

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



BREAKING SOUND BARRIERS –
LEARN HOW SJI ALUM, OLIVIA ALLEN,
IS PURSUING HER DREAM.



St. Joseph
Institute for the Deaf

OUR ENDURING MISSION TO EDUCATE CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS

Since 1837, St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf (SJI) has had one mission – educate children with hearing loss. Through two world wars, a pandemic, the Great Depression, two recessions, the rise of iPhones, cochlear implants, and much, much more, our services continue to provide children with the ability to listen to their environments and speak their minds.



Sr. Anne encourages Marlene to touch her cheek so she can feel the vibrations of the words coming out of her mouth, circa 1945.



Sr. Roseanne ensures the student is accessing sound via his cochlear implant, circa 1983.



Sr. Laura teaches Science to a group of SJI students, circa late 1970.



Look at the awe on Jimmy's face while he learns new sounds, circa 1960!



Students listen intently to a Geography lesson.



Sr. Rose Antonio and Jeanie O'Rourke during speech lessons.



Sr. Roseanne recalls her early experiences with the implementation of SJI's cochlear implant curriculum in 1987.



Sr. Marianna provides ballet lessons during after school activities.

For more than 186 years our services, pioneered by our founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJ), have been firmly rooted in providing quality education for children with hearing loss. As their first US mission, they knew the importance of helping children and supporting their families during the journey of childhood hearing loss. In the 1930s, SJI began auditory-oral skills for children. They never stopped moving towards more so children would learn to listen better and develop advanced language skills. In 1960, the CSJs formed the Deaf Education program at Fontbonne College to ensure the caliber of future educators. In 1982, SJI developed the first cochlear implant curriculum to support the new FDA-approved pediatric listening device. In 1997, the agency opened satellite locations so families didn't have to leave their communities to receive services. In 2009, SJI pioneered the first US-based teletherapy program for children with hearing loss so every child, everywhere could receive listening and spoken language services in their hometowns. And in 2022, SJI achieved a significant milestone by securing the first state contract for center-based services serving children aged 3-6 years.

The beneficiary of all these efforts are our children and their families. Parents, initially frightened by the diagnosis and unfamiliar terms, found themselves empowered to speak up at their child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings to advocate for appropriate support. Siblings, uncertain about the device on their brother's or sister's ear, now enthusiastically used rubber ducks to encourage language development. Families could now fully engage their child in dinner conversations. These heartwarming stories, numbering in the thousands, are the rich fruit of our efforts as we embark on our 187th year of service. We are so proud of our alumni and their families, literally changing the way the world thinks about the abilities of those with hearing loss. Thanks to so many who gave to keep our story going, and to all those who continue to give so more children can receive our vital services!



EARLY INTERVENTION

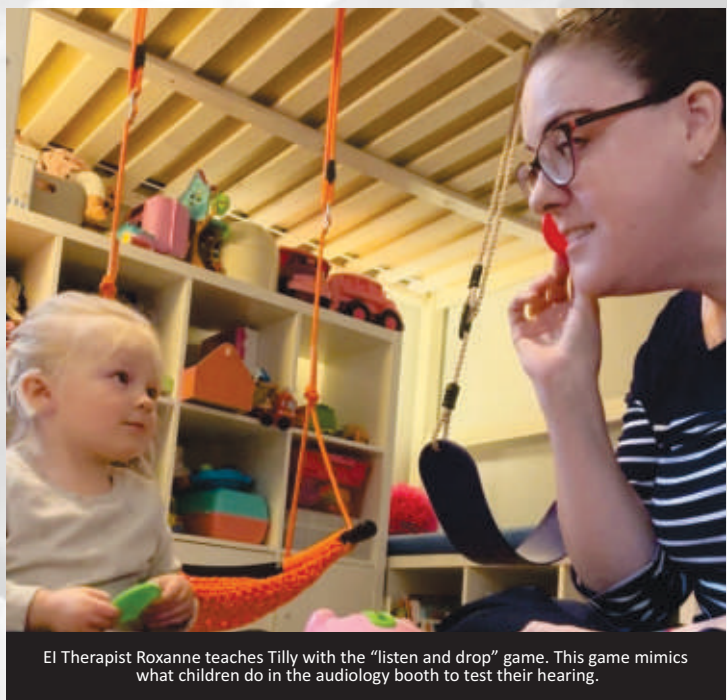
SJI's Early Intervention program served 307 children throughout the United States in 2022-23. In our Pediatric Audiology clinic, children as young as two weeks were fitted with listening devices as their parents began their own journey of discovery. Family support plays a crucial role in this service, as studies show that parents who acquire specialized techniques and skills are more likely to feel empowered to have a direct impact on their child's outcomes compared to those who do not.

“Quality LSL early intervention has a profound lifelong impact for children. We are dedicated to equipping children and their families with the skills they need to thrive in a world that values their ideas and voices.”

- Lindy Powell, M. Ed., LSL Cert. AVEd,
Executive Director – Indiana



Decklen received EI services from SJI and now attends our preschool program.



EI Therapist Roxanne teaches Tilly with the “listen and drop” game. This game mimics what children do in the audiology booth to test their hearing.

307

CHILDREN SERVED IN EARLY INTERVENTION

iHEAR

iHear began as a vision to serve every child, everywhere. No longer would families need to relocate or live apart to receive access to quality Listening and Spoken Language services for their child with hearing loss. More than 25,000 sessions later, SJI is the leader in teletherapy in the field.

iHear served 116 children and their families throughout the United States during the 2022-23 fiscal year. Children increased their receptive and expressive language, audition, speech fluency, and vocabulary skills as demonstrated on informal and formal assessment measures.

“iHear's ability to support children of all ages, their families, their communities, and their school district professionals has revolutionized services in rural communities.”

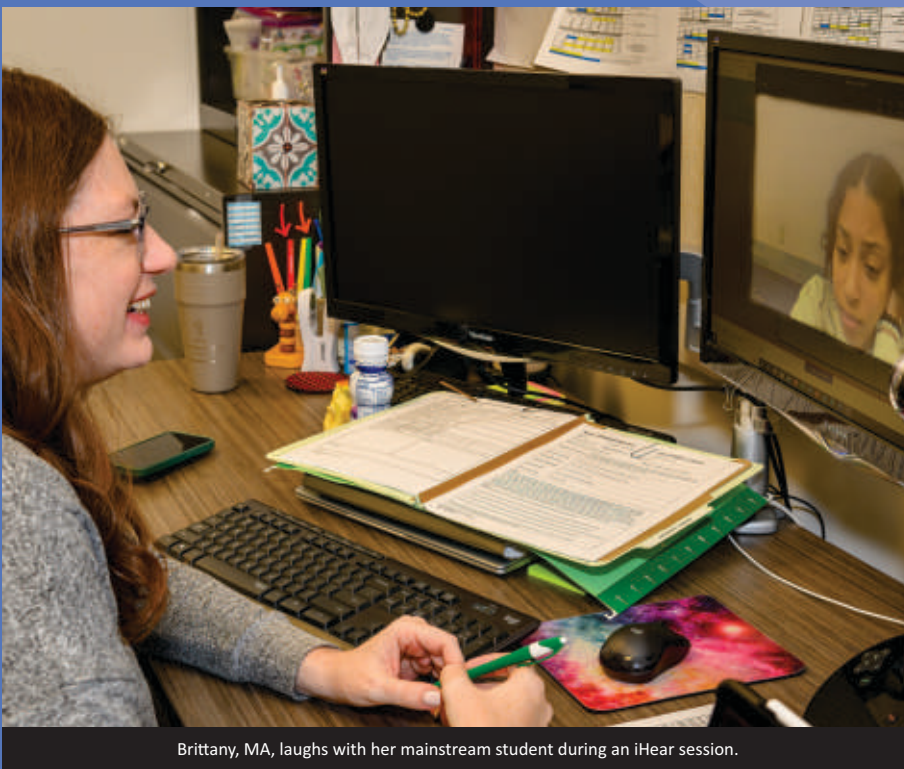
- Michelle Graham, MS, CED, LSLS Cert. AVEd
Executive Director – Missouri and iHear teletherapy

116

CHILDREN SERVED IN iHEAR

2,173

DIRECT SERVICE SESSIONS



Brittany, MA, laughs with her mainstream student during an iHear session.



Barbara Meyers, MA, CED, SJI educator and EI therapist, teaches online therapy through our iHear program.

BREAKING SOUND BARRIERS

Olivia's story is a testament to the incredible strength of the human spirit, an inspirational narrative of triumph over adversity that begins with a diagnosis that would forever change the course of her life. Doctors discovered that Olivia was born with profound hearing loss. But, far from allowing this to define her, Olivia has become a symbol of perseverance, resilience, and hope as she tirelessly pursues her dream of becoming a commercial pilot while proudly wearing a cochlear implant.

When Randy and Darla Allen, Olivia's parents, first learned of their daughter's hearing loss, they were met with a storm of emotions. However, instead of succumbing to despair, they resolved to do everything in their power to provide Olivia with the best opportunities life could offer.

Their journey began when at just 11 months old, Olivia underwent surgery for a cochlear implant at Riley Children's Hospital. And six days after her first birthday, the cochlear implant was activated for the first time.

Adapting to the cochlear implant was not without its challenges for Olivia. Initially, she struggled with communication and sensory issues. She received extensive physical, occupational, and speech therapy.

At the age of three, Olivia began attending St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf. In just nine months at SJI, Olivia went from saying "me eat" and "me bath" and not being very audible to speaking in small sentences. St. Joseph Institute became a turning point in Olivia's life. The school's dedicated staff provided her with the tools and support she needed to excel academically and personally. Her remarkable progress was a testament to the power of early intervention and the dedication of those who believed in her potential.

Randy and Darla shared, "St. Joseph Institute was just incredible and made a world of difference."

"In just nine months at SJI, Olivia went from saying "me eat" and "me bath" and not being very audible to speaking in small sentences."

– Randy and Darla Allen



When Olivia is licensed, she'll make history as the first female pilot with a cochlear implant.



Olivia spreads shaving cream on her dad at a SJJ daddy-daughter event.

Olivia's aspirations as a pilot began at age 11 when a great uncle recommended that she take part in the Young Eagles Program at his airfield. As a veteran of the Air Force and an air traffic controller, he knew the sustained difference the experience could have on children. During this memorable experience, Olivia and her cousin were taken on a flight by an experienced pilot. To Olivia's delight, she was selected to sit in the front seat alongside the pilot, affording her a firsthand opportunity to interact with the controls and absorb the intricacies of flying. After touching down, Olivia exited the aircraft, approached her parents, and firmly expressed her aspiration to become a pilot. Despite occasional challenges that may have cast doubt on her dream, Olivia's commitment never wavered.

To fund her pilot training, Olivia worked tirelessly at Subaru for a year and a half, reflecting her commitment to her dream. Despite the challenges and frustrations along the way, Olivia remained steadfast in her pursuit of becoming a commercial pilot. She has even set her sights on making history by becoming the first female pilot with a cochlear implant.



Olivia's goal to become a pilot began when she was 11 years old after she took part in a Young Eagles program.



Olivia plays the bongos during music therapy.

Olivia's journey is a testament to the power of determination, resilience, and unwavering faith. Her story serves as an inspiration, showing that with dedication and perseverance, obstacles can be overcome. Olivia's dream of becoming a commercial pilot is not just a personal aspiration; it is a beacon of hope for others with hearing loss, proving that the sky is not the limit—it's just where you take off.

“St. Joseph's made a world of difference.”

– Darla Allen

SJI'S PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Fairytales, gardening, Black History Month, play kitchens, music time, a pet fish, and so many books! SJI's preschool operates five days a week for the benefit of its tiny attendees. Our LSL-focused curriculum is play based and routine driven, developing skills of executive functioning, social language, and diversity, equity and inclusion lessons. Daily individual speech sessions for every participant ensures targeted instruction of essential language and vocabulary for beginning academics and social success. Family sessions provide carryover of LSL strategies for use in the home with extended families and provide a consistent focus on development for a child's lifetime. Our pediatric Audiology Clinic assures consistent auditory stimulation for children.

“We are proud to be the **only** dedicated school in Indiana focusing on accelerated listening and spoken language development for children with hearing loss!”

- Lindy Powell, M. Ed., LSLs Cert. AVEEd
Executive Director – Indiana



The cutest preschoolers you've ever seen!



Gaia smiles and responds during a shared book experience.



Bradley shows off his sticker.



Alivia gets her face painted at SJI's 20th birthday party in Indianapolis.

225

NUMBER OF SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN
SERVED BY SJI

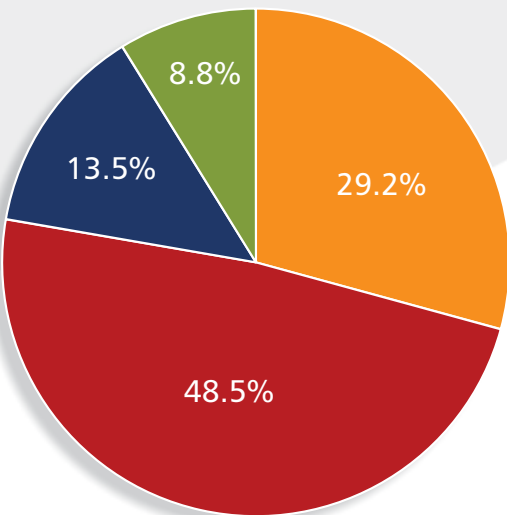
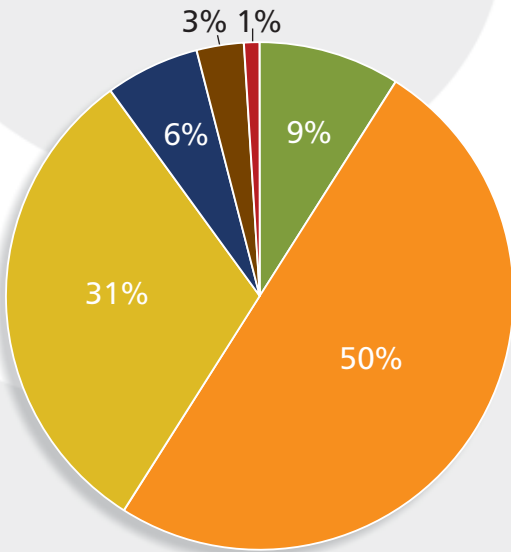
“The tools we use to assess language in preschool are specific to children with hearing loss to maximize their advanced listening and language development.”

- Michelle Graham, MS, CED, LSLS Cert. AVEd
Executive Director- Missouri







Generous support from The Kevin Beckmann Charitable Trust by YouthBridge Community Foundation ensures our Missouri preschool program can provide the highest quality of materials, assessment, and curriculum.

FINANCIAL REPORT





St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf presents the following audited summary of revenues, expenses and changes in net assets for the agency's Fiscal Year 2022-2023, ending this past June 30.



REVENUE

	Early Intervention Program Fees	\$ 357,710.00
	School-Aged Program Fees	\$ 1,968,965.00
	Contributions and Grants	\$ 1,198,609.00
	Fundraising events, net	\$ 253,203.00
	Investment Interest and Dividends, net	\$ 127,223.00
	Other revenue	\$ 21,385.00
	Total Revenue	\$ 3,927,095.00

EXPENSES

	Early Intervention Program Services	\$ 1,151,822.00
	School-Aged Program Services	\$ 1,909,328.00
	Management and General	\$ 529,874.00
	Fundraising	\$ 347,481.00
	Total Expenses	\$ 3,938,505.00

Net Operating Loss \$ (11,410.00)

Investment Gains \$ 339,585.00

Net Surplus \$ 328,175.00

Message from SJI's President

Dear Friends and Supporters,

For 186 years, St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf has been a beacon of hope and opportunity in deaf education, thanks to the unwavering commitment of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJs). Their dedication to advancing education techniques and embracing technology has propelled us to where we are today – a leading provider of Listening and Spoken Language solutions for children with hearing loss and their families. None of this would be possible without the support from our donors.

Our dedicated Board of Directors, along with the leadership team, refocused our vision to become the preeminent resource in our field. This is not just a statement, it's a guiding light that shapes future initiatives and provides the direction to continue the legacy that began so many years ago.

I am happy to showcase a few strategic initiatives from the 2022-23 fiscal year. Our services continue to demonstrate our commitment to these ideals.

- 1. Providing Equal Access:** Through the support of Indiana legislators, we advocated to ensure listening and spoken language preschool services remain available to families who choose this communication mode for their child with hearing loss.
- 2. Standards and Quality Assurance Committee (SQA):** Now in their second year, our SQA Committee is spearheading efforts to identify and develop resources that support our entire organization.
- 3. Unity as "One St. Joseph":** We continue our journey together, fostering a sense of community among our professional staff to maximize our resources across both the IN and MO programs.
- 4. LSL Advancement Program:** We established a dedicated LSL Advancement program, offering essential resources to our therapists. This provides opportunities to enhance their skills and knowledge as professionals.
- 5. Listening & Spoken Language Mentorship Program:** Our internal mentorship program has 14 staff members currently seeking LSL certification. Requiring over 900 hours of service, it is a testament to our dedication to excellence.

We remain steadfast in our dedication to providing children with hearing loss the essential language skills necessary to thrive in a world that values their voice. Our *Accelerated Language Development* solutions prepare children to mainstream into their communities, attending schools alongside their hearing peers.

I invite you to see the incredible impact of your investment by visiting our Indianapolis or St. Louis programs and witness children laughing, singing, and working hard as they achieve educational success.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our cause. Together, we are changing lives and making a profound difference for children.

Jeffrey R. Chapman

President, St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf

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