

Loud and Clear



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Little HEARoes Celebrates 1 Year

Sponsored by the Julie Beth Hayden Foundation, this Parent-and-Me program has had a life-changing impact on our Early Intervention community. (Story continues on P2)

"More Than We Ever Thought"

Celebrating one year of Little HEARoes



February marked the anniversary of Little HEARoes, St. Joseph's Parent-and-Me program. Led by Megan Perria, Early Intervention and Listening and Spoken Language Specialist, each 8-week session at our Indiana campus teaches toddlers and caregivers to sing and play, the Listening and Spoken Language way. Tamara Nyland, who has participated in every session of Little HEARoes with her granddaughter, Norah, feels privileged to attend class each Friday. She says, "The program not only teaches skills to children but also parents/grandparents like me."



Norah, Little HEARoes participant, lays across a drum.

Little HEARoes also serves as an opportunity for families to build connections with others in our Early Intervention community. Kelsey Sheffer, mother of Ivy, says, "It's been so beneficial for Ivy to be around other kids his age with hearing devices. They learn how to make friends and practice life skills together."

The success of Little HEARoes would be impossible without the generous support of The Julie Beth Hayden Foundation. We are so grateful for the opportunities they've created for families like Jennifer Foley and her son, Jordyn. Foley says, "Before starting, Jordyn was quite shy and timid. Since attending, he has blossomed into a whole new person. He has even made some amazing new friends who hopefully he keeps in touch with forever."

"When I tell you Little HEARoes has changed our lives, I mean it."

-Jennifer Foley, Jordan's mom



Demonstrating Excellence



Staff and Leadership Shine at Annual EHDI Conference

Last month, Pittsburgh hosted the 24th annual Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Conference, bringing together national experts and stakeholders for three days of panels, presentations, and networking to advance EHDI program implementation nationwide.

Amidst the opportunity to share research and learn from other great minds in the field, our St. Joseph contingent at the conference celebrated MO Professional Learning Coordinator Barb Meyers, who was nominated for the Antonia Brancia Maxon award for EHDI Excellence. The award honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to EHDI programs. Meyers, who is celebrating 43 years with St. Joseph, is a perfect candidate- even if she doesn't quite believe it herself.

"I thought it was a scam," Meyers said, recalling when she received the email announcement from the EHDI president. "I forwarded it to Lindy and said, 'Is this for real?'" But once the news was confirmed, Meyers was touched to be considered alongside the other 14 other accomplished nominees. "I don't do things in my career to get kudos. I just kind of stay in my lane, do my job, and do what I love to do. So it was very humbling."

Between celebrations, Meyers delivered two presentations: one with board member Alex Puckett about brain building through music and singing, and another with Early Intervention Specialist Lexi Newman about the power of play. Newman said, "Helping families learn how to play with their babies is such a meaningful way to support LSL development."



Left to right: Barb Meyers, Kenzie Gard, Lindy Powell, and Mariana Barquet (IN Hands and Voices)

Awards aside, Barb Meyers is proud to represent St. Joseph at national conferences like EHDI, and to serve as a mentor to younger staff attending for the first time. "It's the best way we can get the word out about our mission," she said. "I'll keep doing it as long as I can."



Barb Meyers, 2025 Antonia Brancia Maxon Award Nominee

St. Joseph Honors Namesake, Roots

Recognizing the Feast of St. Joseph



Sr. Linda tells Missouri students about St. Joseph's Day bread.

Activities included songs, stories, and a special snack- bread from Vitale's Bakery in St. Louis. The tradition of sharing bread on St. Joseph's Day dates back to Sicily in the Middle Ages, where legends say that St. Joseph intervened to end a devastating famine.

On March 19, staff and students celebrated St. Joseph's Day, the principal feast day of St. Joseph.

We welcomed guests including the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (left) and school alumnus Dr. Janice DeSanto, Class of 1966 (below) for a special day of recognition and a celebration of the compassion, courage, and dedication of St. Joseph.



Dr. Janice DeSanto chats with an Indianapolis student.

St. Joseph is proud to honor our Catholic heritage. Sr. Laura Gruber, current Board member and former educator, says, "Our charism is the thread that unites us all in this mission. It makes how we do what we do so important as we serve our dear neighbors."

As we reflect on our fun (and delicious) Feast Day, we are grateful for all who joined us to celebrate, and all who continue to support our vision of being the preeminent resource for Listening and Spoken Language services.



“Best Kept Secret” No More

Lilly Endowment Grant to Improve Visibility and Services

We believe that every child with hearing loss has a right to their own voice, and that given the proper support and services, Listening and Spoken Language outcomes aren't just possible- they're probable. Thanks to our grant partnership with Lilly Endowment, we are taking steps to expand access to our transformative services.



St. Joseph's partnership with the Lilly Endowment centers around two primary initiatives. The first aims to enhance technology and data integration. Historically, a lack of comprehensive data about provider efficacy and child outcomes posed a significant challenge to our LSL providers. By establishing the Longitudinal Impact of Listening and Language Yearly Progress (LILLY) database to manage assessment and outcome data, our goal is to remain on the cutting edge of the LSL field and provide the best possible services to our families. Bailey Clay, Director of LSL Advancement, says, "We are excited to implement a new database that will enable data-driven decisions that support student success, demonstrate program efficacy, and highlight LSL development."

The other major initiative will help St. Joseph continue building organizational awareness and capacity. As the only LSL school program in the state of Indiana, families facing a hearing loss diagnosis may never have heard of St. Joseph. By executing new marketing strategies and seeking out media opportunities, we aim to increase organizational visibility and forge new



connections with both families and medical professionals.

"While St. Joseph has been providing services in Indiana for over 22 years, we remain one of the best kept secrets," says Jeff Chapman, St. Joseph President. "The capacity building grant from Lilly will help us to expand our outreach and awareness."

St. Joseph Hearing + Speech envisions a world where all children with hearing loss not only reach but exceed their potential. Thanks to our partnership with Lilly, we are one step closer to realizing that vision.

Our partnership with Lilly will help us expand our reach and improve our services for children like these.

Up Next @ St. Joe's



April 24, 2025

SILO Auto Club and Conservancy, Indianapolis

Drivers, start your engines! Join us for a turbo-charged evening as we present the Richard T. Miyamoto Heroes for Hearing and Mary Boucher Jones Compassionate Service Awards.

April 28, 2025

Glen Echo Golf Club, St. Louis

Who's ready for a golf marathon? Cheer on your favorite golfers as they tee off before sunrise at the 28th edition of this exciting all-day event.



Support Us

Our services would not be possible without support from donors like you. We are so grateful to have you in our community as we strive to be the preeminent resource for Listening and Spoken Language solutions.

If you haven't given this year, please consider supporting an upcoming event or making a donation to help fund our classrooms, Early Intervention, Outreach programs, and other services for children with hearing loss and their families.



For the love of St. Joe's