

The
world
can be
a
wonderful
place



**But
if
you're
deaf?**



Deafness means losing more than just your hearing

Any deaf person — from the youngest child to the most senior citizen — loses a great deal more than just their hearing.

Deafness, "the hidden handicap", debilitates. By severing the normal channels of learning, it can starve a person of knowledge, drain away their self-confidence, strangle their ability to communicate and render everyday pleasures like music, cinema or telephone conversations impossible.

The trauma of encountering deafness — either partial, sudden or gradual — in yourself or those you love, is enormous. The strain it places on relationships and the family unit, with little apparent opportunity for respite, is undeniable.

But the Jewish Deaf Association, the community's only specialist social service organisation for the deaf and hard of hearing, can help relieve some of the pressure.



The JDA's work with deaf and hard of hearing people of all ages provides much-needed practical support, counselling, specialist equipment and, where needed, financial assistance.

The confidence which this support can offer is helping more deaf people every day to defy their disability, forge new friendships, establish successful careers, raise families and succeed at leisure-time pursuits.

How the JDA helps the young

Educating a deaf child is expensive. The preservation of even the smallest degree of hearing is essential. Radio microphones, frequently unavailable through statutory sources, are vital in education. They cost approximately £1000 each. The JDA receives regular requests for financial support from Jewish schools and from Jewish deaf children in secular schools.

Becoming barmitzva is a highlight of a Jewish boy's life. But teaching a deaf boy his barmitzva requires expensive one-to-one tuition. The JDA believes that no boy should miss out because of his disability.

Deafness need not preclude achievement. The JDA encourages young deaf people to participate in sport and other activities and to reach their maximum potential against hearing competition. Our support takes the form of grants for equipment and subsidies for travel to domestic and foreign competitions.

The JDA has also provided subsidies for young people participating in challenging projects and schemes both in deaf and mixed groups, for example, Operation Raleigh.

The JDA's resources are already thinly stretched. Young deaf and hard of hearing people require and deserve our support — they are, after all, our future. Please be as generous as you can.



The Work of the Jewish Deaf Association

The JDA provides day centre facilities at its North London headquarters and in North West London (in association with the Kinnor Community Centre).

The JDA helps its many elderly members left worse off by the Government's social security reforms. The JDA assists members deprived of subsidies with financial help in paying heating bills.

The JDA campaigns vigorously on behalf of its members for a fair hearing in society and a fair hearing in our community.

The JDA supports its members in overcoming the communication barrier by accompanying them to hospitals, other welfare agencies, local authority departments and employers.

The JDA educates through regular sign language classes for those in the community who work with deafness and through lip reading classes for people with hearing difficulties.

The JDA encourages Jewish deaf people to enjoy their unique religion and culture. All festivals are celebrated including an annual Seder Service conducted completely in sign language.

Deaf people rely on us and we have to rely on you. Without your support, our work could not continue

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