

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



HOPE, HEART, & HARD WORK:  
Tripp's Extraordinary  
Progress



**St. Joseph**  
Institute for the Deaf



## OUR EXPERTISE

Armed with more than 187 years of knowledge and the passion for solid communication and literacy skills, SJI delivers impactful programs with expertise. Thanks to highly specialized listening and spoken language strategies and hearing technology, our services help children with hearing loss learn to listen, speak, and support their families. As a result, our staff make a marked difference in thousands of lives all around the world.

Our staff's credentials are exceptional. Over 65% of our educators hold Listening and Spoken Language certification, a distinction requiring more than 900 hours of peer oversight, and all are master's-level professionals. Our administrative and support staff also bring expertise in areas such as finance, fundraising, and human resources. Together, we create a framework of parent support, fostering communication and empowering parents to become confident decision-makers for their children. Our shared passion and commitment to excellence enable children to surpass expectations and achieve remarkable progress.

The “why” of our services is simple and complex all at once. The simplest explanation is we believe children with hearing loss can learn to listen and speak with quality LSL services. There is no equivalent joy like the first words from a child who has struggled to speak or the first recognized sounds after the hearing technology has been properly adjusted. Our why is complex, stemming from more than 187 years of tradition, faith in our mission, and the constant journey towards better services. Our founders weren't concerned with the status quo as they reinvented deaf education, recalibrated provider training, or developed newer techniques. Neither are we. We know to change is to improve and at the end of the improvement is a child who can now say “I love you” to his parents.



“Our providers are unique in their dedication to the families we serve. The listening and spoken language providers and teachers share in each family's celebrations and challenges. They offer support through consistent communication and empower parents to become decision-makers for their child. Simply put, our providers make SJI a place where children grow and succeed.”



- Bailey Clay, M.S. CCC-SLP, LSLs Cert. AVT  
Director of LSL Advancement



# EARLY INTERVENTION

Our LSL providers coach caregivers at home or in the community using specialized strategies to help babies listen and talk with hearing technology. Services are available both in-person and through our iHear telepractice program. SJI's Early Intervention program served 302 children in 2023-24.

SJI has implemented a new assessment protocol to monitor progress, share updates with Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) teams, and aid in transitions for children turning three. SJI's commitment to assessment will enhance practices when working with children and families.

“Family-centered early intervention establishes a foundation for lifelong learning.”

- Caitlin Stacy, M.S., CCC-SLP, LSL Cert. AVT

# 302

CHILDREN SERVED IN EARLY INTERVENTION



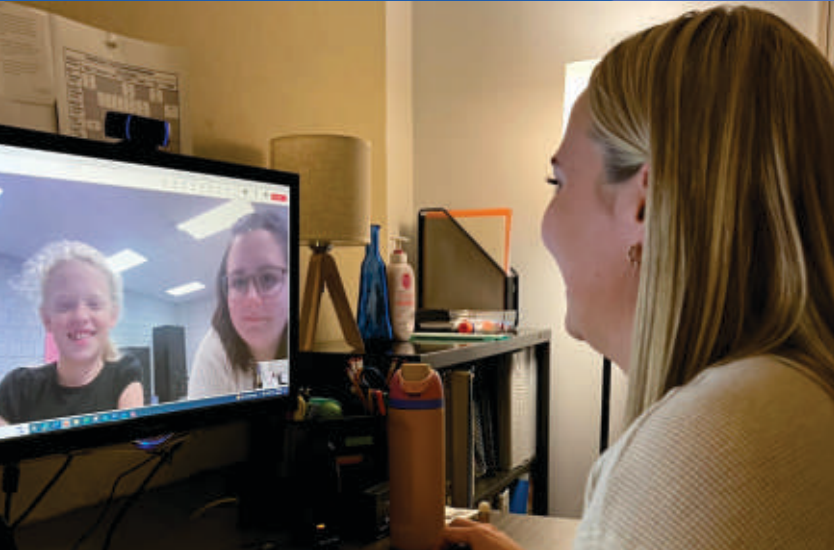
## JULIE BETH HAYDEN FOUNDATION FUNDS LITTLE HEAROES CLASSROOM

We're grateful to Julie and Jim Andrews and the Julie Beth Hayden Foundation for their incredible generosity in helping us launch our new Little HEARoes Toddler Classroom.

Little HEARoes provides caregiver-centered intervention to children ages 16 to 36 months. Caregivers learn listening and spoken language strategies from a certified Listening and Spoken Language Specialist, while also creating a community and lifelong bonds with other families.

# OUTREACH SERVICES

Our Mainstream Services assisted 47 students in transition from early intervention or preschool to a mainstream school environment. Sometimes students using hearing technology may face unique challenges and may require continued specialized support. Our Mainstream Specialists collaborate with local professionals to assess student needs, develop goals and accommodations, and provide support in areas such as auditory skills, social and self-advocacy skills, and academic performance.



# 47

STUDENTS ASSISTED BY  
MAINSTREAM SERVICES

# BRAIN BUBBLES

Through Brain Bubbles pop-up events SJI provides a one-hour structured playgroup for children birth to three. These sessions are designed for all children in the community and are hosted in collaboration with local entities such as libraries, community centers or churches.

After hosting the first Brain Bubbles event at AppleTree Early Childhood Center in Rensselaer, IN, SJI and Right Steps saw benefit in adding the listening screener to the annual Right Steps assessment protocol. In April, SJI trained the Right Steps team, and more than 200 infants and toddlers received listening screenings by the end of May.



# HOPE, HEART, & HARD WORK:

## Tripp's Extraordinary Progress

The first day of school is always memorable, and for Tripp, it was no different—except that his journey to get there had been anything but typical. Like most kids, Tripp was full of excitement with a little bit of anxiety, and his parents shared those feelings too. But unlike most kids, Tripp had a few extra challenges to overcome.

Born with seizures and facing a host of other medical issues before he was even a week old, Tripp was diagnosed with CHARGE syndrome, a rare genetic condition that affects about 1 in every 8,500 to 10,000 newborns *worldwide*. CHARGE stands for a collection of physical symptoms or characteristics that can impact children in profound ways:

- Coloboma (a gap in eye tissue)
- Heart defects
- Atresia of choanae (blocked nasal passages)
- Restricted growth or development
- Genital abnormalities
- Ear abnormalities, often leading to hearing loss

For many children born with CHARGE syndrome, the first year of life is full of medical hurdles, and some never make it through. But Tripp has defied the odds. As his mother, Alissa, put it, “It's amazing to watch Tripp break down barriers and do all the things professionals told us he wouldn't do—like eat by mouth, talk, or walk.”

“I feel very passionate about helping children with hearing loss access Listening and Spoken Language (LSL), because I've seen firsthand what a difference it can make in closing the language gap for children like Tripp. He started school at the perfect time for him and that's something I will never be able to thank SJI enough for.”

- Alissa Hughes  
Tripp's Mom and Speech Language Pathologist



“It's amazing to watch Tripp break down barriers and do all the things professionals told us he wouldn't do—like eat by mouth, talk, or walk.”



And break down those barriers he has. With the help of a dedicated team and his own fierce determination, Tripp has been making remarkable strides. He works hard daily, receiving occupational, physical, and speech therapy to support his growth. The results speak for themselves.

Tripp didn't have full access to sound until he was three years old, so he initially relied on sign language to communicate. But since he's been attending SJI, his progress has been nothing short of extraordinary. He has made more than a year's worth of language progress for every year he's been there.

“We're hopeful he will be caught up and ready for kindergarten this year,” Alissa said. “He's done way more than I ever imagined thanks to SJI!”

Tripp's journey at SJI hasn't just been about speech and language—it's been about so much more. When he first started, he needed a walker to get around. Today, he's walking on his own! Watching him take those independent steps is nothing short of incredible and a true testament to his determination and growth.

Alissa's gratitude toward SJI runs deep, especially given her professional background as a speech language pathologist. “I feel very passionate about helping children with hearing loss access Listening and Spoken Language (LSL), because I've seen firsthand what a difference it can make in closing the language gap for children like Tripp. He started school at the perfect time for him and that's something I will never be able to thank SJI enough for.”

Tripp's journey is a testament to the power of perseverance, the dedication of educators, and the hope that comes with expert care. Each day brings new possibilities, and with the support of SJI, the sky is the limit for Tripp and other children like him.



# SJI'S PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Our preschool program delivers focused Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) instruction to enhance auditory skills using hearing technology. Educators integrate LSL strategies throughout all activities, ensuring that students receive consistent, daily support from a LSL provider. With 85% of children achieving at least expected progress in language development and 74% demonstrating accelerated progress to close the gap between their chronological and language ages, SJI is successfully meeting the objectives of our preschool and primary school program.







# 234

NUMBER OF SCHOOL-AGED  
CHILDREN SERVED BY SJI

“The school is filled with laughter, singing, and talking each day! Watching a child grow from learning to listen to listening to learn, it is truly something to celebrate.”

- Lindy Powell, M. Ed., LSLC Cert. AVEEd  
Chief Program Officer

## PLAN A GREATER GIFT. LEAVE A LEGACY.

By including SJI with an IRA or other qualified charitable distribution, you provide ongoing opportunities for students to thrive, achieve academic success, and embrace a world full of possibilities. Additionally, remembering SJI in your estate plans or will makes an impact felt for decades to come.

Directing your IRA or 401 required minimum distribution helps kids learn to listen and speak. It doesn't count towards your income so other premiums won't increase and it may reduce your taxes. Ask your financial advisor for more details.

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.

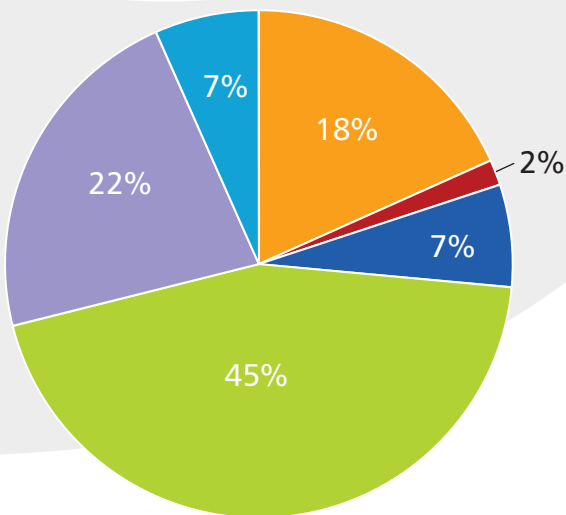
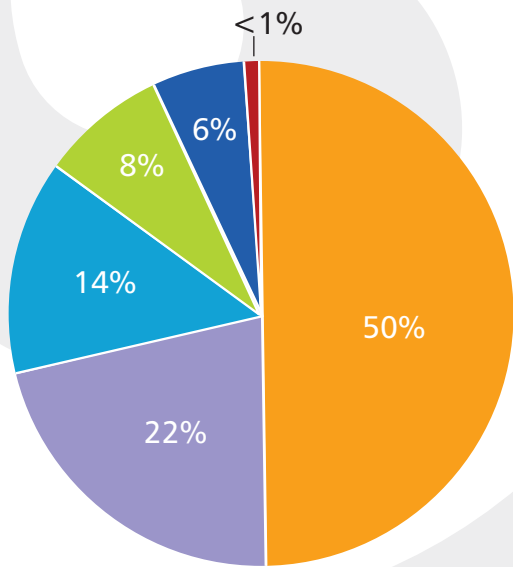
Any way you choose to help kids, your generous contribution will support our comprehensive educational programs, cutting-edge therapies, and essential resources, enabling us to empower students to reach their full potential.

For more information, contact Zareena Koch, Chief Development Officer at [zkoch@sjid.org](mailto:zkoch@sjid.org).



# FINANCIAL REPORT

St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf presents the following summary of the source of revenues and breakout of expenses for the agency's Fiscal Year 2023-2024, ending this past June 30.



## REVENUE

- Early Intervention Program Fees
- School-Aged Program Fees
- Contributions and Grants
- Fundraising events, net
- Investment Revenue, net
- Other revenue

## EXPENSES

- Early Intervention Program Services
- Audiology Program Services
- iHear Program Services
- Preschool and Mainstream Program Services
- Management and General
- Fundraising

## Message from SJI's President

Dear Friends and Supporters,

At St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf, we remain dedicated to Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) for children with hearing loss. Through advanced hearing technology and timely intervention by our highly skilled professionals, we help children learn to listen and speak.

We believe in parent choice and feel parents should be fully informed as soon as possible to make the best decision for their child's future. However, families continue to face challenges in accessing accurate information, leading to delayed intervention and initiation of quality services like ours. I believe that we, along with our LSL colleagues, must advocate to improve this.

For over 187 years, our organization has embraced innovation and best practices for children with hearing loss. I witness our staff's dedication through their ongoing education, advanced degrees, and specialized LSL certifications. Our LSL professionals are committed to helping children reach their full potential, with the goal of transitioning them to community schools when they are ready.

As I reflect on 2023-24, it was a year of growth and service. We proudly served more than 350 children and families while also planning for the future in both Indiana and Missouri. Thanks to generous donors, we opened a new toddler classroom in Indiana, fostering early connections among families. In Missouri, we continue to refine our programs to align the gaps of both services and support to meet the needs of the community. We continue to unify our infrastructure across both campuses. I am very proud of all our staff as they continue to help us work toward our vision as a preeminent resource for LSL.

We remain committed to being good stewards of every dollar we receive, and I personally thank you for your ongoing support of our mission.

**Jeffrey R. Chapman**

*President, St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf*

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# CONNECT WITH US



## INDIANA

9192 Waldemar Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46268  
(317) 471-8560

## MISSOURI

1314 Strassner Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63144  
(314) 918-1369

[sjid.org](http://sjid.org)



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