



November 2009

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The H.E.A.R. Project has much to be thankful for in 2009. Thus far, we have been able to assist 32 families with the costs associated with providing quality amplification for their children for a grand total of \$17,554 dispersed. We remain committed to ensuring that every child has access to the technology that will best enhance their development, regardless of the family's financial situation.

We are grateful that the Colorado legislature passed legislation, which went into affect at the beginning of this year, requiring health insurance companies to cover the cost of hearing aids for children. However, the need for supplemental funding is ongoing, as there are situations when insurance companies are not required to cover the cost or not required to cover the full cost of hearing aids. Our focus has shifted to assisting families who do not have health insurance and those whose insurance benefit is not sufficient to provide optimal technology for their child.

A new way to support the H.E.A.R. Project AND save time!

You can now make annual recurring, monthly recurring, and one-time donations on the H.E.A.R. Project web site at www.hearproject.org. Just click on "Donate" towards the top right, scroll down to the bottom of the page, and select the type of donation you would like to make, "Annual Donations," "Monthly Donations," or "One-Time Donation."

We have been able to accomplish our mission due to the generosity of the many donors and supporters who share our vision. Because of our all-volunteer status, at least 92% of the funds we raise are used to assist families. We are grateful for the support that you have shown in the past, and once again, ask you to consider the H.E.A.R. Project in your annual giving. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children in Colorado.

I would like to support the H.E.A.R. Project in the following way(s):

_____ Enclosed is a one-time gift of _____.

_____ I am interested in providing a monthly donation of _____. Please send monthly donation coupons.

_____ I am interested in serving as a volunteer on an as-needed basis.

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please mail forms and donations to **H.E.A.R. Project, 4280 Hale Parkway, Denver, CO 80220**

To donate online, visit our website at <http://www.hearproject.org>. For more information, call us at **303-751-2519**.



Helping children hear through **E**arly intervention, **A**mplification and **R**ehabilitation

<http://www.hearproject.org>

2009 success story

Brayden and His Technicolor Ear Molds

Brayden was born when my husband was finishing up medical school. His birth, like the birth of all children, was a life changing event for Rob and me. It was compounded when our little guy arrived with an extra set of chromosomes. We were quickly told he had Down syndrome and the whirlwind of appointments, scans, and prodding began.

When a diagnosis of Down syndrome is announced, you are also given a checklist of medical tests that need to be completed. After the major areas of concern such as the heart are dealt with, the hearing tests follow.

Brayden had an ABR done at the age of 6 months and the results were inconclusive. We waited 6 more months and with another move to a new state behind us, we did a second ABR. The results were a conductive hearing loss as well

as sensorineural hearing loss. After three sets of tubes and a concern for his language development, we were told that hearing aids were going to be our next step.

I was quite nervous. My first thought was that he already wore glasses. Would his little ears hold up all of that equipment? Would he accept hearing aids and wear them appropriately? And, how can we afford them?

Our audiologist handed us a H.E.A.R. Project brochure. The application was simple and the time frame worked out perfect. Brayden was awarded a monetary donation that helped us purchase his very expensive hearing aids. We were able to choose a state of the art pair that was very small to aid in the comfort of his small ears and glasses.

Where does the technicolor part

come in? Brayden has begun to pick his own colors when we go in for molds. His latest creation is red, gold, blue, and green sparkle ear molds. He is very proud of himself. Brayden has gained such confidence through the use of the hearing aids. His verbal language has improved and his frustration has lowered. With the help of the H.E.A.R. Project, Bray has gained new self confidence and we are truly thankful.



about us

the H.E.A.R. Project

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Mr. & Mrs. Chavoustie

ESTABLISHED: The H.E.A.R. Project was informally started in 1999, and 501(c)3 non-profit organization status was obtained in 2003.

MISSION: The H.E.A.R. Project is dedicated to providing financial assistance to Colorado children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Funding is provided for amplification, rehabilitation and associated services.

OVERVIEW: The H.E.A.R. Project was established as an all volunteer organization to help those families who do not qualify for public funding yet are unable to pay for these large, unexpected expenses. Many of these families have health insurance, but hearing aids for children are not always covered. Hearing aids are expensive, costing up to \$6,000 per child. Children need and deserve the best technology in order to develop speech and language. Although most insurance companies cover cochlear implantation, many related expenses are not covered. The H.E.A.R. Project provides funding to help with these often unexpected expenses. Ninety-two percent of donations received by the H.E.A.R. Project go directly to support children with hearing loss.

AREAS SERVED: All Counties in the State of Colorado.



H.E.A.R. Project Board

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H.E.A.R. Project

helping children hear

What You Should Know About Hearing Aids

- It is estimated that in a given year, approximately 500 Colorado children will need new hearing aids.
- In addition to the cost of hearing aids, families need to replace costly ear molds and batteries at frequent intervals. Repairing a damaged hearing aid may cost up to \$300.
- Although Colorado state law now requires insurance companies to cover the cost of hearing aids, many children are uninsured. Also, many Colorado residents have insurance policies based outside of Colorado that do not provide coverage for hearing aids.

Since reorganizing in 2003, the H.E.A.R. Project has made over 300 awards ranging from \$40-\$2400.

H.E.A.R. Project Developments

As our state's need has increased, our policies have changed to provide greater support to families. These changes include:

- Expanding the financial eligibility criteria to support families whose income is up to 300% of the federal poverty limit
- Increasing the amount of funding awarded to families in need
- Expanding eligible services to include cochlear implant batteries and associated expenses

Major Partners

Colorado Hearing Foundation



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supporting children with hearing loss

Golf Tournament Benefits the H.E.A.R. Project

The Sertoma Club of Littleton hosted its 17th Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, June 29 at the Black Bear Golf Course in Parker, CO. The club netted over \$12,000. A portion of the proceeds benefited the H.E.A.R. Project.

In spite of a dire weather forecast, the tournament was held on a bright and sunny day. The 100 golfers had a wonderful time and enjoyed playing on this challenging course.

Discount Tire was the main sponsor of the tournament. Patrick Cary and the rest of his foursome are pictured. Ryan Tuteur, pictured on the left has a profound hearing loss. Ed Sawallesh and Ray Garcia rounded out the team.

Thanks to the Sertoma Club of Littleton for their continuing support of the H.E.A.R. Project.



Sertoma Club contributions to the H.E.A.R. Project have totaled over \$50,000 since 2003.

Supporting the H.E.A.R Project

Can you help support the H.E.A.R. Project in our continuing mission to provide early intervention, amplification, and rehabilitation to Colorado families in need? Visit our website at <http://www.hearproject.org> to set up a recurring donation (annual or monthly) or to make a one-time donation online using your credit card or bank account.

Donations can also be mailed to:

H.E.A.R. Project
4280 Hale Parkway
Denver, CO 80220
(303) 751-2519

Major Partners



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