



**The University of Illinois at Chicago
Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery**

Purpose

The “Now Hear This!” Fund was established to advance the quality of life and treatment for patients who are deaf or who experience hearing loss.

The inability to hear can cause significant developmental problems for children and young adults. It also drastically reduces the quality of life for individuals that experience hearing loss in later stages of life. The consequences of hearing loss are often a withdrawal from social, family, and work arenas and increased rates of depression. Currently, some **31 million Americans are deaf or have hearing loss!** With the Baby Boomer generation reaching retirement, this number is expected to double by the year 2030. The “Now Hear This!” Fund, through partnerships with the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary’s Audiology, Otology, Neurotology and Speech Pathology specialties, will be able to help these patients!

Goal

The “Now Hear This!” Fund is a charitable non-profit organization established by the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary. The Fund was created in response to the limited financial resources available to many individuals and families touched by deafness or hearing loss. The “Now Hear This!” Fund will enhance awareness within the community regarding decreasing sources of funds to pay for assistance and treatment for those experiencing hearing loss or deafness.

The “Now Hear This!” Fund is governed by an Advisory Council. Our Council is committed to increasing public sensitivity to the issues through community outreach and fundraising efforts. The “Now Hear This!” Fund Advisory Council will establish a **Patient Resource Center** where patients and their families can go to learn about hearing loss, communication strategies, treatment options/outcomes and rehabilitation. They will provide financial assistance to those in need who are candidates for hearing loss treatments or rehabilitation.

Experience

The Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary (IEEI) offers the most comprehensive hearing healthcare services. This includes Audiology and Speech pathology rehabilitative care, Otolaryngology and Neurotology surgical care. Miriam Saadia-Redleaf MD, a leading Neurotologist, heads the surgical team, and is partnered with University Illinois Chicago's skull-based surgical team. This team includes neurosurgery, psychiatry, social work, and audiology services.

Rehabilitative care at the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary includes technological support, hearing aids, and hearing implants, such as **Cochlear implants, Auditory Brainstem Implants, Bone-Anchored-Hearing Aids** (BAHA) and counseling on communication strategies for patients and their families. Through the shared expertise and the diverse clinical specialization at the University of Illinois-Chicago, the program provides great value to children, their families, and an adult population.

Giving

Contributions can be made by accessing the Fund website at [.nowhearthisfund.](http://nowhearthisfund.org) or through a check made payable to **UIF – Now Hear This** and mailed to:

The "Now Hear This!" Fund c/o Janine Sacco
Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary
1855 West Taylor Street, Room 2.42
Chicago, IL 60612

Email [@uic.](mailto:nowhearthis@uic.edu) regarding questions about contributions.

All donations are tax deductible. The University of Illinois Foundation (UIF) is incorporated as a 501(c) (3) public tax-exempt charitable organization (Tax ID # 37-6006007).