



# CdLS Foundation

Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation, Inc.

**CdLS Foundation Contact:**  
Brenda Shepard, 312-912-7198  
[bshepard@CdLSusa.org](mailto:bshepard@CdLSusa.org)

Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation  
302 West Main Street #100 Avon, CT 06001

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CdLS FOUNDATION EARNS**

### **COVETED 4-STAR RATING FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR**

**(Avon, CT, April 2, 2015)** – The Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS) Foundation’s sound fiscal management practices and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America’s largest independent charity evaluator. This is the fourth consecutive time that CdLS Foundation has earned this top distinction.

Since 2002, using data-driven analysis, Charity Navigator has awarded only the most fiscally responsible organizations a 4-star rating. In 2011, Charity Navigator added a second dimension of Accountability and Transparency (A&T) to its rating methodology, and now reviews 17 governance and ethical practices as well as measures of openness, providing information on its web site for each of the charities it evaluates. The A&T metrics, which account for 50 percent of a charity’s overall rating, reveal which charities have “best practices” that minimize the chance of unethical activities and whether they freely share basic information about their organization with their donors and other stakeholders.

“The CdLS Foundation’s coveted 4-star rating puts it in a very select group of high-performing charities,” according to Ken Berger, President and CEO, Charity Navigator. “Out of the thousands of nonprofits Charity Navigator evaluates, only one out of four earns 4 stars -- a rating that, now, with our new Accountability and Transparency metrics, demands even greater rigor, responsibility and commitment to openness. The CdLS Foundation’s supporters should feel much more confident that their hard-earned dollars are being used efficiently and responsibly when it acquires such a high rating.”

“In the current economic environment, it’s important our donors trust that we’re using our funding wisely and meeting our mission,” said CdLS Foundation Executive Director, Marie Concklin-Malloy. “Our 4-star Charity Navigator rating demonstrates to our supporters that we take our fiduciary and governance responsibilities very seriously.”

The CdLS Foundation’s rating and other information about charitable giving are available free of charge on [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org).

#### ***About Cornelia de Lange Syndrome***

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; upturned nose; and thin, downturned lips. Some individuals have limb differences, including missing fingers or arms. Common medical problems include GERD, bowel obstruction, and congenital heart defects.

*About The CdLS Foundation (www.CdLSusa.org)*

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

*About Charity Navigator (www.charitynavigator.org)*

Charity Navigator is the largest charity evaluator in America and its website attracts more visitors than all other charity rating groups combined. The organization helps guide intelligent giving by evaluating the Financial Health and Accountability & Transparency of roughly 5,500 mid-to-large sized charities that garner roughly 50% of all private contributions made in the USA each year (not including houses of worship). Charity Navigator accepts no advertising or donations from the organizations it evaluates, ensuring unbiased evaluations, nor does it charge the public for this trusted data. As a result, Charity Navigator, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization itself, depends on support from individuals, corporations and foundations that believe it provides a much-needed service to America's charitable givers. Charity Navigator, can be reached directly by telephone at (201) 818-1288, or by mail at 139 Harristown Road, Suite 201, Glen Rock, N.J., 07452.

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