

# UNHS Day

## Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Day

April 27, 2007 - Sponsored by CHOICES for Parents



### Event Spotlights the Importance of UNHS Day

"We were blessed that Max was born in Illinois, a state that requires newborn hearing screening, otherwise we might not have known about his hearing loss," said mom, Kristen Van Dyke, at Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Day. "Because we knew early, we were able to make decisions that will help him communicate much sooner."

CHOICES for Parents sponsored its third annual Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Day on April 27th in Chicago. CHOICES for Parents provides immediate access to information, support and resources to parents whose children have recently been identified with a hearing loss. The successful event honored those who have made exceptional contributions to the field of screening, identifying, and providing follow-up to infants who have recently been diagnosed with a hearing loss.

John Miller, Director of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission, presented the proclamation from Governor Rod Blagojevich which stated in part that the "State of Illinois realizes the importance of universal newborn hearing screening and its impact on not only the lives of our children but their families and communities as well." Ginger Mullin, Coordinator of the Illinois Newborn Hearing Program, reported that Illinois is doing an outstanding job of screening newborns. "Ninety-nine percent of all newborns reported to the Illinois Department of Public Health are screened," stated Ginger. "That's a phenomenal achievement."

Honored this year were: Karen Muñoz, an audiologist at Northern Illinois University, who provides technical assistance on a national and international level for the early identification and management of hearing loss; Daksha Patel, a neonatologist and pediatrician, who developed a core curriculum for pediatric residents regarding newborn hearing loss that was introduced at the University of Chicago Hospital and carried to the national level; and Sarah Saettele, Developmental Therapist/Hearing at the Kline House of Illinois School for the Deaf, who serves 52 counties in southern Illinois.

As Hadley Haas, mother of Bennett, emphasized at UNHS Day, "Illinois Newborn Hearing Screening has been a wonderful thing for many kids. Early intervention has been so crucial in changing the lives of so many kids."

CHOICES for Parents, and its coalition of parents and professionals agree. For more information about UNHS Day, or our resource binder *Babies and Hearing Loss* (available in English and Spanish, text and CD), please contact CHOICES for Parents at 312.523.6400 or 866.733.8729 (outside of the Chicago area) or email us at [choicesforparents@yahoo.com](mailto:choicesforparents@yahoo.com).

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### CHOICES for Parents

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**Professional members of CHOICES for Parents include:** *Alternatives in Education for the Hearing Impaired, Catholic Office of the Deaf, Chicago Hearing Society a division of Anixter Center, Child's Voice, Children's Memorial Hospital, Cochlear Americas, Deaf Access Program Mt. Sinai, Foundation for Speech and Hearing Rehabilitation, Hearing and Vision Connections, HITEC, Illinois Service Resource Center, International Center on Deafness and the Arts, Low Incidence Cooperative Agreement, MENDAC Institute on Early Childhood, and Sertoma Speech and Hearing Center.*

**L** Bennett Haas, son of Hadley Haas.

**R** Karen Aguilar, Coordinator,  
CHOICES for Parents.



**L** John Miller, Director,  
Illinois Deaf and Hard of  
Hearing Commission.

**R** Ginger Mullin, Coordinator,  
Illinois Newborn Hearing Program.



**L** Honorees: Daksha Patel, Neonatologist  
and Pediatrician, La Rabida  
Children's Hospital; Sarah Saettele,  
Developmental Therapist/Hearing,  
Kline House of Illinois School for the  
Deaf; and Karen Muñoz, Audiologist,  
Northern Illinois University.

**R** Hadley Haas and Kristen Van Dyke.



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CHOICES for Parents coordinator,  
Karen Aguilar, met State  
Senator Susan Garrett and State  
Representative Karen May at the  
Glencoe Public Library's town hall  
meeting. Ms. Aguilar had a chance to  
speak with both legislators about the  
importance of funding for newborn  
hearing screening and follow-up.

