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LOIS KAM HEYMANN SELECTED TO HEAD UP THE NEW AUDITORY PROCESSING CENTER AT THE CENTER FOR HEARING AND COMMUNICATION IN NYC
Grand Opening Celebration to include Rosie O'Donnell who authored the foreword for Heymann's recent book

NEW YORK/September 15, 2010 -- The Center for Hearing and Communication (CHC) has established an Auditory Processing Center and has selected Lois Kam Heymann, M.A. CCC-SLP to head up the new division. Heymann will appear with Rosie O'Donnell at the grand opening of the new Center on October 7th from 4:30 to 6:00 PM. Both will sign Heymann's new book **The Sound of Hope**. Area parents, school teachers and administrators are encouraged to attend. For more information visit CHC hearing.org or contact the CHC's Auditory Processing Center at (917) 305-7840.

Heymann is a Speech and Language Pathologist with over 30 years experience in the tri-state area working with children with listening, hearing and learning challenges and their parents. She is a leading authority of Auditory Processing Disorder and recently authored the book **The Sound of Hope: Recognizing, Coping with and Treating Your Child's Auditor Processing Disorder** (Random House Publishing, April, 2010). The book is a parent guide to the importance of listening skills development in children birth to 8 years old. It is a how-to book with easy to follow activities for parents to implement with their children. Actress and Rockland County resident Rosie O'Donnell wrote the foreword detailing her personal experience working with Lois after he son was diagnosed with Auditory Processing Disorder.

As a sought after speaker, Heymann has presented hundreds of in-service workshops, seminars and conferences, sharing her knowledge and techniques with parent groups, school systems and speech therapists. For a list of upcoming speaking engagements visit www.ListenLoveLearn.com.

"We are thrilled to open the Auditory Processing Center at CHC, a new resource available for children with listening, learning and auditory challenges. Under the direction of Lois Heymann, our Auditory Processing Center will enable us to expand our work in this area and to help many more children with listening challenges succeed both academically and socially," stated Laurie Hanin, Ph.D., CCC-A, Executive Director of the Center for Hearing and Communication.

Until June of 2010 Lois was on the faculty of the State University of New York (SUNY), where she was a professor in the Department of Communication Disorders and supervised a university-based clinic for individuals with listening and hearing challenges. In her new position, as Director of The Auditory Processing Center at CHC, she and the staff will provide comprehensive services and support to help children address the daily challenges of auditory processing disorders. The goal is to work with the child, parents, and a staff of audiologists, speech-language pathologists and counselors to provide the child with tools they can use every day to realize their full potential.

Since 1910, the CHC has been New York's leading hearing healthcare center for infants, children and adults. With offices in New York City and Florida, CHC meets consumers' hearing and communication needs through professional services that offer the highest level of clinical expertise and technical know-how available in the hearing healthcare field. In addition to providing a wide array of services for people with hearing loss (e.g., hearing evaluations; speech and language therapy; hearing aid evaluations, fittings and sales), CHC is uniquely skilled in the testing, evaluation and treatment of Auditory Processing Disorders.

What is an Auditory Processing Disorder?

The term Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) describes what happens when the part of a child's brain responsible for interpreting sound does not function properly. A child hears typically, but as sound moves from the ear to the brain there is distortion and/or delay of the signal, bringing challenges to everyday hearing and listening tasks. A child hears fine, but struggles to process what he/she hears.

Signs of APD often appear at a young age, when a child's attention span and basic language skills might not be on par with other children. A child might have difficulty paying attention in noisy environments, remembering multi-task directions and discriminating subtle differences in sounds and words—challenges that can instill frustration, social isolation, and insecurity. But these daily struggles are both common and treatable. Due to some overlap in symptoms, it is possible for a child to be misdiagnosed with ADD (attention deficit disorder), ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) or PDD (pervasive developmental delay). A child may have one of these disorders and delays in addition to APD. However, it is important to note that APD is not an attention or communication disorder. It is characterized by difficulty channeling sound to the brain, and it is entirely out of a child's personal control. APD affects a child's ability to attend to sound and can negatively impact his/her communication skills.

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