CENTERS FOR
HEARING CARE
HEALTHY HEARING SOUNDS GOOD

Centers for Hearing Care - Connecting the World to Better Hearing

January 13, 2012 – A team from Centers for Hearing Care, a leader in hearing healthcare excellence for more than 30 years in Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana Counties, is leaving for a 9 day mission trip today to the Commonwealth of Dominica. Dominica is an island nation in the Lesser Antilles region of the Caribbean Sea, south-southeast of Guadeloupe and northwest of Martinique. The hearing mission will be in partnership with Rotary International and the Dominica Ministry of Health.

Centers for Hearing Care has encouraged its' staff members for years to be highly involved in the local Youngstown community including such organizations as Salvation Army, Second Harvest, Meals on Wheels, Rescue Mission, Rotary International and many others. Local mission trips for the hearing impaired have already been planned for 2012 as well. In addition, each year Dr. Sheryl Figliano commits to one mission trip outside of the USA and since 1999, different staff members from the Centers for Hearing Care have visited the poorest regions of Latin America including Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador. This is the first mission outside the United States or the Latin American region.

Dr. Figliano was approached by the Rotary Club of Dominica requesting help on behalf of some of its poorest residents. The mission trip to Dominica is part of an ongoing effort by the Centers for Hearing Care to fulfill a humanitarian commitment to the local Youngstown community and beyond. Dr. Figliano, who leads this team of volunteers, states, "It is incredibly fulfilling to be a part of a team of individuals so highly motivated to want to give back to the community. The hearing mission trips are very humbling to experience the incredible need that exists in the poorest regions of the world. We feel honored for the opportunity to bring the gift of hearing to so many in need".

Dominica is one of the poorest islands in the Caribbean, and it has the misfortune of lying directly in the hurricane belt. Some 82,000 people live here, including 2,000 descendants of the Carib Indians, who will mostly be helped during the mission. Dr. Figliano accepted the offer to help the misfortunate of this country and assembled a team of volunteers who pay their own way, contributing their time and professional expertise to such a worthy cause. The trip is planned between January 13th and January 22nd. The hearing team has been cleared by immigration to enter the country with professional staff and medical supplies. The hearing clinic established when they are there will help identify the causes that individuals are having such as ear pain, cleaning impacted ears of wax and foreign objects as well as screening for

hearing loss and providing people with hearing aids. Not only will those in need be fitted with hearing aids, they will also receive training on hearing aid care, maintenance and a supply of hearing aid batteries. The audiologist will also be training medical students and doctors at Ross University School of Medicine about hearing and new hearing aid technologies.

Each year the mission teams focus first on the youngest, fitting children and then adults with needed hearing devices. As is often the case, the recipients of these hearing aids were previously unable to afford hearing aids as they can run upwards of $700 in these areas. Due to a poor hearing healthcare system, children grow into adulthood without any access to hearing solutions. Many of the adults who had hearing loss were previously unable to find employment due to their disability. In response, many shed tears when hearing for the first time. This is a highly emotional experience for the hearing team to be able to help people to hear, especially in a country where hearing aids are such luxuries.

The Centers for Hearing Care is proud to be the leader in hearing healthcare excellence for Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana Counties for more than 30 years. As a current or prospective patient, you can expect a professional, experienced and highly qualified Audiology staff that is up to date on the latest technology and audiological expertise. We will provide you with informative/unbiased information that you will need for a well-informed decision regarding your hearing health.