

2018 Annual Report

Mission:

To create equal opportunities for children with hearing loss through Listening and Spoken Language.

Vision:

Deaf and hard of hearing children will achieve their aspirations and thrive in their communities.

Core Values:

<u>Family</u> - We put families first, giving hope to children with hearing loss and their parents.

<u>Choice</u> - We educate parents about their communication options, allowing them to make informed decisions for their children.

<u>Innovation</u> - We stay at the cutting edge of Listening and Spoken Language advancements and share that information with our community.

Equality - We advocate that deaf and hard of hearing children who use Listening and Spoken Language deserve the same opportunities afforded to hearing children.





Dear Friends of Hear Indiana,

In 2018, the Hear Indiana Board of Directors, along with community leaders, drafted a robust new strategic plan for the organization through 2021! We are excited to share the results of this work with you. You probably saw our new mission, vision, and value statements on the cover of this annual report. Below, we've included our goals for the next three years. Please reach out to see how you can get involved. Our job isn't done until all deaf or hard of hearing Hoosier children have an equal opportunity to succeed!

Hear Indiana will develop a community of people who advocate for Hear Indiana and its work.

At Hear Indiana we believe that even one child without language (whether visual or spoken), is one child too many. Without access to sound or a visual language at the earliest possible moment, a child with hearing loss will quickly fall behind his/her hearing peers. To be successful with Listening and Spoken Language (LSL), children need access to sound (via technology) and specialized therapy from a young age. Studies consistently demonstrate that most children with hearing loss can develop speaking, listening, and reading skills equal to or better than their hearing peers by the time they start first grade.

Hear Indiana will expand state funding for Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) services for children.

The impact of intervention is magnified as children complete their mainstream education and become contributing members of society. In fact, untreated hearing loss costs Indiana taxpayers \$1 million per child over the course of that individual's life. Approximately half of those dollars are spent on special education services.

Unfortunately, our state is failing countless numbers of these children (and their families) each year. Families move from one state agency to another (e.g., Dept. of Health, FSSA, DOE), with little preparation for the transition. Even if a family were able to successfully navigate Indiana's complex system, there are not enough qualified LSL providers available to serve them. If a child is lucky enough to find a qualified provider, s/he still needs access to high-quality, affordable technology, but the cost of hearing aids and cochlear implants is an additional barrier for many families.

Hear Indiana will expand the delivery of Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) services, support services, and hearing aids for children throughout Indiana.

For nearly 50 years, we have empowered and supported families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing; and for the past four years, we have offered audiology and speech language therapy to provide more children with access to LSL services, but there are countless more children we still need to reach! *continued on pg. 2...*



all across indiana

During the next three years, Hear Indiana will need your help to amplify the voices of hundreds of Hoosier children who want - and deserve - the same opportunities afforded to their peers:

- · Language for connection.
- · Language for learning.
- · Language for work.
- · Language for independence.

Hear Indiana will expand the role of private philanthropy to better serve Indiana's residents with hearing loss.

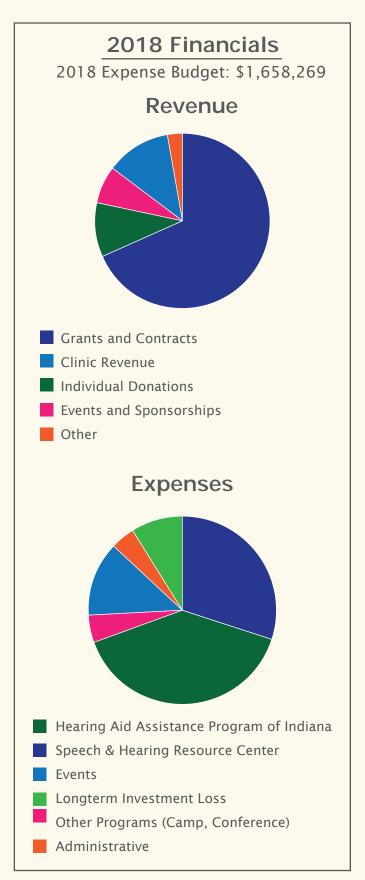
We'll need your help to accomplish these goals. While we continue to maximize revenue from medical billing, we know private donations and community support will always be a critical component of our fundraising. Thank you for helping us to provide these vital services to families from all walks of life. I hope you'll join us to create equal opportunities - and thus equal outcomes - for our children.

Sincerely,

Naomi Horton, MS, CCC-SLP

Executive Director

PS) Special thanks to the Hear Indiana Board of Directors and the following community members who contributed to developing this new strategic plan: Bruce Hetrick, Jim McClelland, Dr. Richard Miyamoto, Sr., Amy McConkey Robbins, and David Shane. Additionally, we are thankful to Lilly Endowment Inc., whose support has allowed us to complete the strategic plan, a fundraising plan, and a marketing plan over the past year.



Thank you to our generous donors!

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If we made any errors, please accept our apologies and contact us with corrections.

Hear Indiana Program Highlights



Lomont's Story

"Lomont was diagnosed with hearing loss, almost by accident, after he had an ear infection that failed two rounds of antibiotics. The ENT performed the audiogram, and then told us Lomont should probably ask to sit at the front of the classroom. No one at the ENT office talked to us about hearing aids or an FM (teacher microphone), and no one discussed an individualized education plan (IEP) at school.

After wrapping my head around the initial diagnosis, I realized that we needed help. Fortunately, we received a recommendation to contact Hear Indiana. Only through the help of Hear Indiana did we realize that Lomont needed hearing aids and how much Lomont was actually missing in his daily life. Ellyn, Hear Indiana's Family and Community Liaison, was integral in getting an FM through the public school system in order to have it at Heritage Christian, our private school.



My first contact with the public school system was actually incredibly frustrating. The first woman who I spoke with told me that children like Lomont didn't qualify for FM systems and really didn't need them. Hear Indiana was able to provide the documentation needed to counter this attempt at denying services. In addition, Hear Indiana gave us the loaner FM that demonstrated to the public school system that it was an actual necessity for Lomont! Also, Ellyn personally attended the meeting to determine eligibility for Lomont. She knew exactly how to advocate for Lomont in such a professional but unfaltering way.

This past year was the absolute best year for Lomont scholastically. Before his hearing aids and FM, I was telling the teachers that Lomont was not learning the material at school, and that I was having to re-teach many basic concepts at home. Lomont now needs very little help at home, because he's not missing nearly as much during the school day. We hope that sharing Lomont's story can help others to see how amazing Hear Indiana is!"

- Jaimie, Lomont's Mom



Children with hearing loss deserve every opportunity to grow and thrive. That's why we provide clinical services, school advocacy, emotional support, and more.

Call us today to learn more!

Assistive Technology Loaner Bank

"I was very pleasantly surprised with how well furnished the Hear Indiana assistive technology loaner bank was. Hear Indiana staff supported me every step of the way. Borrowing the teacher microphone systems allowed me to meet the specific needs of my students. It has been a blessing to be able to use this equipment!"

- Julie Mellon, Teacher of the Deaf Clark-Pleasant Community Schools