

About CDHAF

The Christopher Douglas Hidden Angel Foundation (CDHAF) (www.cdhaf.org) mission is to enrich the lives, health, and social well-being of people who are neurologically challenged through the use of multi sensory stimulation. The foundation's focus is on the design, development, implementation, and education of Multi Sensory Environments (MSE) with the aim to enable productivity, inclusion, independence, and self-determination. Multi Sensory Environments are shown to dramatically improve the quality of life for these individuals and are used in education, therapy, and recreation.

“There are no guarantees in life, except that everyone faces struggles. This is how we learn (and grow). Some face struggles from the moment they are born. They are the most special of all people, requiring the most care and compassion and reminding us that love is the sole purpose of life.”

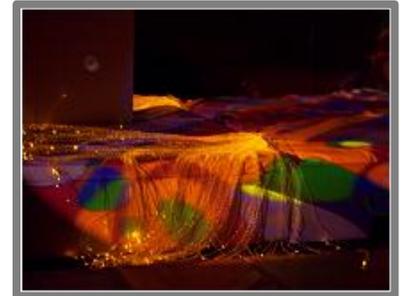
- Elisabeth Kübler-Ross.

These are our Hidden Angels - teaching all of us life's most valuable lessons, CDHAF

Multi Sensory Environments (MSEs) are

designed to promote neurological activity and to encourage relaxation. A MSE is a dedicated space or room where sensory stimulation can be

controlled (intensified or reduced), presented in isolation or combination, packaged for active or passive interactions, and matched to fit the perceived motivation, interests, and/or educational needs of the user. Well-chosen controlled multi sensory stimuli for children with neurological challenges and those withdrawn from their environment helps promote development, learning, improved communication and positively affect behavior, leading to improved quality of life.



MSEs Benefit People With

- Autism
- Cerebral Palsy
- Profound Multiple Disabilities
- Developmental Disabilities
- Chronic Pain Syndrome
- Hearing Impairment
- ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder)
- Pervasive Developmental Delays
- Mental Dysfunction
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Stroke
- Coma
- Alzheimer's and Dementia



Sensory stimulation is a basic human need that is essential to life and survival. Just as there is an obligation to feed and shelter the poor, so we must assist those who are unable to access sensory stimulation on their own due to disabilities and/or impoverished environments. MSEs can provide such essential stimulation and can be seen as the medium through which an individual lives.

The maturation of one's nervous system is dependent upon the successful stimulation of the nervous system via sensory organs.

A person will fail to thrive and will often withdraw when their environment offers no sensory stimulation

The level of performance achieved by an individual is a reflection of the simulation and opportunities afforded to the individual by his or her environment. Multi sensory stimulation that is produced in sufficient frequency, intensity, and duration increases neurological activity leading to a more organized brain that permits increased functional activity and learning.

Every moment, sensory experiences affect our motivation, attitudes, emotions, learning, physical activities, and our very being. It is through our senses that we learn and develop. Any form of disability that disrupts a person's interaction with the environment may impede development and quality of life.

Areas of Involvement

Building MSE Facilities

Our primary function is the design and construction of MSE facilities. To date, we have donated and built over 35 facilities across North America. The foundation has also donated prototype facilities for the use of adults with Alzheimer's.

Designing Equipment

We assist in any way we can to further the development and application of MSE equipment. We have shared the benefits of our experience with those designing new and novel equipment in areas such as clothing, seating and Multi Sensory Equipment.

Center of Excellence

We are currently in the final stages of establishing a center of excellence for the study and practice of MSE with a major university.



Raising the profile of MSE

The foundation has been successful in raising the profile of MSE in the context of 2 TV documentaries. In 2010, a large portion of a program featuring one of our founders was devoted to MSE and CDHAF. In 2011, PBS will air a 30-minute documentary on our foundation and the history of MSE.

Advancing Education

We recognize the importance of advancing the school of knowledge related to the use of MSE. On an annual basis we sponsor individual speakers from around the world to conduct seminars in Canada and the USA. We were also the primary organizer and host of the 8th annual ISNA conference on Multi-Sensory Environments.

The Christopher Douglas Hidden Angel Foundation works passionately to improve the quality of life for people with cognitive, emotional and physical challenges, through the creation of Multi Sensory Environments in schools, rehabilitation centers, nursing centers for the elderly, and many others. Our focus is on the design, development, implementation and education of Multi Sensory Environments with the aim to enable productivity, inclusion, independence, and self-determination.

Your support of the Foundation enables CDHAF to push beyond the boundaries and establish many more of these innovative environments/rooms enriching the lives of those with special needs.

On behalf of the children, adults, and families who benefit from your generosity, we thank you.