



Songs For Sound

Until Everyone can

Hear the Music

A PERSONALIZED APPROACH TO HEARING HEALTHCARE



 SONGS FOR
SOUND
h E A R t h e m u s i c



SONGS FOR SOUND IS A 501C3 CHARITY WITH A MISSION TO END HEARING LOSS THROUGH AWARENESS, ACCESS (TO FREE TESTING) AND ENCOURAGING ACTION. SONGS FOR SOUND HAS ALREADY HELPED OVER 26,000 PEOPLE AND AIMS TO REACH 250,000 BY 2025.

LEXI - Brentwood, TN



LEXI IS A DEAF STUDENT ATHLETE. LEXI WEARS BILATERAL COCHLEAR IMPLANTS BY COCHLEAR AMERICAS. LEXI IS A "USA ALL-AMERICAN" PITCHER & RANKED #7 IN THE COUNTRY FOR THE CLASS OF 2026 BY EXTRA INNINGS. LEXI ATTENDS BRENTWOOD ACADEMY WHERE SHE PLAYS BOTH SOFTBALL AND VOLLEYBALL. SHE ALSO PLAYS FOR THE NATIONALLY RANKED CLUB PROGRAM, THE BIRMINGHAM THUNDERBOLTS OUT OF ALABAMA.

LEXI WAS MISSED AND NOT GIVEN A PROPER DIAGNOSIS FOR 14 MONTHS. SHE WAS NEVER GIVEN A NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING, SOMETHING THE HOSPITAL ROUTINELY DID. UPON HER DIAGNOSIS AS BEING DEAF, HER FAMILY LEARNED ABOUT COCHLEAR IMPLANTS, A DEVICE THAT CAN "BRING BACK SOUND TO THE DEAF."

LEXI WAS IMPLANTED AND TURNED ON OR "ACTIVATED" AT 19 MONTHS OF AGE. SHE WENT FROM BEING DEAF AND MUTE TO NOW A 13 YEAR OLD TYPICAL TEENAGER WITH INCREDIBLE SPEECH AND SHE LOVES MUSIC!

SONGS FOR SOUND WAS FOUNDED BY HER MOM, JAIME VERNON, WHO COULD NOT BELIEVE THE NUMBER OF OPPORTUNITIES HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS HAD TO DIAGNOSE LEXI, HOWEVER THEY CONTINUALLY SAID "SHE IS FINE. JUST WAIT."

THE HEAR THE MUSIC TAGLINE IS BECAUSE JAIME WOULD ROCK LEXI AND SHE NEVER HEARD HER LULLABY, UNTIL SHE RECEIVED THAT LIFECHANGING SURGERY.



[SONGSFORSOUND.ORG](https://songsforsound.org)

THE MISSION

Health Disparity Reduction

Hearing Loss

Disparities in pediatric health care quality and access are documented throughout time in literature and journal articles. Research and knowledge of such issues, specifically pediatric hearing loss, provide concrete data that underserved populations have alarming percentages of untreated children.

The issues associated with untreated hearing loss in children can have devastating results on a child's life. Vulnerable populations are particularly burdened due to the socioeconomic barriers they already face. Children from certain geographic regions or ethnic backgrounds are particularly burdened with untreated hearing loss. Their parents face issues such as little to no access to care, affordability issues and they lack the understanding or urgency to get the child treatment.

There is also a population of families who are aware of the child's hearing loss, yet fail to act at alarming rates. 50% of children who fail a newborn hearing screening do not return to for follow up testing. When parents know there is hearing loss and already have an awareness, history shows that social movements help increase their response time.

For years, there has been an abundance of research on the issues associated with pediatric hearing loss, however very little changes to the approach to serve these vulnerable populations. Songs for Sound has built a proven sustainable Quality Improvement model for underserved children with untreated hearing loss.

Songs for Sound's program delivers a full-circle approach. We believe through outreach, advocacy and lifetime support, we can continue to greatly decrease untreated hearing loss in children and increase outcomes in areas listed below:

The child faces issues such as:

- low literacy rates
- language competence
- cognitive development
- social-emotional well-being
- academic achievement

Three out of four parents of children with hearing loss reported common problem areas including:

- Social skills (52%)
- Speech and language development (51%)
- Grades in school (50%)
- Emotional health (42%)
- Relationships with peers (38%)
- Self-esteem (37%)
- Relationships with family (36%)

Health Disparity Reduction

Hearing Loss

More information on untreated pediatric hearing loss:

- Disparities in pediatric health care quality are well described in the literature, yet practical approaches to decreasing them remain elusive.
- There are significant disparities in care facing children with hearing loss. The objective is to assess the current disparities in pediatric hearing healthcare delivery, overcome the barriers of efficient and effective pediatric hearing health care, and deliver the innovations to improve pediatric hearing healthcare delivery.
- Children with hearing loss from certain geographic regions or ethnic background are significantly delayed in diagnosis and treatment. Multiple patient characteristics (presentation of hearing loss), parental factors (insurance status, socioeconomic status, educational status, and travel distance to providers), and provider barriers (specialist shortage and primary care provider challenges) prevent the delivery of timely hearing health care. Advances, such as improved screening programs and the expansion of care through remote services, may help to ameliorate these disparities.
- Timely identification and treatment of pediatric hearing loss is critical to prevent lifelong language complications. Children from vulnerable populations, such as rural residents, face significant disparities in care. Careful assessment of these barriers and implementation of culturally acceptable interventions are paramount to maximize communication outcomes of children with hearing loss.
- Social movements in public health have also long been organized around the pressing needs of vulnerable populations.

CONCLUSION

1. We provide access and intervention through our massive, nationwide mobile hearing health outreach program, The Hear the Music Project, which includes free hearing screenings aboard an experience.
2. The Hear the Music Project is a social movement & experience designed to change human behaviors by removing stigmas associated with hearing loss and hearing technologies. The outreach model and "hear the music" message provides an opportunity for children and families to be a part of a larger movement.

Health Disparity Reduction

Hearing Loss

3. Our Care Team of advocates help meet families where they are, supporting them at every phase of the process to treatment and even post treatment. The Care Team meets the family where they are and increases awareness, makes the appointment, review their insurance plan, coordinates the right audiologist match for the family's preferences.

4. Hope Lifetime Programs provides virtual and in-person programs to help create sustainable outcomes and support the family once the child is in a hearing device. Support includes:

- academic
- athletic
- social

Hope Lifetime Programs also supports families whose child is already in hearing devices.

Please review this proposal on our full-circle service to help children of all ages with hearing loss to reach their greatest academic, social and overall potentials.

References:

(Matthew L Bush, Michael R Kaufman, Beth N McNulty.Curr Opin Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.Disparities in access to pediatric hearing health care .2017 Oct;25(5):359-364.)

(K. Casey Lion, MD, MPH^{a,b} and Jean L. Raphael, MD, MPH.Partnering Health Disparities Research With Quality Improvement Science in Pediatrics.Pediatrics. 2015 Feb; 135(2): 354-

(Theodore M. Brown and Elizabeth Fee.Social Movements in Health.Annual Review of Public Health.Vol. 35:385-398 (Volume publication date March 2014)

(Audiology Online. Untreated Hearing Loss Puts Children at Risk, Better Hearing Institute Warns.2008.Sept; 25.)

Hear the Music Project: Hearing Loss Results – Peds

2016-2020

2428

NORMAL

1680

MILD

647

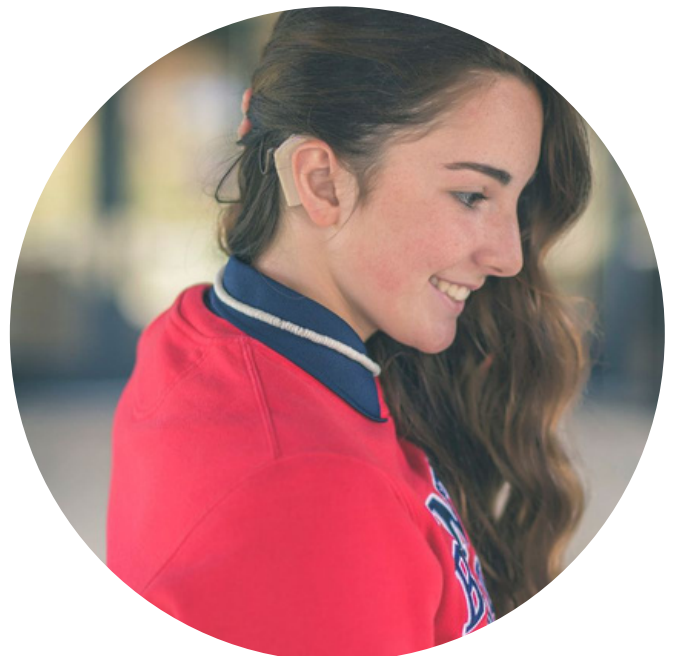
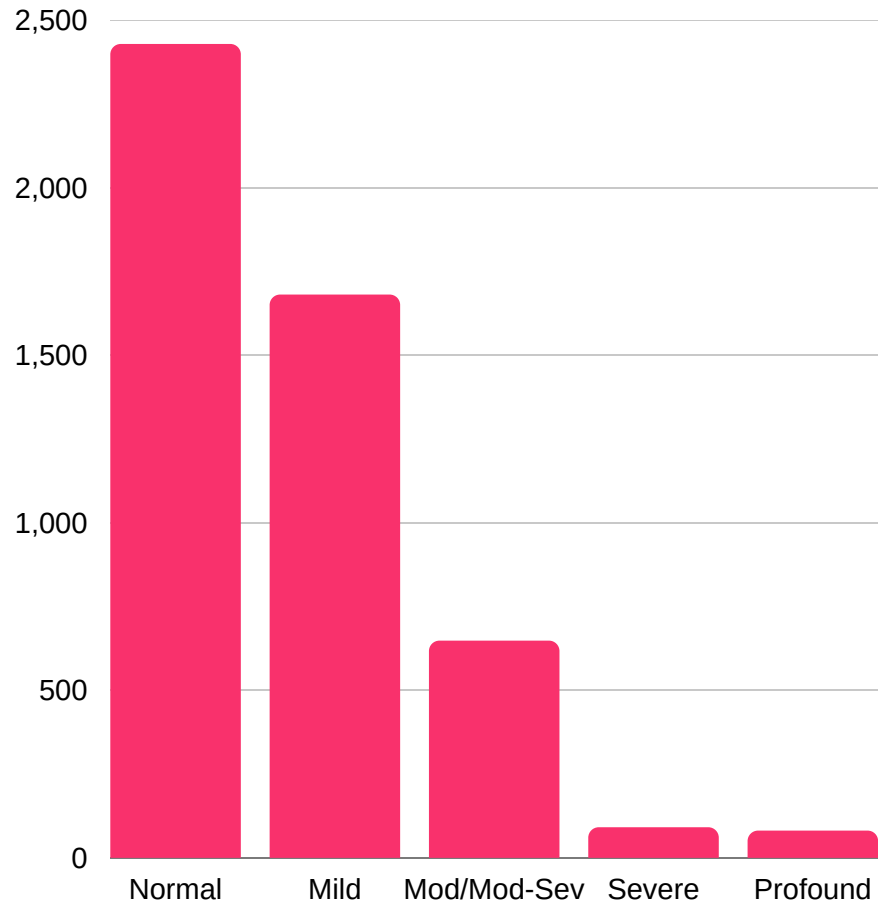
**MODERATE/MODERATELY
SEVERE**

90

SEVERE

80

PROFOUND



MNPS/Charter School Proof of Concept: Hearing Loss Results – Peds

348

TESTED

2021-22

37

NORMAL - LEVEL 1
ANNUAL
SCREENING

81

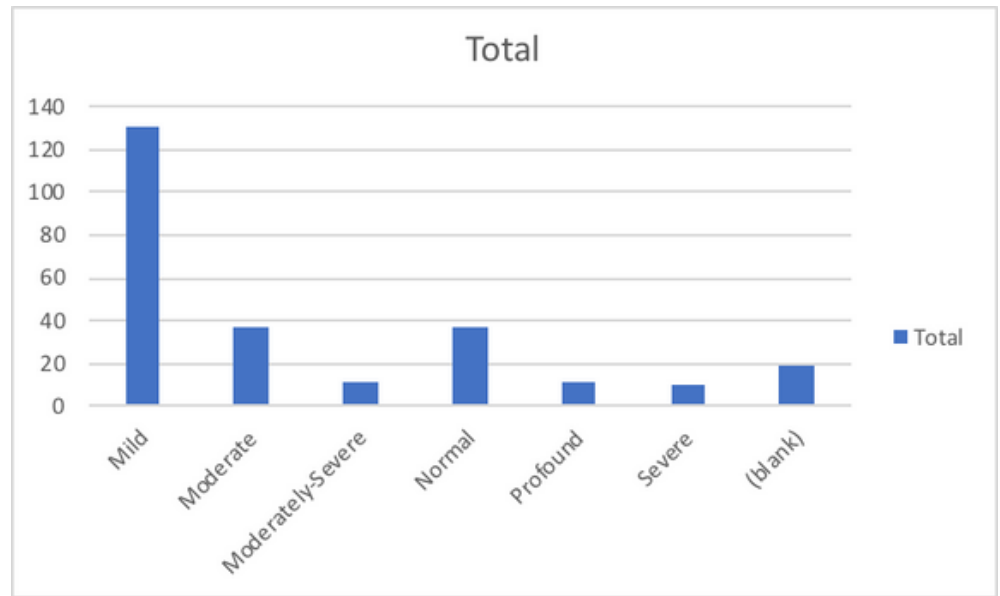
MILD - LEVEL 2
ON WATCH LIST -
SCREEN AGAIN

48

LEVEL 3 -
MODERATE/MODERATELY
SEVERE - READY FOR APPT

21

LEVEL 4
SEVERE-PROFOUND -
READY FOR APPT



HEAR THE MUSIC PROJECT & HEARING LOSS

40%

**OF CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION
IS MISSED WITH A JUST A
MILD HEARING LOSS**



38%

**OF CHILDREN/TEENS
(AGES 5-18) REFER TO AN
AUDIOLOGIST AFTER TAKING
OUR HEARING SCREENING**

15-20%

**AGE 12-17 WHO HAVE
NOISE-INDUCED HEARING LOSS
DUE TO EXTENDED EXPOSURE
TO LOUD NOISE/MUSIC, ETC**



the SFS Difference

It's a REAL, in PERSON conversation. It's a relationship built on trust.

I. OUTREACH

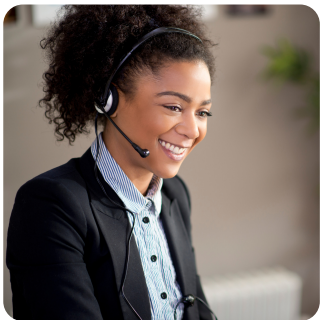
THE EXPERIENCE/THE TEST: UNIQUE INTERACTIONS

Our tour and kiosk strategy provides a person an opportunity to test at their convenience without the hassle of an appointment.



II. CARE TEAM RELATIONSHIPS

Our Care Team approach is focused on building relationships and trust with each individual. After the test, we provide one on one support, counseling and an advocate to walk consumers to hearing life again.

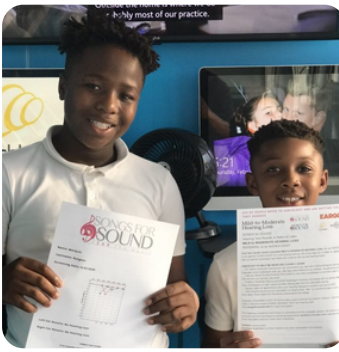


III. Hope Lifetime Programs LIFETIME SUPPORT

With funding, we are hosting gatherings and events for children with hearing technology. These are both social and educational to support children with hearing technology for a lifetime.



THE DETAILS



- SFS serves MNPS/CHARTER SCHOOL SITES with SFS Hear the Music program
- Staff & Students are screened either aboard the clinic or inside of quiet rooms; our technology and kiosks are mobile.
- Pending an approval of a grant, each test site receives a stand alone "Hear the Music Program Kiosk"
- Each student/their family and staff person moves into our Care Team which provides follow up and support for next steps. This is personalized support for anyone who needs additional services (audiology, hearing technology, speech, etc).
- Each student/staff gets lifetime support from our Hope Lifetime Programs - programs (in-person/virtual) to be successful with their hearing technology for a lifetime. Social, Academic and Athletic support programs for people living with hearing loss.
- Prep for each school to have a Hear the Music Day/Event in 2022 - WE SUCCESSFULLY EXECUTED THIS AT AMQUI ELEM. IT WAS VERY IMPACTFUL.
- With funding, we are hiring, have identified, a full-time Director of Audiology to oversee the Care Team and audiological support.

CONTACTS



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