



# CdLS Foundation

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

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## **For Third Consecutive Year, National Nonprofit Achieves Highest Rating from Charity Navigator**

Avon, CT (November 5, 2013)— The Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS) Foundation achieved its third, consecutive 4-star rating for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency from Charity Navigator, the country's largest and most-utilized independent evaluator of charities.

"We're here to serve those with CdLS and their families, nationwide. Equally, we strive to remain a fiscally sound organization," said Marie Concklin-Malloy, CdLS Foundation executive director. "It's great to see our efforts recognized by Charity Navigator, so that those we serve can clearly see the backstage work going on."

Receiving the coveted four out of four stars points to the Foundation's adherence to strong governance, and best practices that minimize the possibility of unethical actions.

In his letter to the CdLS Foundation, Charity Navigator's President and CEO, Ken Berger noted, "Only 11 percent of the charities we rate have received at least three consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that the Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation outperforms most other charities in America. This 'exceptional' designation from Charity Navigator differentiates the Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust."

Charity Navigator provides information on thousands of charities nationwide, giving donors greater confidence in the charitable options they have.

"We're always looking for ways to increase the capacity and outreach of our programs to assist more families around the country," said Concklin-Malloy. "We hope that with this highest rating, we will remain trustworthy in the eyes of our donors."

For more information about the CdLS Foundation or to make a donation, call the CdLS Foundation at 800-753-2357 or visit [www.cdlsusa.org](http://www.cdlsusa.org).

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### About CdLS

Cornelia de Lange Syndrome 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. Individuals with CdLS range from mildly to severely affected, though most have similar physical characteristics including small size, hands and feet; thin eyebrows that meet in the middle; long eyelashes; an upturned nose; and thin, downturned lips. Some individuals have limb differences, including missing fingers or arms. Common medical problems include GERD, bowel obstruction, hearing loss, and congenital heart defects. Early diagnosis and intervention are essential to ensure proper management of related medical issues.

### About the Foundation

Founded in 1981, the Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation is a national 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 and their families make informed decisions throughout their lifetime.