



Creating the ability to connect

CALLIER CENTER IMPACT REPORT 2019



CALLIER CENTER
FOR COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

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“
The Callier Center is a special place,
where people come first, relationships
are paramount and everyone is
treated like family.

Our vision is to provide the most
advanced clinical care to all individuals,
regardless of their financial circumstances.
This philanthropic pursuit inspires
everyone to succeed.

”

(On the cover) Andrea Flores, age 2, grateful patient,
with her mother, Brenda Davila

THOMAS F. CAMPBELL, PHD - CALLIER CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This year, we are excited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of The University of Texas at Dallas. The Callier Center for Communication Disorders is proud to be part of this prestigious top-tier institution that is on a trajectory to become one of the world's great universities.

The Callier Center and UT Dallas share an interwoven history, but the promise of Callier began in 1950, when Lena Callier created a trust to benefit people with speech, language and hearing disorders. Erik Jonsson, co-founder of Texas Instruments (TI) and former Dallas mayor, helped establish the trust which, in 1963, formed the Callier Hearing and Speech Center, a community-based nonprofit. In addition, Erik Jonsson and TI co-founders Eugene McDermott and Cecil Green established the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest, which became The University of Texas at Dallas in 1969. In 1975, the Callier Center joined UT Dallas.

From its inception, Callier provided patient care and began conducting groundbreaking research. Callier's union with UT Dallas empowered the center to offer clinical education. By adding the academic component, the University gave Callier its unique advantage, making it one of a select few communication disorders centers in the nation to combine treatment, training and research.

At Callier, we are committed to furthering the field of audiology and communication sciences and disorders. We generate knowledge that informs how to best diagnose and treat communication disorders across the lifespan. We also discover and invent treatments and technologies that transform the lives of our patients in North Texas and beyond.

Callier began through the generosity of one woman, and in our 56th year, her philanthropic spirit lives on. Because of you, Callier has grown into the nationally renowned center that it is today. We are grateful for your advocacy and support. Thank you for being a part of the Callier family.

Together, we create the ability to connect.

Tom Campbell

THOMAS F. CAMPBELL, PHD

Ludwig A. Michael, MD, Executive Director

Sara T. Martineau Professor in Communication Disorders

(Pictured right) Dr. Thomas F. Campbell, Callier Center executive director





“Giving people the tools to communicate opens doors and changes lives.”

VAUGHN GROSS, NORTHWOOD WOMAN'S CLUB 2018-19 PRESIDENT

In celebration of its 50th anniversary, Northwood Woman's Club (NWC) has established the Northwood Woman's Club Patient Care Endowment Fund with a gift of \$250,000 to the Callier Center for Communication Disorders. The endowment will provide access to clinical services for patients of all ages with speech, language and hearing disorders who otherwise would be unable to afford their care.

A women's civic organization that helps meet the philanthropic needs of the community, Northwood Woman's Club has supported numerous North Texas charities and typically funds multiple organizations each year. To commemorate its 50th year, NWC selected the Callier Center as its sole beneficiary and raised \$250,000, which was matched by other gift funds at the Callier Center to create a \$500,000 endowment.

“We wanted to partner with an organization that had high visibility and respect in the community,” said Vaughn Gross, NWC 2018-19 president. “Our members realized that this was an extraordinary opportunity to support Callier and to be associated with a multifaceted,

well-known organization that makes a difference in people's lives.”

NWC raised the funds by hosting a Divinely Decadent Birthday Bash Luncheon that was co-chaired by NWC members Rosemarie Ewton, Pam Meyercord and Beth Sutera. The event included fun activities, a live auction, a concert and a raffle.

In 2018, NWC awarded the Callier Center a grant for \$40,500, which provided audiology and speech-language services through the cochlear implant program for children in need who are deaf or hard of hearing.

“Communication is critical,” Gross said. “If you cannot communicate, it is difficult to learn and participate in life. Giving people the tools to communicate opens doors and changes lives.

“It is a blessing to have this research, training and treatment institute in our backyard. The Callier Center is an asset for North Texas, a real gift for us all.”

(Pictured left) Northwood Woman's Club representatives (from left): Pam Meyercord and Rosemarie Ewton, luncheon co-chairs; Vaughn Gross, 2018-19 president; and Beth Sutera, luncheon co-chair

“When we found out that Callier was going to help us, we were so happy... Isabella’s birthday present was her hearing aids.”

SANDRA GONZALEZ, ISABELLA’S MOTHER

Isabella Gonzalez is 7 years old, but she likes to pretend that she is a teacher. She puts her hand on her hip and says, “Good morning, children. I’m Miss Gonzalez.”

However, when she was 3, her speech was unintelligible.

“She wasn’t saying any words — just ‘mom,’” said Sandra Gonzalez, Isabella’s mother. “Whatever she wanted, she just pointed. She used to sing the ‘Frozen’ song, ‘Let It Go,’ like, ‘bo bo bo, bo bo bo.’ She was trying, but couldn’t say the words.”

When Isabella put her ear to the TV speaker to hear cartoons, Sandra suspected that she had a hearing problem.

“She passed her newborn hearing screening,” Sandra said. “I didn’t know what was going on. She needed help. I was desperate.”

Just before her fourth birthday, Isabella was referred to the Callier Center and received a diagnosis of bilateral sensorineural hearing loss — moderate to moderately severe hearing loss in both ears. Isabella needed hearing aids, but her family’s insurance denied coverage.

“I was sad,” Sandra said. “People like us don’t have

the kind of money to pay for hearing aids.”

Through generous gifts made by donors to Callier’s Evergreen Fund, Isabella received hearing aids and hearing follow-up services to ensure progress with the devices for the next three years.

“When we found out that Callier was going to help us, we were so happy,” Sandra said. “My husband was excited and emotional. Isabella’s birthday present was her hearing aids.”

The Evergreen Fund was established by an anonymous donor to ensure that children in need receive clinical care.

“Isabella is a totally different child,” Sandra said. “Before, she would tell me a word, and then have to think about it, and then tell me another word. Now, she tells me everything, and in school she is reading faster than most of the other kids.”

“After all these years, I see every day that Isabella is doing better and better. We couldn’t go anywhere else better than Callier. We are so happy. We are so, so grateful.”



(Pictured right) Dr. Stephanie Cox, audiologist, and Isabella Gonzalez, grateful patient



“Early intervention is key to language acquisition in children with language delays and disorders. Through donor support, Laila received therapy when she needed it. Thank you for changing lives!”

PAIGE BURKINK, SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

Paige Burkink, speech-language pathologist, and Laila Busby, age 3, grateful patient

“I want to help people tell their stories and communicate with their loved ones.”

ELENA KELTNER, DOCTORAL STUDENT, COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS PHD PROGRAM

It's on the tip of my tongue!

This idiom is typically exclaimed in frustration, when a person cannot think of a word. Occasionally, everyone wrestles with anomia — the inability to recall the right word.

“This can be really troubling for people who have anomia to the extent that they cannot form sentences or get their thoughts across,” said Elena Keltner, a doctoral student in the Communication Sciences and Disorders PhD program at UT Dallas.

Under the mentorship of Dr. John Hart, professor and Distinguished Chair in Neuroscience, Keltner conducts research that aims to determine the neural correlates behind a person's search for semantic object memories — words or concepts in the brain. Using electroencephalogram (EEG), Keltner monitors a research participant's brain and measures the electronic signals that occur when a person retrieves a word from semantic memory.

“If we can figure out how our brain does this normally, we can figure out what goes wrong in our brain when word-finding difficulties occur,” Keltner said. “If we can do that, we can use the research to help

people clinically, to create speech therapies backed by research evidence.”

In speech-language therapy, when a patient struggles to recall a word such as “pen,” a speech-language pathologist may cue the patient by providing a “feature,” or descriptor, like “ink.” Keltner is working to determine the kinds of features that best and most quickly help patients recall words. Her goal is to translate this research into a speech therapy app that assists patients with their semantic retrieval.

“Elena's clinical training in speech-language pathology combined with the neuroscience-based training she will receive as a graduate student provide her with a novel approach that will enable making unique and impactful advances in patient communication,” Hart said.

Keltner hopes her research may be used to treat adults with anomia caused by conditions including stroke, brain injury or other communication disorders.

“It kills me when people can't talk to their children or grandchildren,” Keltner said. “I want to help people tell their stories and communicate with their loved ones.”

(Pictured left) Elena Keltner (left), doctoral student in the UT Dallas Communication Sciences and Disorders PhD Program, and Rachel O'Hair, research technician

“Our research at Callier can have a direct impact on our community. We are excited to work with technology aimed at enhancing the listening experience of hearing-impaired children and adults at musical and theater events.”

DR. EDWARD LOBARINAS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Researchers at the Callier Center often develop new technologies to help those with speech, language or hearing impairments. But sometimes these investigators add to the work of others.

Dr. Edward Lobarinas, associate professor of audiology, and doctoral student Christina Campbell are studying “Hear Us Now,” an enhanced audio system for those with hearing impairments attending a public performance.

“Our hypothesis is that this sound processing system should improve the sound quality and listening experience for hearing-impaired patrons over existing systems, but the data will ultimately determine whether it’s better or not,” Lobarinas said.

The system was developed by Barry Epstein who, as a board member of the Dallas Summer Musicals, wanted hearing-impaired individuals to have a better theater experience.

He led the development of the “Hear Us Now” system, which currently is being used at the Music Hall at Fair Park and the Meyerson Symphony Center.

To verify whether the system is better than what patrons have previously experienced, Epstein asked the Callier Center to provide a scientific, unbiased study of the technology.

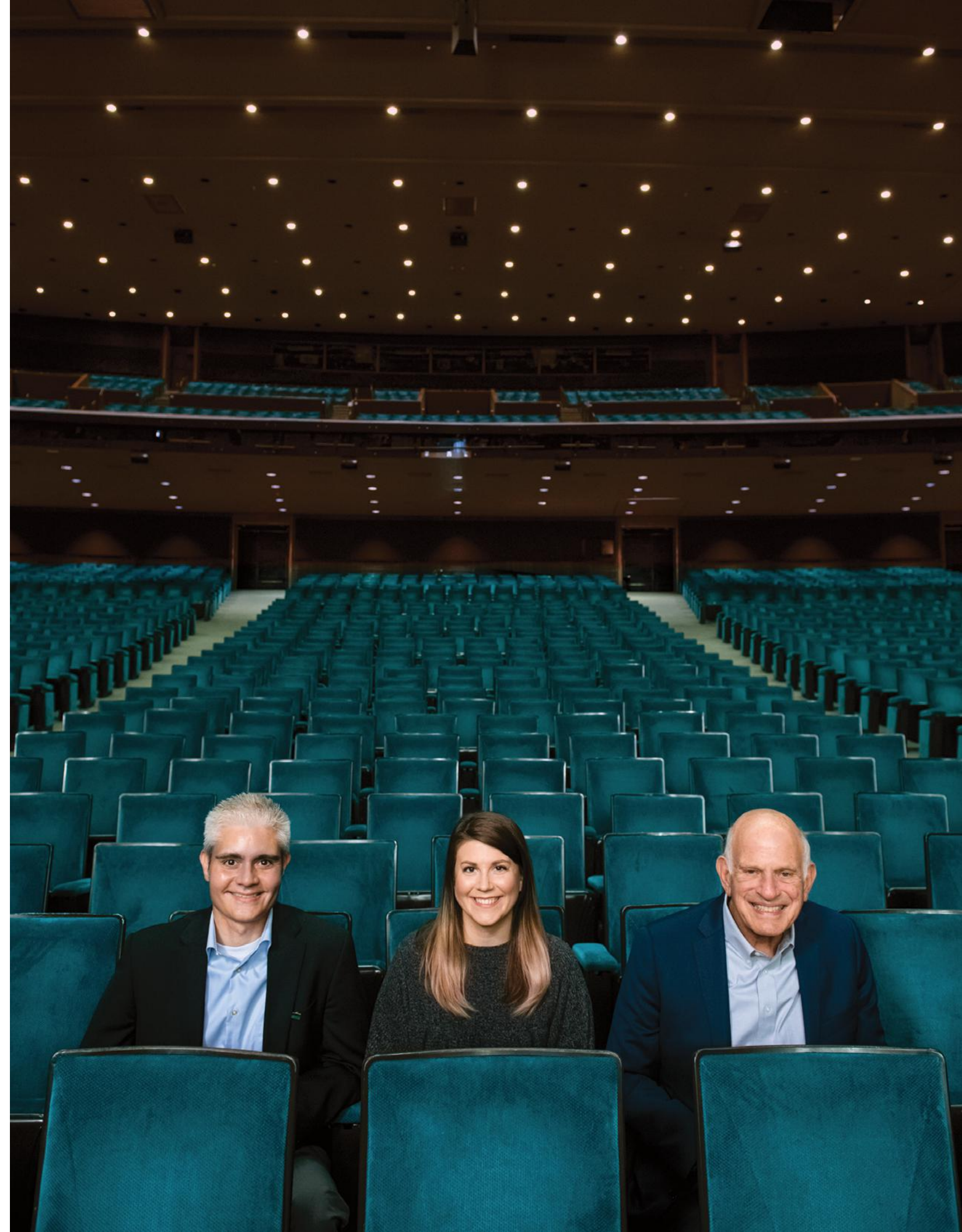
Campbell said she respected the fact that Epstein approached UT Dallas to get a legitimate scientific evaluation of the “Hear Us Now” system, because they all share the same goal: helping individuals with hearing loss.

“I’m in the field of audiology because I want to help people,” she said. “So I was excited to be able to be a part of something that hopefully can help shape the way that the public uses technology like this,” she said.

Epstein agreed that the work being done by Lobarinas and Campbell will help more people experience theater sound in the right way.

“I feel very fortunate for that connection to have been made. I have such respect for Callier; their involvement will be key to the ongoing mutual success in this area,” he said.

(Pictured right) Dr. Edward Lobarinas, UT Dallas associate professor of audiology (left); Christina Campbell, doctoral student in the UT Dallas Doctor of Audiology Program (center); and Barry Epstein, founder of Hear Us Now Foundation (right)





“Our hope is to see unprecedented levels of philanthropic support for the Callier Center. If our gift helps propel that hope forward, then that is very rewarding to us.”

STEFANIE AND AARON CONLEY

Stefanie and Aaron Conley believe in the Callier Center and are invested in its future.

Their planned gift of \$150,000 will be used to establish the Stefanie and Aaron Conley Opportunity Fund for the Callier Center as a permanent endowment. Aaron designated UT Dallas as a secondary beneficiary of his Individual Retirement Account. The Conleys structured their gift as a source of unrestricted funds to be used by the Callier Center director to propel Callier’s mission and leave a lasting impact.

“Callier has proven its value to the community and to the cause of addressing communication disorders,” Aaron said, “and it can deliver bigger on that promise with greater private support. This was a way for us to make a meaningful contribution that made sense at this point in our lives, knowing that it would benefit Callier in perpetuity.”

Aaron is founding partner of Academic Advancement Partners, a consulting firm that helps universities advance philanthropy. Stefanie is a pharmacy clinical coordinator at UT Southwestern Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Aaron’s connection with Callier began on a professional level, when he served as UT Dallas’ vice president for development and alumni relations. The connection became personal when he was treated at Callier for tinnitus, or ringing in the ears.

“After being afflicted with something that I didn’t understand and didn’t know why it was impacting me, the care that I received at Callier made me want to get more involved,” Aaron said.

In 2017, Aaron joined the Foundation for the Callier Center board of trustees.

“We don’t have kids,” Aaron said. “So, when I see the impact that Callier has on children, I think, ‘What a great calling, what a great cause to be associated with.’”

“There’s nothing more important than the ability to communicate,” he said. “You don’t realize how important it is until you are impacted by it. When it happens to you, it forces you to think how lucky you are to have a resource like Callier.”

(Pictured left) Stefanie and Aaron Conley

ABOUT THE CALLIER CENTER

For more than half a century, the Callier Center for Communication Disorders has given thousands of children and adults with speech, language and hearing disorders the ability to communicate and attain meaningful relationships at home, at school, at work and in the community.

Callier’s heart beats to a mission of service through its time-honored commitment to transform the lives of those with communication disorders by providing outstanding, leading-edge clinical services, conducting meaningful and innovative basic and applied research into new treatments and technologies, and training the next generation of caring clinical providers.

A philanthropic thread weaves through all aspects of the Callier experience. From clinician to student to researcher to donor, every individual works together to further a shared aspiration: creating the ability to connect for all people with communication disorders, regardless of income level or insurance coverage.

CALLIER BY THE NUMBERS

(FY19: Sept. 1, 2018 - Aug. 31, 2019)

TREATMENT

34,487 Clinical services provided

(including autism spectrum disorder services, the cochlear implant program, hearing and balance services, and speech and language services)



TRAINING



Nationally ranked audiology and speech-language pathology graduate programs

TOP 5%

RESEARCH

\$23,518,584 Grant funding over the past five years

(including awards from the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the U.S. Department of Defense)



PHILANTHROPY



Funding through philanthropic support

\$1,673,787

CALLIER CENTER LEADERSHIP

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Ludwig A. Michael, MD,
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Sara T. Martineau Professor in
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The Foundation for the Callier Center and Communication Disorders is a separate 501(c)(3) that serves as an advisory committee to the president of The University of Texas at Dallas and to the Callier Center executive director. The mission of the foundation is to fundraise in support of the Callier Center and to increase awareness of and interest in the center within The University of Texas System and community.



Thank you for helping
Callier create the
ability to connect.

CALLIER CENTER FOR COMMUNICATION DISORDERS | THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

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