

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

What a Difference HOPE Makes!



Dear HOPE Friends and Family,

When you find out you're going to be a parent for the first time, you prepare for how it's going to change your life: your house, your health, your habits. No matter how much you prepare, though, there's always some type of a surprise. For my wife Paula and me, that surprise came when our Kailey failed her newborn hearing screening, and at three months old she was diagnosed as severe to profoundly deaf in both ears.

After the initial shock, we realized we had so much to learn about hearing loss in addition to how to be parents. How do we read an audiogram? What in the world is the "speech banana"? What is the best form of language for her and for her future? Do we learn sign language? How do we know if her language is coming along as it should, or if she's delayed? How do we get back to any sense of equilibrium when we were flailing around searching for so many answers?

That's where HOPE stepped in. Kailey's experience in the Toddler Program helped us to connect with other families in the same situation, and the Teacher of the Deaf gave us the confidence that we could be the parents our baby needed. At the age of three, Kailey began HOPE's preschool program. Hearing her language take off was one of the most profoundly amazing experiences that I've been blessed to have as her father.

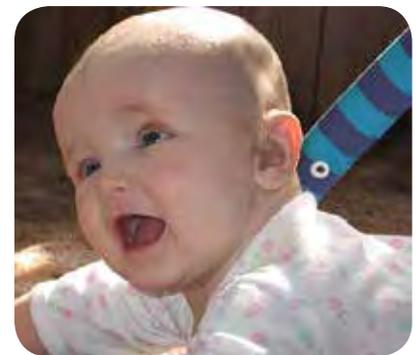
Now, she's a thriving third grader, an amazing reader working her way through the Lemony Snicket books, and a fully successful kid with goals and dreams that wouldn't have been options ten short years ago. The early intervention she received from HOPE made this possible, and they'll forever have our gratitude.

As a member of Spokane HOPE's Board, I'm thankful to be able to give back to HOPE so that other families can experience the joy of having their children with hearing loss learn to listen and talk.

Sincerely,



Ryan Grant, MEd
Board President



Kailey Grant at 7 months

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Kim Schafer, Outreach and Development Director
Amy Hardie, MA, Education Director, Teacher of the Deaf
Samantha Schraven, MA, Teacher of the Deaf
Stacey Cahill, Instructional Assistant, *part time*
Shyla Rodgers, Administrative Assistant, *part time*

*Eli, age 13, is deaf and has bilateral cochlear implants.
He graduated from HOPE in 2007.*



Jan (Eli's mom) says ...

Eli's experience at HOPE was almost like a race. Every day he was moving quickly forward, soaking in new words and information and spilling out new sounds and ideas. After three years at HOPE, Eli started kindergarten without any special assistance and didn't even qualify for speech therapy! We can only imagine what his life would look like if HOPE hadn't been there to give him the opportunity, tools, confidence, and connections to succeed at anything he can imagine.



Sam (Eli's dad) says ...

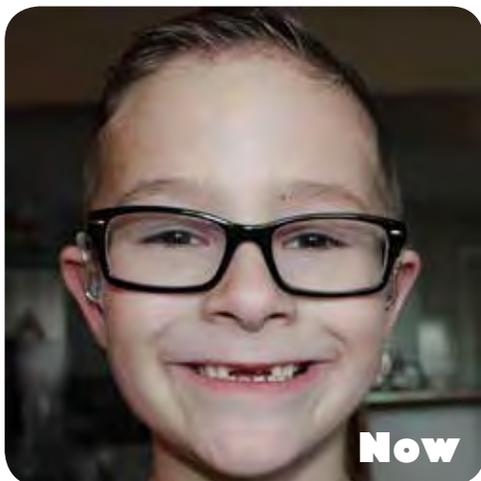
HOPE had a major emphasis on learning to speak, not just learning to hear. A child with hearing loss will not communicate effectively and confidently without intervention. You will not hear his voice, hear his concerns, or hear his dreams. Through HOPE's early, focused, and thoughtful intervention, Eli has been set up for lifelong success – to be "out in front" and to be in charge of his life. Our son, who may have never spoken a word, now can't stop talking!

Eli says ...

HOPE has radically changed my life from being a person who would have needed help from many people, to a totally independent person. Thanks to HOPE's incredible teaching, when I got to Kindergarten, I had better communication skills than an average six year old! I am also a very musical person. I play the clarinet in the middle school band, play the sax in the jazz band, and take private piano lessons. If HOPE hadn't helped me hear, I would not be able to play the music I play today. Therefore, HOPE has helped me not only when I was younger, but also nowadays when I am older.

Where Are They Now?

Max, age 7, is hard of hearing and wears bilateral hearing aids. He graduated from HOPE in 2013.



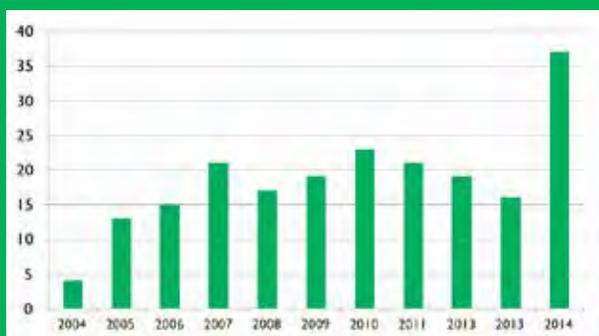
Max's parents say ...

At age three months our son Max was diagnosed with mild to moderate hearing loss. At four months, Max was sporting his first pair of hearing aids. To say we were scared and overwhelmed was an understatement. We had never known a child with hearing loss. Like all parents, we were concerned about every aspect of Max's future. How would his hearing loss affect his learning and social adjustment? We worked hard to become informed parents, digging deep for information and available resources. HOPE was at the top of our resource list.



At 16 months, Max started in HOPE's Toddler Group. Working with highly skilled and professional educators, Max experienced a secure and nurturing environment, where he was learning to listen and communicate in his ever-expanding world. Max started kindergarten in a "regular" classroom setting in a local school district. Now Max is a thriving second grader who loves math and reading and his many friends at school. We know Max's success is due in large measure to the excellent preparation he received from HOPE's expert and dedicated staff.

Children Served



HOPE has been serving children with hearing loss for 11 years!

We are proud of all of our alumni, and are honored to share stories of the difference HOPE has made in their lives.

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear HOPE Friends and Family,

As I complete my first year with this extraordinary organization, I have a deep appreciation for HOPE's life-changing impact in the lives of children, families, schools, and our communities.

Last year we increased the number of children served through our new Birth to Three In-Home Therapy Program which we launched in 2014. This vital program fulfills HOPE's vision of offering a continuum of services to children with hearing loss from their initial diagnosis through the language development years to age five.

We were thrilled that our national search for a second Teacher of the Deaf brought Samantha Schraven all the way from Vermont, after completing her graduate program at Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech.



Amy Hardie, Director of Education, continues as our highly skilled veteran Teacher of the Deaf and now shares her expertise with parents through the birth to three services as they learn how to immerse their children in language throughout their daily activities.

In addition to our program's growth, the enrichment of our Board of Directors indicates HOPE's forward trajectory. We are thrilled to welcome Mark VanDam, PhD, Craig Hult, Shelley Menne, and Bo Cooke to our highly committed team.

This year HOPE will carry forward with the theme of growth. Hoedown 2015 broke previous records setting us up to realize our goals. Negative Split named us as the charity for their April 10th Half-Marathon, 10K, 5K run, giving us the opportunity to reach over a thousand participants and replacing our Hear Me Run event. We've secured Justin Osmond, who has hearing loss, as the keynote speaker for our 5th Annual Hoedown on October 1, 2016. Each of these accomplishments represents the hard work of our stakeholders.

This overwhelming growth in so many areas confirms that our community recognizes the benefits of teaching children with hearing loss, who have hearing assistive devices, how to listen and talk so that they enter kindergarten able to learn on par with their hearing peers. Our young graduates, two of which are highlighted in this report, go on to be fully immersed participants in their schools and community.

Finally, we are changing our name from Spokane HOPE School to Spokane HOPE to better reflect our program growth and continued commitment to our community. This achievement has been made possible because of the remarkable people and organizations that have given their talents, time, money, and passion to help us build bright futures for children with hearing loss.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danette Driscoll". The signature is fluid and cursive.

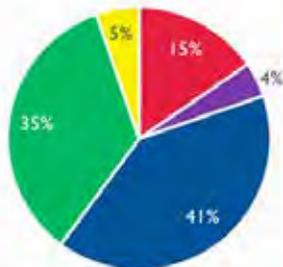
Danette Driscoll, MEd
Executive Director



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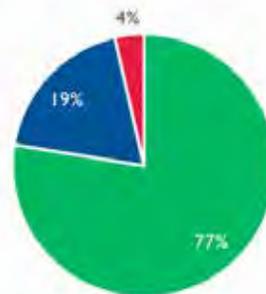
Revenues FYE 8/31/15

■ Tuition ■ Contracts ■ Fundraising ■ Grants ■ In-kind



Expenses FYE 8/31/15

■ Salaries & Benefits ■ Other Direct Program Costs ■ Fundraising/Admin



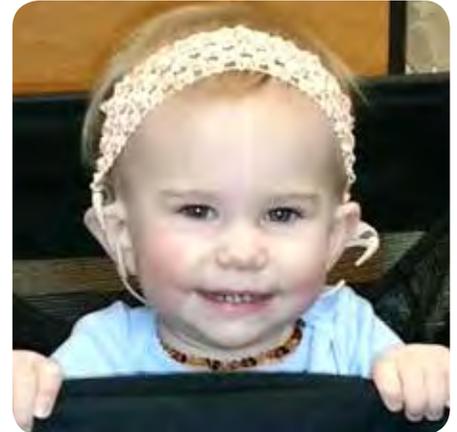
HOPE's New Birth to Three Program

In-Home Therapy for Infants and Toddlers

In the 2014-2015 school year, HOPE expanded services to reach children and their families as close to the time of diagnosis as possible. Through our new Birth to 3 program, our specialized Teacher of the Deaf serves infants and toddlers and their families in their home. She coaches the parents and child to develop language in a natural, playful way that builds on the family's strengths. Working with them in their natural environment helps parents see every moment as a language-building opportunity and teaches them to "narrate life" to their child.

Infants make 700 new neural connections per second, and a child who cannot hear misses out on this essential window of time for brain development. Without intervention, children with hearing loss are set on a pathway to significant developmental, health, and social-emotional disparities.

Parents whose children are diagnosed with hearing loss face a myriad of care providers, educational decisions, and conflicting emotions. As the family hub connects with different spokes of the treatment wheel, HOPE walks alongside the family to build a foundation for school and life success.



“Moriah’s been wearing a hearing aid in her right ear since she was a month old, and it has really helped her vocabulary grow. HOPE’s Teacher of the Deaf, Amy Hardie, gives me ideas to help Moriah learn to listen, and also works with Moriah personally. HOPE has really helped my daughter learn how to communicate with the world around her!”

- Moriah's mom



“The day of the cochlear implant surgery is an exciting but anxiety producing day for the family of a child with hearing loss. Once that exhilaration is gone, the real work begins. The best operation and the best technology in the world means nothing if the child does not receive the specialized services that, in the Inland Northwest, are only available at Spokane HOPE.”

*- Dr. Neil Giddings
HOPE Board Member and Physician at Spokane Ear Nose & Throat*

HOPE's Early Learning Program

Listening and Spoken Language Education for Preschoolers

The 2014-15 school year marked our Early Learning Program's 11th year! HOPE's certified Teacher of the Deaf taught 7 children in our morning class and 5 in our afternoon class.

Remarkable technology like modern hearing aids, cochlear implants, and Baha systems make it possible for children who are deaf to hear sounds. But to communicate orally, they must learn to make sense of these sounds. HOPE is the only organization in Eastern Washington and North Idaho to offer listening and spoken language early learning services, the specialized teaching and training that unlocks a child's potential to listen and speak.



HOPE's classroom looks a lot like a typical preschool, with children playing, painting, printing, sorting, and singing, but every minute is intentionally designed to develop oral language.

- We maintain a low student-instructor ratio to respond to each child's individual hearing needs.
- Thematic curriculum, aligned with state early learning guidelines, develop the cognitive, communicative, social, and motor skills necessary for successful future learning.
- We include normal-hearing peers who model age-appropriate language and benefit from the language-rich learning environment.

Our vision is that our preschool graduates will walk into their first day of kindergarten able to understand their teacher, ask and answer questions, make friends, and learn alongside their hearing peers. They will go on to play in the band, kick the winning goal, volunteer, complete college, and live fully productive lives.





HOPE's Toddler Program

Listening and Spoken Language Group for Toddlers and their Families

HOPE's Toddler Group had its 10th anniversary during the 2014-2015 school year! We launched this program for our younger children because early intervention leads to significantly better developmental outcomes later in life.

Our Toddler Group is a classroom-based program that meets once per week. Toddlers up to age 3 and their parents or caregivers attend this group learning experience that serves the dual purpose of practicing listening and spoken language in community while engaging with families on a similar journey. Six toddlers participated in this program during the 2014-2015 school year.



HOPE's Families

“ Will she ever hear me tell her that I love her? ”

“ How will he communicate with our family, his friends, and his teachers? ”

“ What if someone hurts her and she can't tell me about it? ”

A child's hearing loss diagnosis is an emotional journey for parents. In addition to fear of what life will be like for a child who cannot hear or speak, parents have a steep learning curve to best support their child's development. Parents are their child's first and most important teacher.



HOPE's University Partnerships

In 2003, a group of physicians, parents of children with hearing loss, college faculty, and speech-language pathologists came together to address the gap in services available to teach children with hearing loss to interpret the sounds technological advancements allow them to hear. HOPE was born of a result of their vision and leadership.

Since our inception, HOPE has had a collaborative relationship with two local universities: Eastern Washington University's graduate program in Communication Disorders and Washington State University's Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences. HOPE is co-located in the joint EWU-WSU University Programs in the Communication Disorders Clinic on the Spokane Riverpoint Campus.



Through this partnership, graduate students working toward their Speech-Language Pathology degree may spend a semester of their practicum experience, overseen by clinic faculty, providing one-on-one speech therapy to HOPE's preschoolers and group therapy to toddlers. HOPE serves as a learning laboratory for graduate and undergraduate students to learn through hands-on experiences, observation, and research about the learning process of children with hearing loss.



“HOPE provides vital early intervention for children with hearing loss in our community and provides outstanding clinical training for our graduate students. The clinical classroom offers a hands-on approach, training students to improve outcomes in this critically underserved population.”

- Gail D. Chermak, PhD
Professor and Chair
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Washington State University

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**Thank you from the
bottom of our hearts!**

Thanks to your generous support,
their futures have never been brighter!



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