

## **HISTORY AND MISSION OF THE *NATIONAL HYDROCEPHALUS FOUNDATION***

Two educators, whose son was born with hydrocephalus, founded National Hydrocephalus Foundation (*NHF*) 37 years ago in Chicago. In a time before the internet, the founders could find little information in the public library or any other publications on hydrocephalus. So that other parents wouldn't have the same problems finding information about hydrocephalus, they started a support group and peer network to share what they had learned about hydrocephalus. This support group and peer network became National Hydrocephalus Foundation.

National Hydrocephalus Foundation's mission is to educate the hydrocephalus community (patients, parents and caregivers) on the latest care and treatment options, provide guidance on living with hydrocephalus, build a network of local support organizations, act as a patient advocate and support research. To accomplish our goal, *NHF* staff members are available to respond in your time of need 365 days a year. *NHF* has website that is continually updated with the latest information on care and treatment, and publishes a quarterly newsletter. In addition, *NHF* through community outreach programs educate the general population about hydrocephalus.

National Hydrocephalus Foundation is a volunteer organization with no paid staff. *NHF* is supported only by membership dues and donations; we receive no state or federal government funding. *NHF* has members across the country and around the world; our base of operation is now in Southern California. Our anchor support group meets at Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC). Several of our medical advisors are with CHOC, including the head of the Medical Advisory Board, Dr. Michael Muhonen.