



# CdLS Foundation

Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation, Inc.  
*Reaching Out, Providing Help, Giving Hope*

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**Avon nonprofit receives \$1,000 grant from Build-A-Bear**  
*Money will fund research into Cornelia de Lange Syndrome*

**AVON, CT (February 25, 2011)** – The Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS) Foundation has received a \$1,000 grant from the Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation. The grant will support the Foundation’s national research program.

“We appreciate the support of Build-a-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation as we work to find therapies and treatments to improve the quality of life for children with CdLS,” says Liana Fresher, executive director of the Foundation. “Every dollar makes a difference in the work our researchers can do.”

The Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation is committed to making life more bearable for children, families and pets, who are in need of a helping paw. With the sale of each Champ—A Champion Fur Kids—a special furry friend available in all Build-A-Bear Workshop stores, one dollar is donated to children’s health and wellness causes. Funds are available to qualified non-profit groups in the United States and Canada through the foundation’s grant process. Visit [www.buildabear.com](http://www.buildabear.com) for more information.

## **What is CdLS?**

CdLS is a genetic syndrome that occurs in about 1 in 10,000 births. An estimated 20,000 people in the U.S. have CdLS but remain undiagnosed and/or without support services.

Although individuals with CdLS range from mildly to severely affected, most have similar physical characteristics: small size, hands and feet; thin eyebrows that meet in the middle; long eyelashes; upturned nose; and thin, downturned lips. Some individuals have limb differences, including missing fingers or arms, and partial joining of the toes. Common medical problems include gastroesophageal reflux, bowel malrotation, hearing loss, and congenital heart defects.

**About the Foundation**

Founded in 1981, the Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS) Foundation is a family support organization that exists to ensure early and accurate diagnosis of CdLS, promote research into the causes and manifestations of the syndrome, and help people with a diagnosis of CdLS make informed decisions throughout their lifetime. For more information, call 800-753-2357 or go to [www.CdLSusa.org](http://www.CdLSusa.org).