foundation for Children with Hearing Loss. The organization is using local resources to aid hearing-impaired students and their teachers in developing countries, basing their work off of their own experiences with hearing impairment. The stories and people working for the organization inspired us, and we want to share with you, our patients, the compassion and medical care that is being spread from the Pacific Northwest to the world.

Paige Stringer, founder of the nonprofit, was born profoundly hard of hearing, but with the benefits of early identification, hearing instruments and professional expertise, she was able to effectively and accurately manage her hearing, as was essential to her early childhood language development. Being able to join her hearing peers throughout grade school and on to college,

“I know that the success I’ve had would not have been possible without the resources and technical support that I received in my earliest years,” Stringer affirmed.

After a visit to Southeast Asia in 2008, Stringer noticed the substantial lack of teacher expertise and resources to help children with hearing loss. Using her experience and profes-



sional contacts, she decided to create the Global Foundation for Children with Hearing Loss the next year, hoping to provide hearing-impaired children in developing countries, such as the ones she visited, access to at least some of the resources and education she was fortunate to have.

The main goal of the organization is to train the teachers of hearing-impaired students to equip them with effective strategies to enhance the students’ ability to learn and progress through their education. To do this,

15 educational teachers of the deaf, speech-language pathologists and audiologists will travel to Vietnam to run workshops for 85 teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing from 34 schools this summer, with the hopes that two similar trips will be made the following summers.

“The course of our lives is greatly influenced by where we are born and the opportunities that are afforded to us,” Stringer said. “It didn’t seem fair that these kids wouldn’t have as much opportunity for life achievement simply because of geography and factors beyond their control.”

To make their work as comprehensive as possible, Global Foundation is working with talented speech and hearing experts from the Seattle area. “The educational curricula offered by [Global Foundation’s] month-long seminars in developing countries is helping to bridge the gap in hearing health care and expedite delivery of modern technology, educational strategies, and treatment regimens for hearing health-care providers,” said Fred D. Minifie, chairman of the board for the organization, University of Washington professor, and former president of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. “I find the vision of the Global Foundation to be a refreshing and innovative mechanism for helping transfer knowledge from the United States to hearing health-care providers in developing countries.”

Information regarding the group and how to help can be found on their website at www.childrenwithhearingloss.org.



Photos: left - Children at the Thuan An Center in South Vietnam. above - Vietnamese teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing working in the classroom. Children celebrating their new hearing instruments.