



2022 - 2023

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# DESERT VOICES

IMPACT REPORT

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[WWW.DESERT-VOICES.ORG](http://WWW.DESERT-VOICES.ORG)

DESERT VOICES

# IMPACT REPORT

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### A YEAR TO REMEMBER

Our 2022-2023 school year at Desert Voices brought so many new opportunities for our children to learn -- in play, in structured lessons, within friendships with peers, and through relationships with the DV team. We are grateful to our families, students, listening and spoken language professionals, our leadership team and Board of Directors for continuing to partner with us to meet our students' goals. We had hoped you'd enjoy reading of the success of our families and children during this school year at Desert Voices.

### OUR MISSION

Desert Voices' mission is to teach each child who is deaf or hard of hearing the oral language skills needed to talk and to understand when being spoken to. Our goal is to prepare the children and their family to mainstream into their school of choice with hearing children the same age.

### CONTACT US

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Phoenix, Arizona 85028

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MEET OUR TEAM



Scan the QR CODE to start your investment today!

# OUR IMPACT

## PROGRAMS



## PARENT COACHING

Parent Coaching is a weekly individual session led by a listening and spoken language professional with the child and a parent/grandparent/caregiver. This setting provides coaching to help the caregiver understand their child's learning potential using listening and spoken language and to build the foundation to be successful in an educational setting. The individualized session also allows caregivers to understand their child's hearing loss, practice strategies to support their child's listening and spoken language at home and in their community, and receive individualized counseling. Professionals collaborate with the family, the audiologist, the ENT, and other outside team members to ensure the child is progressing in all areas of development and has appropriate access to sound to optimize the child's development of listening and spoken language.



## JUMP START

Jump Start is a weekly two hour group class led by listening and spoken language professionals. This classroom setting builds on the foundation of Parent Coaching sessions and provides multiple opportunities for both the child and the parent/caregiver to practice and improve their listening and spoken language skills. This group setting allows children to begin to learn the routine of a classroom, continue to develop their listening/auditory skills, build receptive vocabulary, and begin imitating words. Parents and caregivers can practice strategies in a community setting while they build relationships with other parents and learn more about their child's needs in an educational setting.

# OUR IMPACT

## PROGRAMS



## TODDLER

Toddler class meets twice a week for 3.5 hours per day and is led by a listening and spoken language (LSL) professional. This time includes 30 minutes of one-on-one instruction with a LSL professional, typically a speech-language pathologist. In this language-rich environment, children develop their vocabulary, building their word bank to about 250 words. They learn to combine words and chat with their classmates. All parts of the day ensure that the child can increase their vocabulary and focus on expressive and receptive language. The skills learned in Toddler Class provide the child with the confidence in language skills, vocabulary, and school readiness skills needed to enter the next program.



## PRESCHOOL

Preschool classes meet Monday through Friday for 6.5 hours per day. Children alternate between two different settings, both focusing on communication skills. In small groups children, a listening and spoken language professional provides direct language instruction focusing on vocabulary, syntax, conversational language, articulation, auditory training, and language enrichment. The small student to teacher ratio gives each child multiple opportunities to practice syntactically correct language. Children also engage in a larger group setting with up to fifteen children as part of their preschool day. This setting focuses on positive social and emotional skills, fine and gross motor development, pragmatic use of language, literacy and school readiness skills. The preschool offers the opportunity for a child to become fully immersed in an educational setting taught through oral instruction.

# OUR IMPACT

## ENROLLMENT SOURCES



Desert Voices is always looking to improve our environment to ensure our kids are safe and have access to all the tools necessary to best fit their learning needs. This past year, we secured funds aside of our general operating budget to install new "crash" doors for all classrooms.

# OUR IMPACT

## ENROLLMENT SOURCES



Our Community Partners are an important step in a child's Listening and Spoken Language journey. We received 40 referrals from these community partners and others:

**Pediatric Audiologists**

**Cochlear Implant Teams**

**Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind**

**OPTION SCHOOLS**

**Local School Districts**

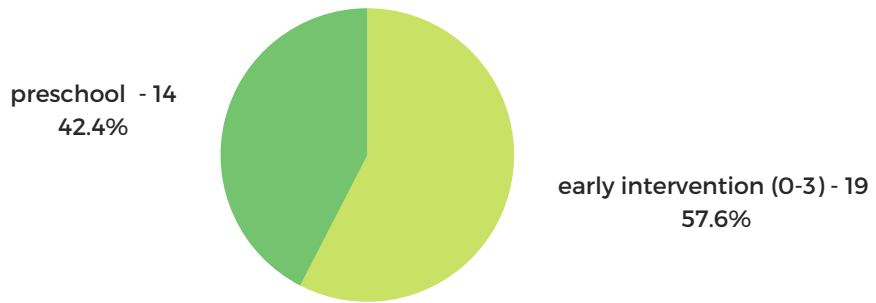


# OUR IMPACT

2022 - 2023

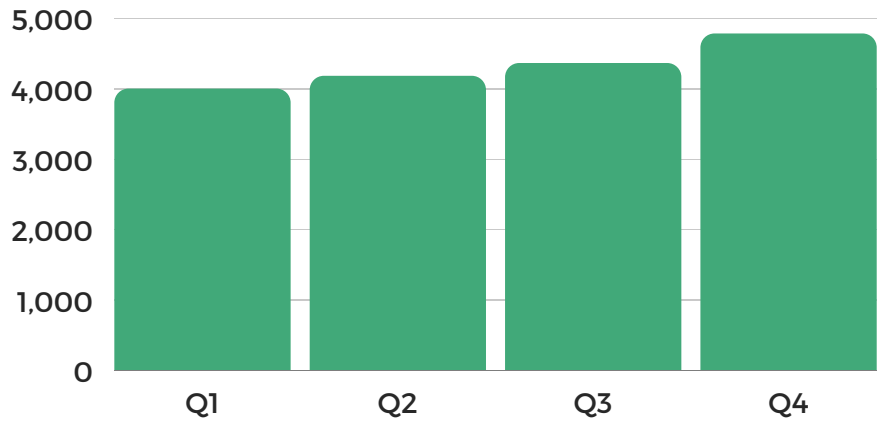


## Families Served



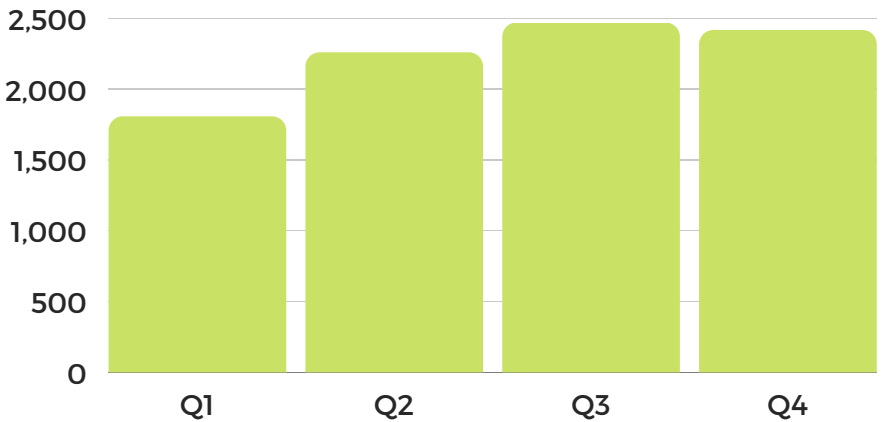
## Hours of Services Provided

Preschool



## Hours of Services Provided

Early Intervention - onsite & virtual



# OUR IMPACT

2022 - 2023



# \$280k

**SCHOLARSHIP  
DOLLARS  
PROVIDED**





# OUR IMPACT

## COMMITMENT TO LEARNING



On average, our team of LSL providers completed **64.5 individual hours of professional development.** Some of these learning opportunities included:

- *Early Literacy*
- *Supporting Students - Educational Systems*
- *Auditory Verbal Therapy & Education*
- *LSL in Spanish: Impactful Intervention to Support the Home Language*



# OUR IMPACT

SOCIAL MEDIA



# 62k

FACEBOOK  
IMPRESSIONS

# 44k

INSTAGRAM  
IMPRESSIONS

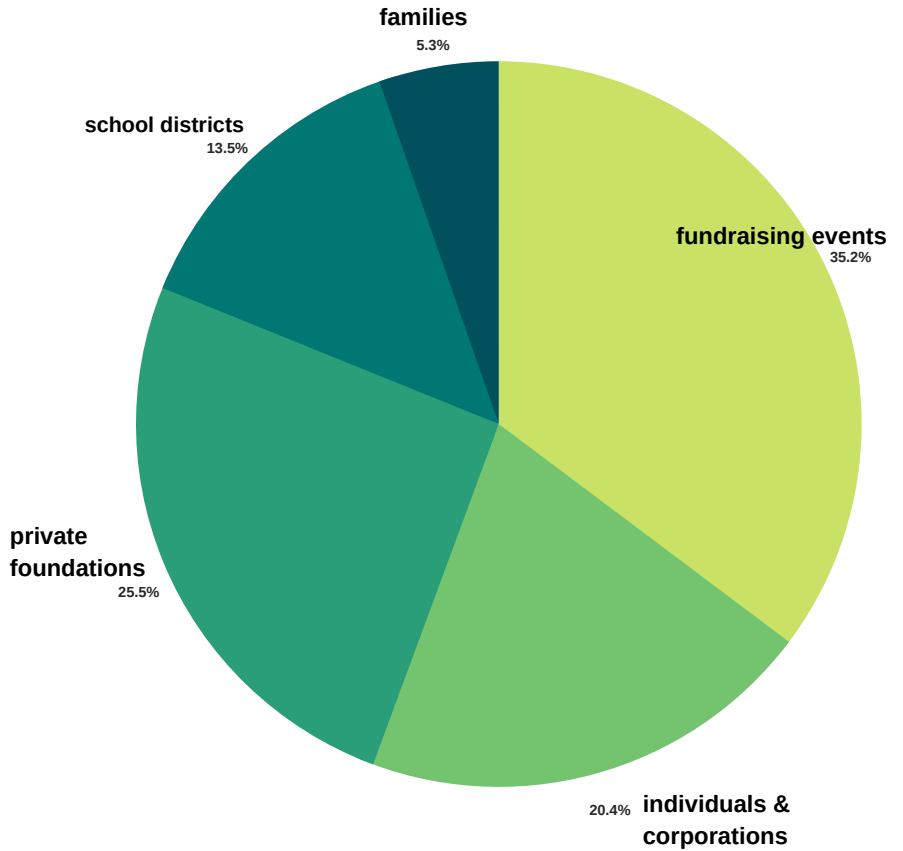


# OUR IMPACT

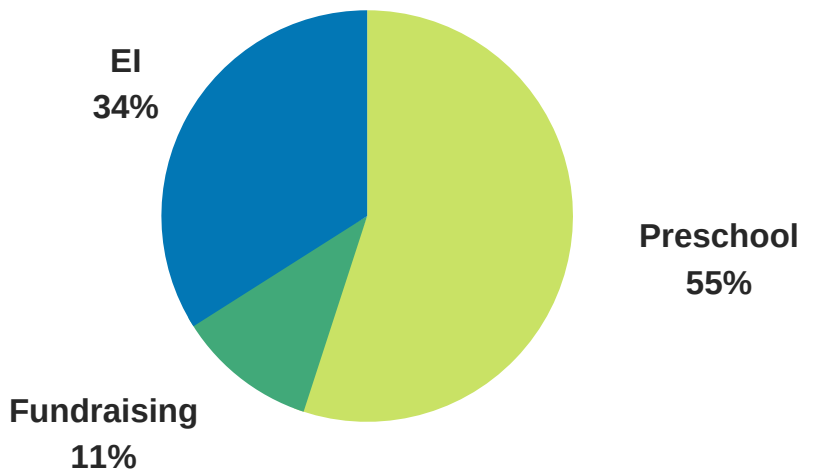
## FINANCIALS



### 2022 - 2023 Revenue - **\$1,180,681.29**



### 2022 - 2023 Expenses - **\$1,211,920.17**



# OUR IMPACT

OUR ALUMNI, 362 AND COUNTING



## Conner

Conner graduated Midwestern Medical School in May 2023 and got into his 1st choice for a residency in Emergency Medicine!



## Wren

Wren attended Desert Voices from 2019-2022 and continues to excel. She left Desert Voices with age appropriate language skills!



## Adam

Adam attended Desert Voices from 2010-2011. He is now a sophomore in high school, an honors student, an Eagle scout, and a horse wrangler!

# OUR IMPACT

## OUR 2022-2023 TEAM



### **Scott R. Smith, Executive Director**

2022-2023

Master Nonprofit Leadership & Management - Arizona State University  
B.S. Business Administration, Marketing - University of Central Florida

### **Kristen Levi, Development and Operations Manager**

2009 to Present

Mesa Community College

### **Dani Merrill, Community Engagement Manager**

2022 to Present

B.S. in Communications and Public Relations - ASU State  
M.S. Leadership - Grand Canyon University

### **Tracie LeBlanc, Instructional Specialist**

2003 - Present

M.S., CCC-SLP, LSLIS Cert. AVEd

B.S. Speech and Hearing Science, University of Arizona

M.S. Communications Disorders, Arizona State University

### **Maggie Bartoli, Speech Language Pathologist**

2003 to Present

B.S. in Speech and Hearing science, Universidad Nacional de Cordoba, Argentina.

M.A. in Communication disorders, University of Houston

Bilingual Speech Therapist

Hanen Certified

### **Olga Fernandez, Speech Language Pathologist**

2022 to Present

Speech Language Pathologist Southern Methodist University

M.S. Communications Disorders, ASU



# OUR IMPACT

## OUR TEAM



### **Ginger Noschka, Teacher of the Deaf**

2009 to Present  
Bachelor of Science in the Education of Deaf Children  
University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
Southwest Human Development - Harris Infant and Early  
Childhood Mental Health Certification

### **Kendall Collins, Teacher of the Deaf**

2017 to Present  
LSLS Cert. AVEEd Candidate  
M.S. Deaf Education Washington University, St. Louis  
B.A. Health Science, University of Missouri (Mizzou)

### **Abbey Decker, Teacher of the Deaf**

2018 to 2023  
Biola University B.S in Communication Sciences and Disorders  
Mt. Saint Mary's University - The John Tracy Clinic M.S in Special  
Education with an emphasis in Deaf Education Nova  
Southeastern University In progress: M.S in Speech Language  
Pathology

### **Audrey Brooks, Teacher of the Deaf**

2019 to Present  
M.S. Deaf Education, Washington University in St. Louis  
B.A. Communication Disorders, Truman State University

### **Haley Gubbins, Teacher of the Deaf**

2022 to 2023  
M.S. Special Education, Illinois State University B.S. Deaf  
Education, Illinois State University

### **Lisa Campbell, Teacher Assistant**

2022 to Present  
B.A. Interdisciplinary Studies, National University M.A.  
Communicative Disorders, San Diego State University Teaching  
Credential, Education of the Deaf

# OUR IMPACT

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENT



After Serving as Desert Voices' Executive Director for the past year, Scott Smith recently shared his plans to pursue new endeavors effective June 12th, 2023. Both the Board of Directors and the Desert Voices staff are extremely grateful for Scott's outstanding contributions over the past year that have put the school in an excellent position to continue to pursue its mission teaching children who are deaf or hard of hearing to talk as their primary means of communication. Desert Voices is on solid footing and in an excellent position to serve our current students/families and for continued growth.

**The Desert Voices Board has appointed Development and Operations Manager, Kristen Levi to serve as Interim Executive Director. There are no current plans to execute a search for a new Executive Director. Kristen has been at Desert Voices since 2009 working closely with the entire team. With the assistance of Tracie LeBlanc, Instructional Specialist and Desert Voices team member since 2003, Kristen will make this transition as seamless as possible.**

"I am so excited and honored to continue to be a part of Desert Voices in this new way," said Levi, "Our focus and mission will remain the same, giving our families the best possible listening and spoken language foundation. We will continue to share Desert Voices and spread awareness with the community to reach more families. We have an amazing team in place and are excited to bring on the new school year!"

Please join us in wishing Scott the very best as we thank him for his service as Executive Director for the past year.

-Desert Voices Board of Directors and Leadership Team

# OUR IMPACT

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Brian Blaney**  
Greenberg Traurig, LLP

**Steve Butterfield**  
Hydrate IV Bar

**James Chappell**  
Community Leader

**Tom Chapman**  
Lumen Learning, Inc.

**Amanda DeMaris**  
Arizona State University  
Alumni Parent

**Dean Howard**  
Alston Construction  
Alumni Parent

**Tim Louis**  
Board Chair  
Desert Capital Investments

**Erica Lucci**  
Discount Tire  
Alumni Parent

**Marc McGowan**  
Community Leader

**Marcus Pinchera**  
Zeektek

**Zachary Rawling**  
Community Leader

**Rustin Roach**  
DBM Global

**Wendy Steuerwald**  
Phoenix Children's Hospital



# OUR IMPACT

## YOUR IMPACT



**58** HOURS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE  
**\$9,704.16** IN IN-KIND DONATIONS

Desert Voices is honored to share with you the impact that your support has made over this past year. Your investment and belief in our mission has been critical in the success of our students and families on their listening and spoken language journeys.

We kindly and humbly ask you to please consider making another investment in our mission to help pave the way for children who are deaf and hard of hearing by setting them up for success in whatever their endeavors might be. Help give the gift that lasts a lifetime - a voice.

Scan the QR below or go directly to [www.desert-voices.org](http://www.desert-voices.org) to start your investment today!

We also invite you to join us this year at our upcoming events:

- Trunk or Treat **OCTOBER 2023**
- Schuff Steel Golf Tournament **APRIL 2024**
- Year End Celebration **MAY 2024**

