Introducing the CapTel® 2400i

The newest addition to the family of CapTel technology is now available to Georgians with hearing loss—the CapTel 2400i. This phone includes new elements along with a variety of enhancements to its popular features, providing another option for enjoying phone conversations with clarity and confidence!

The CapTel service is the same, offering quality captions through the use of voice recognition technology. With its new touch-screen technology, the 2400i allows users to enjoy a large colorful display with the capability to navigate the menu and dial a number by touching images on the screen.

Check out these great features:
- Large, colorful display with easy touch-screen technology
- Easy-to-follow menu system
- Built-in answering machine stores up to 100 messages
- Adjustable font sizes and colors
- Amplification and adjustable tone control
- Bright flashing when phone rings
- Phone book allows you to easily store and dial more than 95 names and phone numbers
- Save up to 10 favorite numbers and 4 speed dial numbers
- Menu options and prompts available in English or Spanish

In addition, the 2400i Captions will default ON automatically, due to recent changes with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). This means that users will not be required to turn the feature on at the beginning of every call.

Call Georgia Relay Customer Care at 1-866-694-5824 (Voice/TTY) or visit www.HamiltonCapTel.com for more information about the CapTel 2400i and to learn more about how to obtain the phone, including the option to purchase it directly for a special reduced price of $75.

Georgia Relay Hosts Town Hall Meeting

On November 5, Georgia Relay hosted a town hall meeting that gave the local community the opportunity to learn more about our programs and services. Guests gathered at the Atlanta Speech School and enjoyed presentations on Traditional Relay Services, Captioned Telephone Service, Speech-to-Speech Relay Service, the Georgia Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program, the Relay Partner program and more. Special thanks to everyone who came to learn more, as well as share their feedback, ideas and suggestions. If you would like to hold a town hall meeting in your community, please contact Ellen Rolader at ellen.rolader@hamiltonrelay.com or 678-620-6776.
Georgia Community Leaders Recognized with 2014 Awards

Georgia Relay’s service provider, Hamilton Relay, enjoys the opportunity to give back to the communities it serves each year by recognizing leaders within each of the states where it is the contracted relay and/or captioned telephone service provider. This year, the following individuals were honored for their accomplishments and contributions to Georgia’s Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing communities:

**College Scholarship Recipient: Oliver Adlam**
Oliver Adlam, a graduate of McIntosh High School in Peachtree City was awarded a $500 scholarship to use towards his higher education. The Hamilton Relay Scholarship is awarded each year to a high school senior who is deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or who has difficulty speaking. To be chosen for the scholarship, Oliver completed an application and wrote an essay on the topic of communication technology. Oliver’s plans included attending Georgia College this fall to study mechanical or electrical engineering.

**Better Hearing and Speech Month Recognition Award: Jeff Bonnell**
Jeff Bonnell is a resident of Atlanta who generously devotes his time and knowledge to advocating and spreading awareness of available resources for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. A retired Delta Airline employee, Jeff is currently the Georgia State Director for Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), as well as the leader of the Buckhead/Atlanta HLAA chapter. He has a regularly published column in The Resonator, the Georgia HLAA newsletter, and was invited to speak at the 2014 HLAA National Convention where he co-presented “Communication and Civility: How They Make or Break Relationships” as part of the relationships and communication tract for state leaders.

Jeff is also a member of the Area Agency for the Aging, where he advocates for individuals and shares information on how to live well with hearing loss. Jeff completed a two-year mentoring program through Gallaudet University and is now a certified peer mentor for the hard of hearing.

**Deaf Community Leader Award: Bob Green**
Robert “Bob” Green is well known within the deaf and deaf-blind communities for his advocacy and leadership. Before his retirement in 2012, Bob worked for the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) for over 30 years. His roles there included: evaluator, counselor, and state coordinator for the deaf-blind; and he is currently serving his second term as a Governor-appointed board member. Bob also serves on a GVRA committee which educates employers about hiring employees who are deaf.

In addition to his work at GVRA, Bob serves many other roles in the local community. He is a rehabilitation counselor and deaf-blind specialist for the Georgia Sensory Rehabilitation Center (GSRC). He was also instrumental in starting the Deaf-Blind Access of the South Camp in 1999 which is held biennially at Camp Dream in Warm Springs, Georgia. Bob has taught American Sign Language classes for the Interpreter Training Program at Georgia Perimeter College since 1986. He is a member of the Deaf Extreme committee, which helps students who are deaf, deaf-blind or hard of hearing transition after school, and he also works with Total Living Community, a senior citizen and retirement community.

Bob also continues to be a volunteer member of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD); Georgia Association of the Deaf-Blind (GADB); Georgia Association of the Deaf (GAD), Northwest Metro GAD Chapter; Georgia Council for the Hearing Impaired (GACHI); and the Georgia Rehabilitation Association (GRA).
City of Atlanta Joins Georgia Relay Partner

More than 20 city departments receive Relay training

Throughout the past year, the City of Atlanta partnered with Georgia Relay to provide Georgia Relay Partner training to more than 20 city departments. During the training sessions, employees were provided with an overview of the history of Georgia Relay and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and given detailed information about the various types of services available to relay users. Employees were also provided with basic instruction for answering and placing telephone calls through Georgia Relay. Completing this training is an important part of ensuring that the City of Atlanta is in compliance with the ADA.

“Delivering exceptional customer service to all of our city’s residents is a top priority for the Reed Administration,” said Chief Operating Officer Michael Geisler.

“My goal is to support employees of our city in feeling confident in communicating with individuals who rely on Georgia Relay to place and receive calls each and every day,” said Georgia Relay outreach coordinator Ellen Rolader.

The City of Atlanta’s partnership with Georgia Relay is ongoing and all non-profit organizations that apply for funding through the city will be required to become Georgia Relay Partners. For more information about the Georgia Relay Partner program, and to view a current list of Georgia Relay Partners, please visit www.GeorgiaRelay.org.

GACHI’s Clothesline Project Raises Awareness for Domestic Violence

By: Kevin Steffy

In observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the GACHI offices in Decatur, Rome and Savannah recently joined together to host a Clothesline Project event in support of survivors of domestic violence who are deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened or deaf-blind.

The Clothesline Project is a worldwide program that empowers people who have been affected by domestic violence to express their emotions by decorating a shirt, which is then hung on a clothesline for others to see as a testimony to the problem. GACHI is extending the Clothesline Project’s mission to also raise awareness for survivors of domestic violence who are deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened or deaf-blind, who too often do not have access to the same resources as hearing survivors. Although the deaf community has a powerful history of advocacy work, domestic and sexual violence issues in the community are still largely overlooked or misunderstood.

GACHI’s Project Clothesline event was held October 3 at the Decatur Recreation Center. We made an impact in the lives of about 50 participants by spreading awareness and education. Four brave deaf survivors of domestic violence shared their stories of pain, struggle, and how they moved on to face a violence-free life. This event would not have been possible without their presence as we raise our voice to the challenges and stigma that deaf survivors have to go through in order to get assistance and be safe.

Agencies including AHIMSA, Metro Fair Housing, Partnership Against Domestic Violence, GREAT DAY and Men Stopping Violence were also present to share their services and resources with our community. We also invited representatives from the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Tools for Life who share our goal to provide more accessible services to deaf survivors. Our acknowledgements to our sponsors including: Chick-Fil-A, Starbucks, Mr. Tees, Burger King, Walmart, and Brick Store Pub, as well as GACHI’s board and staff for their support on this cause. We would like to thank you for your continuous support for GACHI and for being part of our community’s partnership working towards non-violence.
Ellen Rolader to Present at GSHA Annual Conference

This February, Georgia Relay Outreach Coordinator Ellen Rolader will be giving a presentation at the Georgia Speech-Language Hearing Association 2015 Annual Conference. During her presentation, Ellen will provide an overview of the telecommunications services available through Georgia Relay and contracted service provider Hamilton Relay, including TTY, Voice Carry-Over, Deaf-Blind service, Spanish and Captioned Telephone. She will also explain Speech-to-Speech (STS) and Hearing Carry-Over (HCO) services, which are especially useful for individuals who have difficulty speaking or being understood over the phone.

The Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association (GSHA) is a professional association of individuals specializing in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of communication, swallowing and hearing disorders. Its annual conference is well attended by Speech Language Pathology and Audiology specialists, students, and parents and caregivers.

The GSHA 2015 Annual Conference will be held February 26-28 at the Georgia Center’s UGA Hotel and Conference Center in Athens. For more information, please visit gsa.memberclicks.net.