

Catalyst Club Donor Appreciation

2016

**We have included a collection of heartwarming and truly amazing stories from those whose lives you have touched with your generous donations. Thank you for your continuous support in helping those in need of hearing devices! Without your generosity, this type of impact would not be possible. – University of Michigan
Pediatric Audiology**

Catalyst Club Stories January – March 2016

Caden M. Age 8



"Caden was provided a Phonak Sky Q50 SP BTE on 2/16/16 because his own aid was not providing him the benefit he needed to be able to hear/understand his teacher at school. This alternate hearing aid allows us to try a different prescription strategy, which on initial testing appears to do a MUCH better job. Proving this will help him succeed and provide the evidence needed to ask his insurance to purchase him a more appropriate hearing aid for his worsening hearing loss. Thank you!"

Catalyst Club Stories January – March 2016

Aubrianna T. Age 5

“This hearing aid made a lot of difference in Aubree. She is starting to talk more since we borrowed it” – Aubrianna’s Mom



“Aubree’s hearing changed significantly on the date of her initial fitting. We had to send her aid back in exchange for a new aid with more power. The loaner was very helpful in the interim and we were able to judge that she received greater benefit from the Catalyst loaner aid.” – R. Krishnan, AuD

Catalyst Club Stories January – March 2016

Eleanor C. Age 7 months



"We have only had the hearing aids for four days now but the response is astounding. Most notably she is learning to laugh. She is smiling constantly as she interacts with her new world. Her eyes glow a lot when she hears a new sound and she starts flailing her arms and legs to try and get closer to the sound. Also, she is talking a lot now...well babbling. Eleanor tries playing with new sounds every day. She also has an increased desire to move, she barely rolled over before but in four days she is reaching for things, and trying this body wiggle to get closer to noises. Thank you for introducing sound to my little girl's life. And thank you for letting me experience her true joy as she grows through hearing." - Eleanor's parents

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Payden G. Age 8

"Payden was diagnosed with a severe hearing loss in his left ear in the past two months. He was able to try a device at home and school before deciding to get him his own hearing aid."

Yosef Z. Age 10

"Yosef was able to borrow loaner devices to see if he is able to hear better in the classroom."

Jennifer G. Age 15

"I am so appreciative for getting to try these hearing aids before they are purchased. I'm not sure if they are going to help her or not and it's a big responsibility. Jennifer is ADHD, delayed developmentally and this helps me figure out if she can handle the responsibility and especially if it helps her in the classroom and her delay in reading.

Thank you SO much." – Jennifer and Barb Greenwood

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Aryeh B. Age 11

"Aryeh attends a private religious school which lost services by the intermediate school district during recent recession. He no longer had an FM system to use at school, speech and language intervention, or teacher Consultant for hearing impaired. He was struggling in the classroom, so with help from a grant, the family purchased an FM for him. After a few years of use, the FM audio shoes were worn out and we were able to loan him a pair to finish his 3rd grade school year while using the FM. This past year, we loaned Aryeh a pair of new, updated hearing aids which work very well for him! We are applying to his insurance to cover these for him." – K. Kuboushek, AuD

Amanda D. Age 18

"Amanda is an 18 year old girl with a syndrome which causes hearing loss, malformation of the head, ears, nose, and fingers. Also mental impairment. She has worn a bone anchored device on her right side for many years. After her surgeon opened her other ear canal and built an eardrum, we tried an ear level hearing aid on that side so she would have binaural hearing. Amanda loves wearing the hearing aid, even better than her older bone anchored device. We are trying to convince insurance to cover the hearing aid."

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Colten R. Age 14

“Colton has had a longstanding profound sensorineural hearing loss in his left ear. Two months ago, his right ear experienced a sudden drop in hearing. He has been wearing a FM in school and doing well. We fit a loaner aid to his better ear and are trying BICROS fitting prior to requesting authorization for insurance. He likes his loaner device very much and is not using the FM in school anymore. Colton feels like he is hearing much better with auditory info from BOTH sides.”

Nathan S. Age 4

“Nathan is a 4 year old who wasn't identified with a hearing loss until age 3. He does well with hearing aids, but still has very delayed language and has a hard time in situations that are not quiet. We were able to loan him an FM system to use at home, at church and at other activities. He was very happy because that made him feel more a part of what was going on. He felt more included, and his mom feels it has helped him to be more confident. They have purchased their own device with a grant from the Griffin Foundation.”

Catalyst Club Stories January – March 2016

Ella S. Age 6

"Thanks for giving me my hearing aid so that I won't get in trouble at school."

Madison C. Age 19

Madison has a severe to profound hearing loss, and has been wearing hearing aids all her life but wanting/needing updated hearing aids—just not quite enough money saved up yet. New hearing aids were released by Oticon which promised to offer better speech clarity.

Madison used loaner hearing aids to test that claim. Madison LOVED, LOVED, LOVED the new aids. Her eyes remained wide and in amazement at how much better they sounded than her most recent aids (which were also considered high quality aids)!!!! She was able to stream her music and hear, locate and understand speech around her better than her old aids. She will wear these loaners while she continues to arrange her finances to purchase her own aids in 2 months. THANK YOU! – Kristy Winters (AuD) and Madison

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Lilly S. Age 6

Lilly S., 6 year old with moderate hearing loss in each ear due to syndrome with craniofacial anomalies (no ear canal one side) and mis-shapen head that has made wearing a hearing device very difficult! She is wearing a Donor baseball cap that a Baha device can clip on to and keeps it in the proper position on her head. She picked baby pink for her cap and it worked GREAT!!!! She's had a such a nasty ear infection in her other ear that she usually wears a traditional hearing aid in that she hasn't been able to wear and has been "deaf" for many months, that this cap for a Baha saved her and her parents/teacher's sanity!!! THANK YOU for making a significant difference in a child's life that already has so much to overcome! – Kristy Winters, AuD

Samantha M. Age 20

Samantha is a student at University of Michigan. She has a high frequency hearing loss and wears Phonak hearing aids. Her hearing aids recently became intermittent and are being sent in for repair. Samantha will be traveling over her break to spend time with her family. These Phonak loaner hearing aids will allow her access to speech and better her ability to participate in conversation with her family because she does not get to see them often while she is away at school. Samantha and her family thank you!"

Catalyst Club Stories January – March 2016

Reed B. Age 9

"Reed is a 9 year old with autism, Tourette's Syndrome and Misophonía- which is an inability to tolerate certain sounds/ voices in the environment. Reed's Misophonía has become so severe, he can no longer go to school and it is hard to even go out of his house. With your help, we were able to loan him a pair of devices that produce a variety of sounds to "mask" the sounds that are so bothersome to him.

He was also loaned a streamer, which can stream music and other things like online academic programs directly to his device to ease use computers with headphones. It is improving not only his quality of life, but that of his family. Hopefully, they will obtain a grant to purchase Reed's own devices."

Sydney B. Age 10

"Sydney acquired a unilateral hearing loss after middle ear surgery to remove a cholesteatoma. She and her family decided not to have any further surgery until had been able to trial a hearing aid for three months. Sydney was very happy with the loaner aid, so we ordered one of her own. She wears it nearly all the time. She and her family are happy they were able to trial the system prior to purchasing their own for Sydney."

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Ada H. Age 3 1/2

Ada is a 3 1/2 year old with a mild conductive hearing loss, constant ear drainage and has been through three sets of PE tubes. She has delayed development as well as speech and language delays. After a six week trial with Ponto and softband, she has done very well and wants to wear it all the time! Ada's parents went ahead and ordered a Ponto for her own. She is wearing the loaner until her own device arrives."

Aryanna P. Age 5

"Aryanna came in for an appointment with mega loose earmolds, one hearing aid marginally working and the other not working. She had not been seen in three years. We made new earmold impressions to get good-fitting earmolds. We got the good hearing aid working well. We loaned her the same hearing aid for her other ear to use until they got their insurance going to pay for the repair on her hearing aid. This took several months. It was great she had the loaner aid during this time."

Alexa S. Age 7

"Alexis had lost her left hearing aid at school. With your help, we were able to loan her the same aid for her left ear until we could have the insurance replace the aid. She and her mom were very happy to have the loaner for the time she was waiting for the replacement."

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Madison B. Age 19

"Madison, age 19 has a history of Down Syndrome and multiple medical issues, including progressive hearing loss. Madison, having never worn hearing aids before, can appreciate her difficulty hearing, but has a VERY hard time getting used to new things. Her family is very patient and willing to work with her to help her get used to them, but are unable to commit to purchasing them out of pocket until they are sure that this is something she will be able to benefit from.

Madison was very comfortable with the sound and fit in clinic. She was still worried about wearing them or if they would be too loud, but was willing to give them a try this month. Her mother was so excited to have something they could borrow, or "test drive" to be sure they are making a wise investment before paying so much money for her own.

The proof is in the pudding and our hope is that hearing is believing and will have a profound impact on her life once she realizes how much they can help her hear!" - Kristy Winters, AuD

Catalyst Club Stories January – March 2016

Austin D. Age 16

"Austin is a 16 year old with unilateral microtia/atresia and moderate conductive hearing loss on the left side. Austin came to U of M for atresia repair and reconstructive surgery. He wanted to try a BAHHA to see if he wanted it implanted in conjunction with surgery. With your help, we loaned him BAHHA on softband for two weeks. His family is grateful for this trial as he decided he does not want to proceed with the implant at this time."

Ryder p. Age 3

"Ryder was fit with a Phonak Sky Q50 M13 BTE while waiting for his insurance to come through for his own. He had been wearing a hearing aid in his left ear, but his right ear which had been hearing normally, had recently dropped to the same level and needed the advantage of hearing again since he has a severe language disorder (Apraxia) which needs every bit of hearing to overcome! Dad was so grateful to have this option to get his son started faster than paperwork can be processed!"