

The Children's Hearing Institute

General Cocktail Assembly & NYC Reception

Thursday, May 10th, 2018
6:30 PM

Delegates Dining Room at the United Nations
United Nations Plaza, New York

All guests please check-in with government issued photo ID at the

Unitar Building

801 United Nations Plaza, New York
(Northwest corner of 45th Street & 1st Avenue)

For all UN Tours, arrive promptly at 6:00 P.M.



Please join The Children's Hearing Institute
in celebration of

#HearInNewYork

Evening Presentations:

Induction Ceremony of CHI's

Medical and Educational Advisory Board

(Appointees listed on reverse)

Lifetime Achievement Award

Recipient: Leonard Boxer

Hearing "Hear-O" Award

Recipient: Anthony Smith

Our **#HearInNewYork** campaign will bring together New York's Medical and Educational Institutions to collaborate and develop programs that best serve children with hearing loss and their families.

The campaign platform will support initiatives that address educational outreach, networking with local programs, connecting children with hearing loss, and support public and parent advocacy.



**Bridging Programs That Support
Children with Hearing Loss**

Lifetime Achievement Award



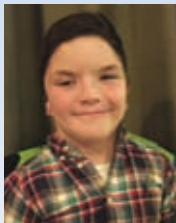
Leonard Boxer, Esq.

Leonard Boxer, is an active member of The Children's Hearing Institute's Board of Directors and served as Chairman from 1995-2016. Under his leadership, the Institute raised over 15 million dollars for critical research into the advancement of hearing technology and the therapeutic and educational services that support these devices.

Having experienced hearing issues within his own family, Mr. Boxer understands the importance of early detection and intervention. With his support and dedication, CHI has been able to provide the necessary resources and program services to deaf and hard of hearing children who need it most. Mr. Boxer was instrumental in CHI's partnership with Marvel Entertainment in producing the "Sound Effects" comic book featuring for the first time ever – superheroes with hearing loss. The comic has been distributed throughout the world.

Mr. Boxer is also Co-Chair of Stroock's Real Estate Practice and a member of the Firm's Senior Executive Committee. His practice covers a full range of commercial and residential real estate. Mr. Boxer's novel use of financing has earned him a reputation for completing complex real estate transactions.

Hearing "Hear-O" Award



Anthony Smith

No doubt about it.... Anthony Smith is the reason why Blue Ear was created and is solely responsible for putting smiles on the faces of children with hearing loss all around the world. Blue Ear is a fictional superhero created by Marvel in honor of Anthony, a hard-of-hearing 4-year-old comic book fan from Salem, New Hampshire.

In 2012, an impressionable Anthony refused to wear his hearing aids stating, "superheroes don't wear blue ears". Anthony's mother, Christina D'Allesandro, was alarmed by this and contacted Marvel Comics in NYC to assist with the situation. Designer Nelson Ribeiro, then created the original image and sent the D'Allesandro family a drawing of "Blue Ear" as a superhero because Anthony, said, "Thanks to my listening device I hear someone in trouble!"

Smith took his Blue Ear pictures to his preschool, which inspired teachers to have a "superhero week". Anthony's grandfather, New Hampshire Senator Lou D'Allesandro, stated, "This is a feel good moment, it's a feel good story, and we've got to get the world to recognize that." In 2014 Blue Ear made his comic book debut in Sound Effects along with Iron Man and new character, Sapheara, a cochlear implant user. The comic was distributed as an educational tool for children in NYC public schools regarding hearing loss and bullying issues. Amazingly, CHI still gets requests for a copy of Sound Effects from around the world.



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Contact Information: Melissa A. Willis, Executive Director

The Children's Hearing Institute

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Medical & Educational Advisory Board

Congratulations to our 2018 Inductees

In 2017, **The Children's Hearing Institute** was invited to join the Global Partnership On Children With Disabilities (GPCwd) a worldwide network of only 260 organizations working to advance the rights of children with disabilities at the global, regional and country levels. In order to be an effective and influential member of the GPCwd, the Institute established a new Medical & Educational Advisory Board consisting of esteemed professionals who represent programs of excellence in the hearing loss community.

Education Specialists:

Mary Baumont, MA
Meredith Berger, MSED
Dana Selznick, M.Ed

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Clarke School for Hearing & Speech
Center for Hearing & Communication

Speech & Language Therapists:

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New York Eye & Ear/Mt. Sinai
Weill Cornell Medicine
Columbia University Medical Center
NYC Dept of Education
Weill Cornell Medicine
NYU Langone Medical Center

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Maura Cosetti, MD
Ana Kim, MD
Darius Kohan, MD
J. Thomas Roland, MD

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New York Eye & Ear/Mt. Sinai
Columbia University Medical Center
Northwell Health
NYU Langone Medical Center

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