

## CEREBRAL PALSY FOUNDATION AND ABC'S SPEECHLESS PARTNER TO RAISE AWARENESS OF CEREBRAL PALSY

The [Cerebral Palsy Foundation](#) (CPF) in conjunction with the new ABC series [Speechless](#), are engaged in an innovative relationship creating an opportunity where a non-profit foundation and network TV show coordinate a parallel release of meaningful and informative content around a series' story lines with the intent to inform and empower people with disabilities and those who support them.

Set to premiere Wednesday at 8:30 pm on ABC, *Speechless* is the network's newest family sitcom, and the only one of its kind on the air. It follows a family with a child who has a disability.

Maya DiMeo is a mom on a mission who will do anything for her husband, Jimmy, and kids Ray, Dylan, and J.J., her eldest son with cerebral palsy. As Maya fights injustices both real and imagined, the family works to make a new home for themselves and searches for just the right person to help give J.J. his "voice."



The Cerebral Palsy Foundation is working with the *Speechless* team as its technical consultant. Immediately following each episode of *Speechless*, CPF will release content on its website related to specific issues addressed in that week's episode. These videos and resources will be guided by input from The Foundation's Scientific Advisory Council, which includes many of the world's most well-known experts on CP. Information will also be available through CPF's social media channels including Twitter and Facebook, so that the Foundation can actively engage in the conversations the show will initiate.

Richard Ellenson, CEO of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation said, "It is wonderful for our Foundation to be a part of the *Speechless* family. People don't hear enough about cerebral palsy nor know enough about the condition. But if you consider the individuals in the U.S. alone, we would be the 12th largest city in America." Ellenson continued, "*Speechless* offers an unprecedented opportunity to grow awareness and create meaningful insights about people with CP."

"We're thrilled and honored to partner with the Cerebral Palsy Foundation on the project," said Scott Silveri, the creator of *Speechless*. "Our job at the show is plain and simple: to tell good stories and make people laugh -- this is no documentary about disability. That said, we're committed to presenting a character with CP in a way that is informed, respectful and authentic."

To learn more or become more involved, visit the CPF website [Cerebral Palsy Foundation](#).