



**GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER  
ROYAL ARCH MASONRY  
INTERNATIONAL**  
Organized October 24, 1797

**Giving Tuesday** Special Supplement December 2019

#GIVING  
TUESDAY

Support a precious  
link to your world,  
your hearing.  
Together we will  
help millions find  
their sound.

All gifts to HHF doubled December 3.

Remember December 3rd is GIVING TUESDAY.

This is just some of the research that is going on  
with the help of the Royal Arch Research Assistance.



## HHF's 4-Star Charity Navigator Rating Renewed

On Nov. 1, [Charity Navigator rated us 4 stars](#) — indicating we are accountable, transparent, and financially healthy — for the fourth year in a row. Only one-quarter of nonprofits evaluated earn the 4-star distinction from Charity Navigator. The rating places HHF in a renowned group of charities working diligently to overcome one of the world's most pressing health challenges: the prevention, treatment, and cure of hearing and balance conditions.



**EMERGING  
RESEARCH  
GRANTS**

### Early Intervention Helps Children's Working Memory and Phonological Awareness

Emerging Research Grants (ERG) scientist Christina Reuterskiöld, Ph.D., was published in *Frontiers in Psychology* for her [study of the relationship among rhyme awareness](#) (the first phonological skill children develop), vocabulary size, working memory and linguistic characteristics of words in children with typical hearing and children with cochlear implants. The research underscores the importance of early treatment for hearing loss. Reuterskiöld's ERG grant was generously funded by the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International.

### A New Model for How Difficulties with Speech Processing Impacts Listening in Humans

Findings derived from ERG grantee Richard A. Felix, Ph.D.'s [new mouse model to better understand auditory processing](#) were recently published in the *Journal of Neurophysiology*. Felix and team manipulated the CHRNA7 gene, which is considered to be a primary candidate gene causing a wide spectrum of neurodevelopmental disorders, including autism spectrum disorder. Felix's ERG grant was generously funded by the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International.

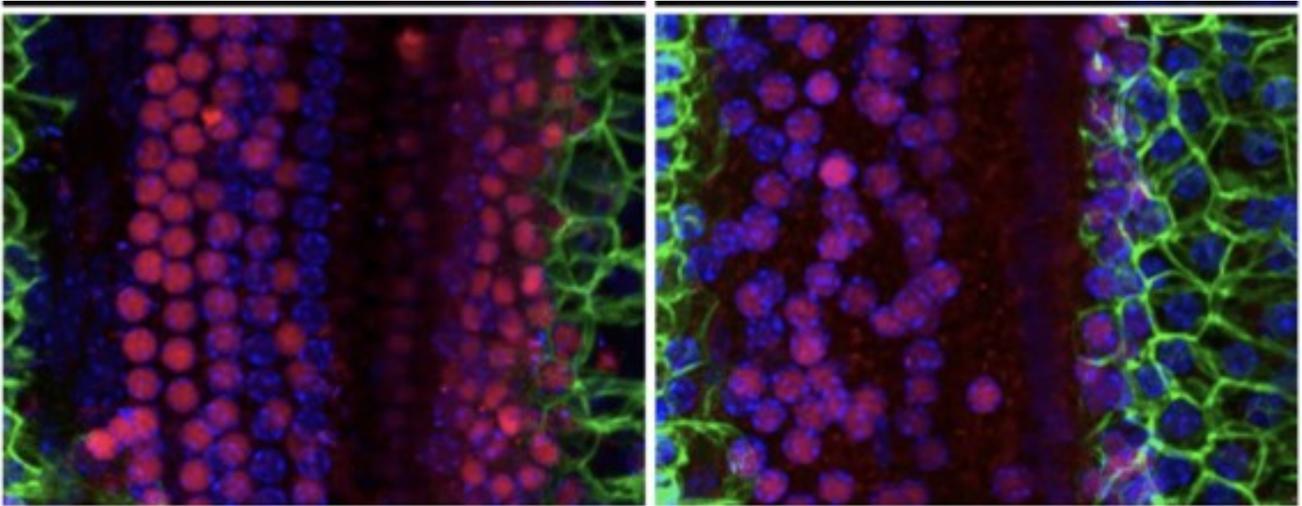


**EMERGING  
RESEARCH  
GRANTS**



[HHF leaders John Dillard and Timothy Higdon are two U.S. Army veterans](#) who bring, collectively, over four decades of military service to HHF as its Board Chair and CEO, respectively. They share the perspectives and experiences gained from their service in the military and what they hope to accomplish in their new roles.

Here is a photo taken at Hearing Health party to welcome the new CEO, Timothy Higdon. Left to right in the photo are: Timothy Higdon; Edmund D. Harrison, Past President of RARA; Harold Kahn, Associate Chaplin of General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International; Dr. Amil Lalwani, Member of the Board of Hearing Health and Head of Council of Scientific Trustees of Hearing Health. The event took place on Nov.6 at the offices of Hearing Health at 363 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY.



### **Recap: HHF Scientists Headline New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS) Symposium**

Given the prevalence of permanent hearing loss worldwide and the promise of non-mammalian species' abilities to regenerate hair cells, the NYAS invited 11 speakers to its [October symposium](#), including two researchers funded by HHF through the Hearing Restoration Project (HRP): Peter Barr-Gillespie, Ph.D., and Tatjana Piotrowski, Ph.D. The event provided a fantastic opportunity for senior experts to confer—formally in the question-and-answer segments of the program and informally during breaks—on next steps and directions for future research.



**Did you know we have a Facebook page? Please come check it out.**

**<https://www.facebook.com/GGCRAMI/>**

## How Hearing Loss Treatments and Education Changed a Life

Despite once being told that *no* form of treatment would benefit her hearing loss, and that *no one* would ever attend a hearing loss support group, Julie is today [deeply encouraged by hearing loss research, education, and community resources](#). Julie knows living well with hearing loss is difficult, but possible, thanks to advancements in technology and attitude, and credits her family for helping her to come out of her shell as a person with hearing loss. Let us know how you relate to Julie at [enews@hhf.org](mailto:enews@hhf.org)



## When Hearing Aids Require Trial and Error

Michelle writes: "After my hearing test and official diagnosis, I was shown a few hearing aid models to choose a pair. Simple, right?" Now she understands when some people who have hearing loss won't wear their hearing aids. Chances are their hearing aids don't fit right, they are uncomfortable, and/or they are programmed wrong for their unique hearing loss. If this is you, she urges, you should know that [things can be much better after your audiologist works with you to adjust your hearing aid programming](#).



## Giving to R.A.R.A. Through Matching Gifts

There are many companies that will match charitable donations made by their employees.

Do you work for a company that has a Gift Matching Program? Ask them to match your donation to R.A.R.A.

Here are just a few of the many that do offer matching donations:



General Electric  
British Petroleum (BP)  
Gap  
Exxon Mobil  
CarMax  
Johnson & Johnson  
Choice Hotels  
Microsoft  
Pfizer  
Capital Group  
Bristol-Myers Squibb  
Coca Cola  
IBM  
Avon  
American Express



# #GIVINGTUESDAY

## **Royal Arch Research Assistance**

Since 1974, Royal Arch Research Assistance has raised money to fund the research surrounding Central Auditory Processing Disorder or CAPD.

CAPD is a hearing deficiency that does not allow certain people the ability to distinguish sounds that can be heard by those with regular hearing. Those with CAPD have normal hearing but the part of the brain that translates the sound does not process properly.

Researchers are developing paths of opportunity to correct this problem and your contributions to Royal Arch Research Assistance support these efforts.

The Royal Arch Research Assistance Board of Directors is committed to identifying and supporting those scientists who are searching for treatment regimens and eventually a cure for CAPD.

There are many ways that you can support R.A.R.A. This brochure outlines a few of the options that you can use to support this worthwhile cause.

### **Bequests**

You may make a gift through your will for a specific dollar amount, a percentage of the total estate or the residual remaining after all debts, taxes, expenses and other bequests have been paid. Specific bequests of property such as real estate may also be made.

It can be as simple as including "leave (amount or percentage) of my estate to Royal Arch Research Assistance." in your Will.

### **Tax Deferred Retirement Plan**

What has become very popular in recent years is naming a charity as a beneficiary in ones tax deferred retirement plan such as IRA, Keough Plans, 401(k) plans and 403(b) plans. The distribution from any of these plans would take place after your death and may be very tax-wise for your family.

### **Life Insurance**

Policies that are no longer needed for family protection or business purposes make excellent charitable gifts, regardless of whether or not all of the premiums have been paid. When ownership of the policy is irrevocably assigned to Royal Arch Research Assistance, the cash value of the policy is a tax deductible gift, as are all future premium payments. By establishing new life insurance policies, specifically for Royal Arch Research Assistance, a donor is able to make a substantial gift for a relatively modest annual outlay.

## Remainder Interest in a Residence or Farm

A special agreement can be created that permits the owner of a personal residence or farm to give the property to Royal Arch Research Assistance while still retaining a "life estate" in the property. This gives you the right to continue to use and enjoy the property for the remainder of your life. The donor receives a current charitable deduction and escapes potential capital gain tax on the appreciation.

### Tax Implications

Laws vary from state to state. Always consult legal counsel and/or a tax advisor in your area.

# Consider Planned Giving to R.A.R.A.

*Wills*  
*Trusts*  
*Life Insurance Policies*  
*Gifts of Stock*  
*Gifts of Real Estate*  
*Gifts of Personal Property*  
*IRAs*  
*Keough plans*  
*401(k) plans*  
*4039b) plans*



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