



# CdLS Foundation

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

AVON, CT (December 9, 2011) - Charity Navigator, a premier charity evaluator, recently awarded the Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS) Foundation with their 4-star rating. This four out of four star rating is awarded to only one quarter of U.S. charities. The rating validates the hard work put in by Foundation staff and board on a daily basis.

Charity Navigator bases this rating on sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency, important aspects of any organization.

Charity Navigator has been praised for its use of data-driven evaluation procedures, lending credibility to their rating, which went into effect December 1.

## **About 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 obstruction, hearing loss, and congenital heart defects.

## **About the Foundation:**

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 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).

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