

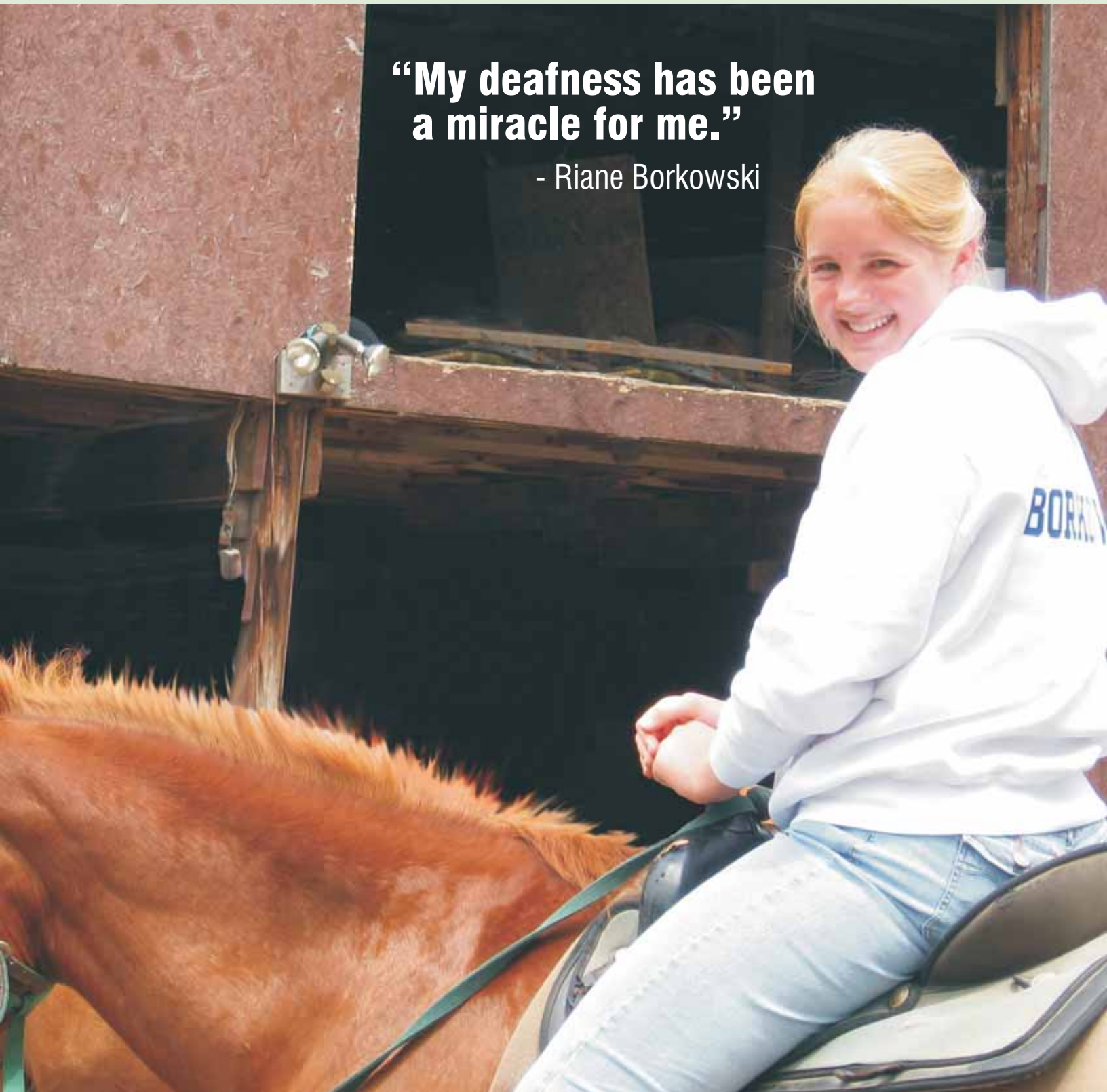


# Holley Ear Institute

SPRING · 2008      A · NEWSLETTER · FOR · THE · COMMUNITY

**“My deafness has been  
a miracle for me.”**

- Riane Borkowski



▶ Meet Riane

▶ Life, Language and Hearing

▶ Screening Newborns

▶ Volunteers Honored

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have just finished a wonderful weekend workshop with 21 Deaf children, six Deaf chaperones, three Deaf directors (including two Deaf actresses) and three Deaf volunteers. I watched the children and listened to their laughter – laughter that only I could hear, and a joyful feeling came over me. They were happy, as children should be, and so was I.

The children were happy, despite the struggle of putting up with a hearing world that does not include them in very much at all. Happy, despite that around seven of them did not have parents but instead lived with foster parents. Happy, despite the fact that they did not hear each other's laughter as I did, nor did they hear the spring robin outside of the window or the barking of my golden retriever trying to get in for some TLC. However, they did see the smiles on each other's faces, felt the hugs when they did a good job, tasted the great food the kitchen staff prepared for them and deeply looked into each other's eyes as they signed in their language. My constant feeling was – I wish they could all stay here and just be children...

Thank you for the Village – so many of you made this happen!

Unfortunately, children cannot remain children forever. They must grow and move on to new experiences. Just as they age and change, so too does the Family Village. You cannot have three huge, yet wonderful buildings here at the Village for 12 years and think they remain perfectly in tact. They do not.

With the hundreds of people who come here for weeks at a time, the buildings are beginning to look and feel their age. There is always more painting, more drywall and tile repairs to be done, and another furnace that is not working. The melting of this winter's horrible snow and ice has led to leaks in all three buildings. More repairs, carpet replacement and the list goes on and on....

See the photos citing the beginning of renovation. We will need to call upon you again, the work here is too important, too badly needed for it not be endowed for the future. Join us in this endeavor. Let's make the Capital Campaign that has begun the best we have had and one that will ensure that these children, and those that follow them, will be happy, will be served, will be encouraged, will feel loved and will continue to feel the Village is their Village, one they call there own-----help us do that, will you please.



## Beginning of Renovation at Holley Family Village



Summer is coming. I pray the sun shine warmly on all you do, that your days are full of happy times with those you love.

Sincerely,

*Ardis J. Gardella*  
Ardis J. Gardella  
President

*Holley*  
**Ear Institute**

Serving the Deaf,  
Deaf/Blind and hard of hearing

[www.stjohn.org/hei](http://www.stjohn.org/hei)

Meet Riane Borkowski . . . . .	3	Distinguished Volunteers . . . . .	6
Life, Language and Hearing . . . . .	4	St. Nicholas Christmas Party . . . . .	6
Newborn Hearing Screening . . . . .	5	News & Calendar of Events . . . . .	7

22151 Moross Road, PB I · Suite 223 · Detroit · MI 48236 · phone (313) 343-3165 · tty (313) 343-8789

# “My deafness has been a miracle for me”

Meet Riane Borkowski

**R**iane was born Deaf and began school when she was 3 years old. As she entered elementary school, she was mainstreamed into hearing classes with an interpreter. She took both speech and sign language and is fluent in both English and her native language, American Sign Language.

At age 5, Riane received a cochlear implant and heard sound for the first time. She heard so much sound, that when she first heard water dripping, it sounded like a drum beating in her head and gave her a severe headache. She tried pulling her implant off but was stopped by her mother, who did not understand what was happening. The implant had to be reprogrammed to resolve the problem.

She also remembers her first word in sign language, “birdie” and recalls it with great joy.

Riane is very aware that she lives in two worlds, the world of hearing and the world of Deaf. She feels her primary world is “Deaf” and prefers this to the hearing world. She refers to her deafness as a miracle given to her. She loves her Deaf friends, her Deaf culture and HER language, ASL.

Riane is very conscious that her parents and many friends live in a “hearing world.” Balancing these two worlds in her



Riane Borkowski (right),  
Holley Family Village Counselor

life can be very difficult, but she feels deeply that her true world is that of the Deaf. When she is at school and in her classroom, she can hear most of what the teachers say. But, if the teacher turns to the side or turns to the blackboard, Riane’s contact with the teacher ends, as she cannot make out her words. That is when her interpreter begins to assist.

Like many cochlear implant recipients, Riane does not wear hers all the time. She never wears it while on the trampoline as all she hears is static. Nor can she wear her cochlear implant in the water, during activities such as swimming. During these times she is totally Deaf...

Though Riane has started college with an interpreter at a hearing institution, she is not sure what she really wants to study or what career path she might follow. But, we here at the Family Village know that whatever career Riane decides upon, it will be right for her and that she will be an asset wherever she ends up. Best of luck to you and with your studies Riane!

*For additional information about cochlear implants, please visit [www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/007203.htm](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/007203.htm)*

**4th Deaf Arts Festival**  
www.deafartsfestival.org

**Featuring...**  
Bernard Bragg, Peter Cook,  
Rosa Lee and Mindy & Theron  
Master & Mistress of Ceremonies  
Tony McGregor and Camille Lorello

Fine Art Exhibits Art Craft Booths Student Art Gallery

**20 Sept. 2008**  
DeSales Center - Holley Family Village  
1124 Ventura Drive Brooklyn, MI 49230  
10 am - 8 pm \$5.00 Parking



# Life, Language and Hearing

William J. Rice MD

**H**ave you ever wondered what life is? I don't mean the meaning of life or the purpose of life or even how life comes about. What I'm talking about is what are we doing when we are living our life? If someone says, "Get a life" or "Life is Good", what do they mean?

A few years ago I pondered this question and decided the way to find an answer was to record all the things I do each day. Certainly these things I do each day must be what life or living is. To look at this further, I divided the usual activities of daily living into categories:

1. **Personal Maintenance**  
This includes activities such as sleeping, eating, showering, shopping, dressing, etc.
2. **Occupational**  
This includes just the actual doing of work, e.g. surgery or examining a patient in my case.
3. **Leisure**  
This would include sports, theater, travel, dining out, etc.
4. **Communication (with My Fellow Human Beings)**  
This includes conversations, writing, reading, listening to the radio or TV, telephone use, email and web use, etc.
5. **Inner Life**  
This is the time spent having that inner conversation that we all have with ourselves. Thinking is included in this category. Many philosophers, psychologists, psychiatrists and religious thinkers feel this is the most important part of life.

## Life is Communication

To my surprise most of the day was spent in the category called Communication. Maintenance, leisure and occupational categories often were hard to separate from the communication category. This was because frequently, I would find myself reading, talking or listening while working, thinking or doing these other activities.

I had to conclude that life for the most part was communicating with my fellow man. This seemed strange to me so I looked at a variety of different occupations. No matter what occupation I chose, communication was what most people spent most of their day doing. In a sense we are all in the communication business! The tool that we use for all this communication is called language.

Now you might wonder about the time we spend alone where there is no TV, radio, telephone, or anything to read. This too is part of living, but we are not communicating with our fellow man. We are thinking though, and/or having a

conversation with our inner self. Most experts think this inner life communication uses, to a large extent, the same language we use in our external communications.

So language seems to be the key to what we call life.



## Language Defines us as Human

Scientists tell us that our sophisticated language is principally what separates us from other forms of life - especially from other mammals. This language processing and interpretation takes up the greater part of the increased brain size of man – another characteristic that separates us from lower animals.

So, what defines us as humans, and the very essence of what we humans call life, is intimately connected to language.

## Our Language is Based on Hearing

Our world has two languages: Oral/Aural Language and Sign Language. Oral means sounds created by the larynx and the upper respiratory tract. Aural means sounds perceived by the ear and passed along to the brain for interpretation. More than 99% of the world's population uses this Oral/Aural language. There are over 3,000 variations of Oral/Aural language. This paper is written in one of those variations called the English language. The written language is simply a visual representation of our spoken language. The Oral/Aural Language is based on hearing.

If you are born Deaf you will probably use Sign language and represent 1% of the world's population. Sign Language is a wonderful and rich language, it is visually based and quite different from the hearing based Oral/Aural language.

## Be Aware – Hearing is very Important

Knowing how important language is, helps us understand how even a small hearing loss can have significant effect on our quality of life. The major effect of a hearing loss is isolation. The isolation is from our friends, families and fellow human beings. This isolation caused by hearing loss is not well understood by most of us. It may be that we miss the punch line of a joke and therefore miss the enjoyment of that moment. Or it could be so severe that we cannot use the telephone, have a meaningful conversation with a friend or even function in our occupation. Those of us with normal hearing can also be affected. We miss the joy of conversations with our friend who misunderstands us, are frustrated by the interruptions to the flow of group conversations involving a person with a hearing loss, or we may worry that our important message is not understood.

*Continued on Page 5*

# In My Own Words: What my volunteer experience means to me

Ann Allen

**S**creening a newborn for hearing loss requires compassion and personal care. What does it mean to you to provide this service as a volunteer?

*Knowing that this procedure can make a difference in a newborn's life is very important to me. We are all very blessed to live in a community that cares for the well being of all children. Each test conducted means awareness for everyone's family.*



**How do parents of newborns respond to the assistance that you provide?**

*Each parent is concerned with the health and well being of their child. By taking a few minutes to explain what is involved, especially to first time parents, they are very receptive to the procedure and grateful for the test.*

**When did you begin volunteering with the Holley Ear Institute?**

*I started with the Holley Ear Institute in August of 1999 after reading an article about the program in the Grosse Pointe News.*

**What influenced you to join the newborn hearing screening program?**

*Since I love anything with babies and had not volunteered for this type of organization before, it seemed like a win-win situation.*

**Attracting the best people helps ensure that all of the nearly 4,000 babies born at St. John Hospital and Medical Center are screened for hearing loss. Do you have any words of encouragement to those considering volunteering with the Holley Ear Institute?**

*I genuinely believe that giving of your time and talents is an important part of being a good neighbor. Often times, people tend to think that they cannot help. But, if you do not get out and try, you will be missing a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in our society.*

If you are interested in volunteering to help with newborn hearing screenings, please contact Jill Wells, Manager – Department of Audiology, at 313-343-4046.



## *Life, Language and Hearing from page 4*

Since life, language and hearing are so closely intertwined, we should all be concerned about hearing and hearing loss. We should be aware that even a mild hearing loss affects us as well as the people around us. Those who have a hearing loss should do everything possible to understand hearing loss. They need to maximize the hearing they have as well as preserve what hearing they still have. Those of us with good

hearing should protect it and do our best to understand, help and encourage those with hearing problems. The **Holley Ear Institute** can help us all to do these things and a lot more.

Stop in or call the Institute to learn of the many activities and programs that are available to you. Whether you have normal hearing, a hearing loss or have friends, family or associates with a hearing problem, the Holley Ear Institute can help.

## Volunteers honored for National Philanthropy Day

Jennifer Somes Chope and Melodie Scherer were recognized for their commitment and dedication to the Holley Ear Institute (HEI). They were honored as “Distinguished Volunteers” by the Greater Detroit Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals at the National Philanthropy Day Recognition Dinner, held November 15, at The Dearborn Inn, Dearborn.

Jennifer Somes Chope has generously given of her time to Holley Ear Institute since its founding in 1993. As an active member of HEI's fundraising committees and council, her efforts helped support construction of HEI's Family Village, which serves the Deaf, Deaf/Blind and hard of hearing, and continue to benefit its programs. Melodie Scherer is a dedicated council member of the HEI who began her involvement screening newborns for hearing loss. Her interest in helping the Deaf grew to hosting fundraisers in



Dr. William J. Rice, Vice President, HEI; Melodie Scherer, Jennifer Somes Chope and David M. Sessions, Vice President, Affiliated Services, St. John Hospital and Medical Center.

support of HEI's Family Village. She also learned and taught American Sign Language.

## Annual St. Nicholas Christmas Party Joyful and Triumphant!

The Holley Ear Institute's 2007 St. Nicholas Christmas Party was held on December 5 at the Country Club of Detroit. The event honored Dr. Frank and Karen Nesi and benefited programs for Deaf and hard of hearing children. The evening included cocktails, dinner and entertainment by Bobby Lewis and Gia Warner, the Grosse Pointe Academy Bell Choir and Detroit Day School for the Deaf Signing Choir. Thank you to all involved for making this St. Nicholas Christmas Party a great success!



Richard Lessway, Tricia Lessway, Ann Gardella, Sean Gardella



Santa Claus



Ardis Gardella, Dr. Frank Nesi, Karen Nesi, Dr. William Rice, Jill Gaus



Robert Ermanni, Aline Ermanni, Sally Cytacki

# New Officers of the Board of Directors

## Chairman



**John S. Scherer**  
Chairman, President, CEO  
Scherer, Inc.

Resides in:  
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI  
Spouse: Melodie

## Vice Chairman



**Jennifer Somes Chope**  
Artist/Owner  
JSC Design

Resides in:  
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI  
Spouse: William

## Treasurer



**Frank L. Campanale**  
Chairman and CEO  
Advanced Equities Wealth  
Management

Resides in:  
Orchard Lake, MI  
Spouse: Kimberly

## Secretary



**Sally Cytacki**  
Sales Consultant  
Saks Fifth Avenue

Resides in:  
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI  
Spouse: Walter

## Calendar of Events 2008

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 5, 2008	Council Meeting	Mack Office Building, Conf. Room C
June 5 – 8, 2008	Detroit Day School for the Deaf Drama Workshop	Family Village – De Sales Center
June 22 – 27, 2008	ASL Week	Family Village – De Sales Center
June 29 – July 4, 2008	Family Week I	Family Village – De Sales Center
July 6 – 11, 2008	Family Week II	Family Village – De Sales Center
July 13 – 18, 2008	Art Week	Family Village – De Sales Center
July 20 – 25, 2008	Deaf Youth Leadership Week	Family Village – De Sales Center
July 27 – August 1, 2008	Religious ASL Week	Family Village – De Sales Center
August 7 – 10, 2007	Deaf/Blind Week	Family Village – De Sales Center
August 10 – 15, 2007	A.C.O.R.N. Deaf Drama Week	Family Village – De Sales Center
August 25 – 29, 2007	Volunteer Week	Family Village – De Sales Center
September 20, 2008	Deaf Art Festival	Family Village – De Sales Center
December 3, 2008	St. Nicholas Christmas Party	Country Club of Detroit

# Holley Ear Institute

Professional Building One  
Suite 223  
22151 Moross Road  
Detroit, MI 48236-2172

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
St. John Health



## Holley Ear Institute Staff

Ardis J. Gardella  
Director

William J. Rice, MD  
Medical Director

Jaqueline Wetherholt, CSJ  
Coordinator

Gary R. Stark  
Development Officer

## Holley Family Village Staff

Fr. Paul Grehl, OSFS  
Finance

Paul Kuplicki  
Program Finance Officer

Diana Leatherman  
Facilities Coordinator

Molly Muller  
Summer Program Coordinator

## Program Directors:

Fr. Michael Depcik, OSFS  
Kathy Derderian  
Kid Black Fedio  
Jill Gaus  
Paul Kuplicki  
Sharon Meldrum  
Debbie Mitre-Smith  
Rose Smith

## Audiology Department

B. Jill Wells, MA CCC-A  
Manager, Audiology

Glenn Clippard, MA, CCC-A  
Audiologist

## **The Holley Ear Institute Board of Directors**

John S. Scherer – Chairman  
Jennifer Somes Chope – Vice Chairman  
Frank Campanale – Treasurer  
Sally Cytacki – Secretary

Ardis J. Gardella  
President - Ex-Officio  
William J. Rice, MD  
Vice President - Ex-Officio

Caprice W. W. Baun  
William A. Chope  
Ty Damon  
Kid Black Fedio

Sean D. Gardella  
Jan Goike  
Daniel Megler, MD  
Sharon Meldrum  
Frank A. Nesi, MD

Melodie Scherer  
Theresa Selvaggio  
David M. Sessions  
Robert E. Thoreson

## **Honorary and Founding Board**

John J. Ahee  
Marlene Boll  
Wade R. Edwards  
Ann Garberding  
Joan Gehrke  
Timothy J. Grajewski

Christopher Hunter  
Mary Lamparter  
Janet M. Loehr  
Michael A. McIlroy, MD  
Kenneth McKenna, OSFS  
Edward Russell, III

David G. Silvester  
Lydia Taylor  
Mary Ann Van Elslander  
Jacquie A. Wetherholt, CSJ  
Pamela A. Wong

The Holley Ear Institute, a non-profit organization founded in 1993, is a consortium of medical and non-medical professionals, as well as volunteers including: doctors, teachers, religious leaders, and support technicians. The Holley Ear Institute shares a close relationship with St. John Hospital and Medical Center. The mission of the Institute is to assist the Deaf, Deaf/Blind and hard of hearing and to provide services and programs aimed at improving their quality of life.