

Loud and Clear



The newsletter for Supporters of St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf | July 2023

Eleanor Says, "Thank You!" for Helping Her Learn to Listen and Speak!

Diagnosed with hearing loss at birth, Eleanor began wearing hearing aids at just five weeks old.

Eleanor received cochlear implants before she turned three, and with their help she began a new phase in her hearing and speech development. Her ability to communicate and interact with the world around her blossomed as she discovered a wide range of sounds.

Eleanor received specialized education at St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf to develop her listening and spoken language skills. She worked hard with the support of her teachers and therapists until she learned the fundamentals of language and communication.

Eleanor is intelligent and has a vibrant personality. She makes friends easily, adores all things princess, and loves to dance. Eleanor's smile and enthusiasm capture the hearts of everyone around her.

We are proud of Eleanor's achievements at St. Joseph Institute. She will continue her education at White River Elementary School in Noblesville.

Eleanor overcame obstacles, unlocked her potential, and integrated into the world around her. **YOU** helped shape her future and opened doors to a world of endless opportunities.

Thank you for being an unwavering advocate for children like Eleanor. **Your support** has forever changed her life and will continue to transform the lives of many others.



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Eleanor began wearing hearing aids at just five weeks old.



Eleanor's first day of school at St. Joseph Institute.



Eleanor's last day of school at St. Joseph Institute.

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS MORE THAN YOU KNOW!

Mary Talks More than Ever Before!

Thanks to an innovative therapist and our supportive donors.

“Through iHear, I’ve been working with a 7-year-old student, Mary,” related Barb Meyers, MA, CED. “She’s had a tough road with a late moderate-to-severe bilateral sensorineural hearing loss diagnosis, and she was just recently fit with hearing aids.”

Mary’s school district reached out to SJI originally to begin iHear sessions to support her listening and spoken language development. We had six sessions this spring and she has steadily progressed ever since. To continue her progress, she required services throughout the summer. Based on Mary’s rapid developmental progress through the iHear program, the Director of Special Education of her district approved summer school for Mary.

“To help Mary acquire more vocabulary and language, I developed a word ring for her. The word-ring is a strategy to provide the child a visual picture along with the written word. With practice, the result increased vocabulary. I placed the English word on each vocabulary card, and her Speech Therapist that I work with at the school district placed the Spanish word alongside, so Mary’s family members could practice the vocabulary at home. This tool is a tried-and-true technique our beloved CSJs taught us all those years ago,” explained Barb.

“Think about how you communicate. If a child only uses nouns to communicate, like “ball,” the conversation comes to a halt. Once you add action words or verbs like “roll, throw, catch, kick, and bounce” with the ball... now that language has power. Look at all the things that a child can talk about now!”

“In our last summer session, we were finishing up and Mary looked straight in the camera. She said, ‘Bye guys. See you later!’ This is more language and clearer speech than I’ve heard in our 12 iHear sessions! We were all cheering,” recalled Barb, fondly. “I cannot wait to see her progress when we pick back up with sessions in the fall.”



Barb worked with Mary via iHear.

“The school-based Speech Language Pathologist, along with the school staff, were so anxious to learn the Listening and Spoken Language strategies,” smiles Barb Meyers, MA, CED and iHear Therapist. “Everyone respected the other’s strengths and skills – Mary will be the beneficiary of all these professionals working together.”

Zoey’s Story of Growth

How Zoey’s Family and SJI Changed Her World.



Zoey came to SJI at just 10 months old with bilateral moderate hearing loss.

Zoey came to SJI as a 10-month-old child with a bilateral moderate hearing loss. She had a 6-month delay in her listening and spoken language skills and needed to be fit with amplification,” relates Brittany Scott, MA, Teacher of the Deaf. “The family has no prior history of hearing loss, so her parents’ learning curve has been sharp and fast. They are completely committed to their daughter’s education and quickly picked up LSL strategies from our sessions.

“Initially, Zoey was making some vocalizations but not really talking. Within a few months, her progress really took off thanks to her parents’ purposeful actions. She was wearing her hearing aids, putting words together, and making her needs known – sometimes pretty loudly!” laughed Brittany.

“At 2 years old, Zoey joined the Toddler Classroom Program at St. Joseph,” Brittany continued. “This is a great option to really solidify the listening and language lessons learned at home in a group setting with other children.”

Zoey’s big sister, Matilda, now attends preschool classes at SJI as a peer with typical hearing and receives speech therapy for a mild language delay. According to Brittany, “Zoey is chatty! She puts together 3-4 word sentences, loves to sing and dance, and creates block masterpieces.” With a laugh, Brittany continued, “She follows directions as willingly as any 2-year-old will follow directions. I am so thrilled to be a part of this success story for Zoey and her family!”



Zoey’s family has no prior history of hearing loss so her parents’ learning curve has been sharp and fast.



Zoey loves to sing and dance, and creates block masterpieces.

“Zoey’s parents are terrific advocates for their kids! The confidence they gained from learning LSL strategies, and subsequently embedding them throughout their routines has helped both daughters close a previously significant language gap.”

How St. Joseph's Captivated My Heart

Dick and Geri Schul have proudly supported St. Joseph Institute since 1991. Dick commented, "Geri and I have been amazed each year at the progress in the field."

When Dick was first introduced to St. Joseph's mission, he was President of the ALCO Controls division of Emerson Electric in Maryland Heights, MO where they were running a United Way campaign. To make it meaningful to their employees, Dick selected four organizations to speak about their mission at the rally. St. Joseph Institute was one of those agencies. Sr. Joyce, then principal of St. Joseph, brought two young children with her to the rally. Dick exclaimed, "Their confidence and persona knocked my socks off!"

After that encounter, Dick joined the St. Joseph board in 1992 as a full member. Since then, he's served in so many roles including board chair,

development chair, back to board chair and then interim president. He stated, "**I wanted to do anything I could to help this incredible place that literally changes lives.**"



Dick & Geri Schul have proudly supported St. Joseph Institute since 1991.

In 1997, Dick initiated the 100 Holes golf tournament and 26 years later it's still going strong! In 1995, Geri joined St. Joseph's Ephpheta Society to help raise money throughout the year for the organization. She served until the last auction in 2016. Dick and Geri adopted their favorite puppy "Charlie" in 2007 at an Ephpheta auction.

With a smile that only Dick Schul can give, he reflected, "We cannot believe how the kids' language and listening improves because of the dedicated teachers and therapists at St. Joseph. This incredible mission, begun by the Sisters of St. Joseph, and now by lay staff, ensures every child gets a fighting chance. Who wouldn't want to help this magical program in any way possible?"

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UPCOMING

EVENTS

IND	
Sept 15	SJI Charity Golf Classic
May 2	Sound of Speed
STL	
July 22	Club Cochlea
Sept 23	186th Birthday / Bocce Tourney
Dec 1	Gala
Jan 28	Bourbon Tasting
May 28	100 Holes for Hearing

Plan A Greater Gift. Leave a Legacy.

By leaving a lasting legacy, you provide ongoing opportunities for students to thrive, achieve academic success, and embrace a world full of possibilities.

How do you want to be remembered?

Leaving a gift of support in your will or a St. Joseph Institute designation for your IRA or Donor Advised Fund ensures that your impact continues well into the future.

Your generous contribution will support our comprehensive educational programs, cutting-edge therapies, and essential resources, enabling us to empower students to reach their full potential.

For more information, contact Zareena Koch, Chief Development Officer at zkoch@sjid.org.

