



**HEAR
THE WORLD
FOUNDATION**

a Sonova Group initiative

Supporting Children and Families Around the World: The Work of the Hear the World Foundation

Richard Seewald

Member of the Hear the World Foundation Advisory Board





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What do Old Pediatric Audiologists do when they Retire?



Richard Seewald

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About the Hear the World Foundation

Who we are and how we work with our project partners



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Hear the World Foundation – A Sonova Group Initiative



Since 2006, the Hear the World Foundation has been **committed to improving the quality of life** and promoting equal opportunities for people with hearing loss globally.

The Foundation has a special focus on projects that **support children in reaching their development milestones** and realizing their full potential in life.

Over the past decade



Categories of Projects Funded

The Foundation supports projects that primarily focus on:



The provision of hearing health care services to children;



Projects that support parents and families;



Projects with a focus on the prevention of hearing loss;



Projects that facilitate professional education and training.

Note: - Applicants can apply for 1, 2 or 3-5 years of funding.

Application Review Process

- **Annual Call for Proposals (Deadline: January 31):**
99 applications received and reviewed in 2016
- **Request for Full Applications:**
36 were invited to submit a Full Application
- **Approval:**
11 new projects were selected for funding



Criteria for Evaluating Proposals

- Overall **quality and feasibility** of the proposal
- **Professionalism and credibility** of the applicants
- Availability of **local resources** to implement the work
- **Capacity building** – will future capacity to deliver services be somehow increased or improved?
- **Sustainability** – will the project have a life beyond HtWF funding?



Our Current Projects

- Armenia
- Brazil
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Ghana
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- India
- Kiribati
- Moldova
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Peru
- USA
- Vietnam





The Hear the World Foundation Project in the Dominican Republic

Developing Best Practice in Pediatric Audiology

Centro Cristiano de Servicios Medicos and HTWF: The Beginning



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Our partnership began in 2009 when the Foundation received an application for a sound level meter to calibrate audiometers at this Centre



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Centro Cristiano de Servicios Medicos and the HTWF: The Beginning



2012: Request received for an Auditory Steady State Response system – not approved.

2012: On the basis of further interactions with this group, the Foundation funded two audiologists to spend one week with Dr. Patricia Roush and her team at the University of North Carolina to observe all components of a comprehensive pediatric service delivery program.



Centro Cristiano de Servicios Medicos and the HTWF: Building Capacity



2013: Their learnings from the visit with Pat Roush at UNC resulted in a new application requesting required instrumentation and training to move forward:

- Middle ear analyzer with 1000 Hz probe tone
- Two Audioscan hearing instrument fitting systems
- One ABR system
- 50 pediatric friendly hearing instruments
- One week of training from a Spanish-speaking master clinician.



Centro Cristiano de Servicios Medicos and the HTWF: Building Capacity

2013/2014:



- All requested equipment received
- One week of training provided with new instrumentation
- The first set of new fittings with digital instruments
- And, subsequently a visit the center to carry out a program evaluation and needs assessment.



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Centro Cristiano de Servicios Medicos and the HTWF: Building Capacity through Needs Assessment



2013: Results of program evaluation and needs assessment:

- Five well-trained and passionate clinicians (thanks to previous support from the Australian Foundation - EARS Inc.)
- Facility:
 - Acoustic treatment and electrical shielding
 - Infant and family friendly test environment
 - Infant screening equipment
- Hearing Instruments



Additional education and training for infant hearing screening

Centro Cristiano de Servicios Medicos and the HTWF: Building Capacity



2015: New application received for a five-year project.

Major Components:

- Complete renovation of existing space – costs covered by Center
- New infant/family friendly audiometric test chamber for infant diagnostic testing
- Development of an Infant Hearing Screening Program including all required instrumentation and training in the application of evidence-based protocols



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2015: New application received for a five-year project.

Major Components (continued):

- Development of an Audiology Educational Program (including partial tuition for students)
- Additional training in pediatric audiology with emphasis on the design and implementation of an infant hearing screening program
- 100 pediatric-friendly hearing instruments per year



Centro Cristiano de Servicios Medicos and the HTWF: Building Capacity

2016: Grand opening of the fully renovated facility:



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Centro Cristiano de Servicios Medicos and the HTWF: Building Capacity

2016: First stage implementation of newborn hearing screening



- Annual birthrate ~125,000/ year
- 629 newborns screened to date at the one NICU in the DR
- 8 have been diagnosed to have permanent hearing loss



Centro Cristiano de Servicios Medicos and the HTWF: Building Capacity

2016 – 2019: More work to do . . .



- To fit newly identified infants and children with modern technology
- To implement hearing screening at all birthing hospitals in the Dominican Republic and to accommodate an increase in the number of diagnostic assessments and hearing instrument fittings
- To systematically monitor the performance of the infant hearing screening program
- To continue the education of new professionals



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Jerrimer's Story





For more information please visit www.hear-the-world.com