



A SOUTH AFRICAN COCHLEAR IMPLANT ASSOCIATION

Imagine not being able to hear your name being called. Imagine not hearing your mom and dad's voice. Imagine not being able to hear music or the rain falling, or leaves rustling in the wind Imagine, just imagine **the sound of silence.**

Imagine this could all change overnight.....Together we can witness miracles happen

In 2001, **Hear Us** was established by parents of deaf children who have cochlear implants. The vision is to assist children and adults to obtain a cochlear implant so as to facilitate their learning to speak and become part of the hearing world. Hear Us is registered and regulated as a non-profit organisation and operates in close association with the Cochlear Implant Unit at Tygerberg Hospital University of Stellenbosch in Cape Town.

Hear Us Mission:

Financially support deaf people from disadvantaged backgrounds to obtain cochlear implants and to give support to the hearing impaired and their families to realise their full potential in the hearing world.

Hear Us Values:

Integrity, Empathy, Accountability, Visionary and Courage.

Aims: The function of **Hear Us** is twofold:

Fundraising, money raised is allocated in two ways:

- to financially assist deaf adults and children who are candidates for cochlear implantation with the costs of the cochlear implant hardware.
- And, to financially assist the Tygerberg Hospital, University of Stellenbosch, Cochlear Implant Unit, with operating costs.

Support and Information to any patients, professionals, families, or interested parties about cochlear implantation



Hear Us tell our story:

“A new world opened up for us when Lindi received her first cochlear implant at the age of 6 months. It is wonderful to see how she reacts to sound and her name. Just before her first birthday she received her second implant” - Mariza, mother of Lindi Walters

“My speech has also improved and I am able to communicate more in the hearing world” – Darren Archer born deaf and implanted at age 24

“The day of the switch-on I could not believe I was hearing the rain, the wind and the music on my car radio. Two months on I am back at work, involved in meetings and hearing my colleagues around a conference table”- Diane Gurland became increasingly deaf since the age of 40

Why partner with Hear Us?

The cause we serve:

Hundreds of individuals, who may never have had any hope of hearing or communicating attest to the quality of life that has been afforded to them through a Cochlear Implant.

The multidisciplinary team made up of ENT Surgeons, A Radiologist, Audiologists, Speech Therapists and Occupational Therapists are all visionary in their own right. Each patient is treated as an individual with their best interests at heart.

As a Non-Profit Organisation, we consistently show our partners and supporters the value of their investment, through rigorous financial control on spending and prudent investment of funds donated. We will acknowledge your support for Hear Us and would be honoured to add your brand name to our website banner and in Newsletters.

Compliance:

As a registered Non-Profit Organisation, and Public Benefit Organisation, in terms of Section 18a of the Income Tax Act, Hear Us is authorised to issue Tax donation receipts.

The Implant:

Hearing Aids can often not provide sufficient benefit for people who have a severe to profound hearing loss. Although the sound may be amplified, the speech remains unclear. Cochlear implants bypass the damaged inner ear part, stimulating the hearing nerve fibres directly and hence delivering sound directly to the brain.

Hearing Loss occurs in new born infants more frequently than any other health condition for which new born screening is required. In South Africa 17 babies are born daily with hearing loss and 7.5% of the school children suffer from varying degrees of hearing loss.

Cochlear Implantation can be called a modern miracle and is now firmly established as an effective option in the rehabilitation of children and adults with severe to profound hearing loss. Hearing Aids can often not provide sufficient benefit for individuals suffering with profound hearing loss. Although the sounds may be amplified, the speech remains unclear. The implant bypasses the damaged inner ear part, stimulating the hearing nerve fibres directly and hence delivering sound perfectly to the brain.

A Cochlear Implant is not a miracle but it makes miracles happen.

