



COLUMBUS
SPEECH & HEARING
EST. 1923

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

Helping people improve
communication for life.

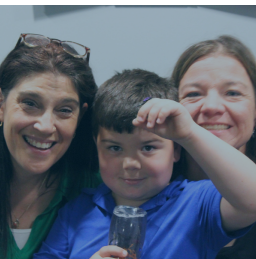
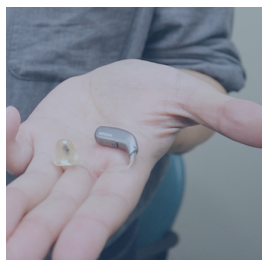
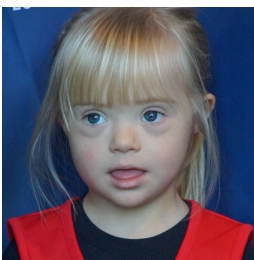


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O. DYE**

President & CEO
of Columbus
Speech & Hearing



**DIANE
HURD**

2025 Board Chair
for Columbus
Speech & Hearing

WELCOME

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on 2024, we are proud to share the impact your support has made possible.

Columbus Speech & Hearing has long been dedicated to making communication accessible for all, and in our 101st year, our commitment to equity in healthcare remained strong as ever.

We continued to invest in reaching underserved neighborhoods and communities, serving 4,898 clients across our three locations. 23% of these clients were covered by Medicaid. We also expanded our Support Service Provider (SSP) program to serve 33 DeafBlind clients.

These numbers represent more than just appointments; they are lives changed by access to affordable, high-quality services.

Our work and your contributions ensure that all people have the support they need to navigate their world with independence, confidence, and dignity.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission: to improve communication for life!



James O. Dye



Diane Hurd

ABOUT US



Founded in 1923 as the League for the Hard of Hearing, Columbus Speech & Hearing has continuously evolved into who we are today.

Columbus Speech & Hearing is a nonprofit that serves thousands of central Ohio children and adults each year. We provide audiology and hearing aid services, speech-language therapy sessions and evaluations, community outreach programs, American Sign Language classes, and a Support Service Provider (SSP) program.

As a nonprofit, Columbus Speech & Hearing serves all individuals – regardless of their ability to pay – because we believe that the ability to communicate and connect is vital to our health and well-being.

www.ColumbusSpeech.org



OUR MISSION

To unlock potential for individuals with communication challenges through all stages of life.



OUR VISION

To be the recognized leader in providing personalized service and caring attention to help the people we serve achieve their full potential.

2024 FINANCIALS

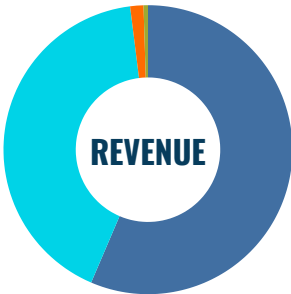
Columbus Speech & Hearing operating funds come from two major sources: public support and revenue from services.



■ Corporate & foundations*	\$333,341	42%
■ Government grants*	296,000	37%
■ Events	91,513	11%
■ Individual giving	57,599	7%
■ United Way grant*	22,500	3%

Total: \$800,953 in Public Support

* Columbus Speech & Hearing audits our financial operations annually. This book was published before the audit was available. Visit columbusspeech.org to access audit after August 2025.



■ Hearing aid sales	\$2,378,548	57%
■ Clinic fees	1,744,909	42%
■ Investment income	60,172	1%
■ Other income	16,921	<1%

Total: \$4,200,549 in Revenue



■ Program services	\$5,239,679	85%
■ Management & general	588,547	10%
■ Fundraising	358,027	5%

Total: \$6,186,253 in Expenses



MEET GUS

Written by Lova Kay Lantz

As his twin sister began to speak, Gus Logan remained non-verbal, prone to temper tantrums and outbursts. After learning that Gus was on the Autism spectrum, his mom Lynnsey took him to Columbus Speech & Hearing – the same place Gus's older brother had previously received treatment – to receive a comprehensive speech-language evaluation.

After a few sessions of speech therapy, Gus's clinician Julie suggested Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), which is the use of communication methods other than verbal speech. Gus was given an AAC tablet – a speech-generating device on which the user pushes symbols to communicate words, phrases, and sentences. He called it his "talkie."

"Without Columbus Speech & Hearing, Gus would likely still be non-verbal."

Not only did the "talkie" help Gus communicate, but it provided a model for language and speech sounds for him to imitate. With extra time and support from clinicians to identify a funding opportunity, Gus received an AAC device at no cost to the family.

Gus's language development took off. He carried his "talkie" with him everywhere, finally able to express his thoughts. His outbursts and temper tantrums ceased. The little boy was finally smiling.

Gus now only uses his "talkie" occasionally. He continues to receive speech therapy and speaks like other children his age. The speech therapy services have helped him understand and form words and prepare for kindergarten.

"Without Columbus Speech & Hearing, Gus would likely still be non-verbal," Lynnsey says. "His speech therapist Julie found a way to take Gus's abilities and make them better."

OUR 2024 IMPACT



3,196

Audiology clients served in clinic; 711 in Senior Options

AUDIOLOGY



1,200

Hearing aids sold; 110 grant funded to 55 seniors



17,038

Speech therapy sessions with 958 clients

SPEECH



6,410

Speech and hearing screenings at 48 community sites



950

Hours volunteered by 83 individuals

VOLUNTEERS



362

Hours volunteered by board members



131

American Sign Language (ASL) class registrations

ASL & SSP



1,867

Hours served by Support Service Providers (SSPs)



MEET TERRY

As a licensed psychotherapist, Terry Taylor knows how critical it is for people to feel truly heard. But when his own hearing started to decline due to high-frequency hearing loss, it became harder for him to stay connected both professionally and personally.

"You can be surrounded by people you love and still feel alone, especially when you have an invisible disability."

Diagnosed with hearing loss in 2018 — when he was in his mid-20s — Terry began to notice his symptoms affecting his relationships, career, and mental health. Social outings became more stressful. Noisy restaurants and group gatherings left him lost in conversation.

The isolation began to wear on him. "You can be surrounded by people you love and still feel alone, especially when you have an invisible disability," he shared. "Not being able to follow the conversation, missing jokes, or having clients and other people think you're ignoring them — it takes a toll."

Terry eventually turned to Columbus Speech & Hearing for the hearing care he needed. Audiologist Ann Wheat not only fitted him with new hearing aids, but also helped him secure funding through Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities. "She recognized the cost, but she also said, 'this is what you need, so let's find a way to make it happen.' Without that support, I wouldn't have been able to afford my hearing aids. And I wouldn't be where I am now."

Now, Terry leads major meetings at one of Franklin County's largest mental health centers and continues to support others. Outside of work, he enjoys a vibrant social life and playing with his dog Max.

"I've stayed with Columbus Speech & Hearing... I don't foresee myself ever leaving. I'm happy with the care I receive here. Columbus Speech & Hearing has made a huge change in my life and my health."

CORP. SUPPORT

\$100,000+

Franklin County Board of Commissioners • Franklin County Office on Aging • The Columbus Foundation

\$10,000+

Ohio Children's Foundation • Ingram-White Castle Foundation • Ohio Children's Foundation • United Way of Central Ohio • The Harry C. Moores Foundation • The Reinberger Foundation • The Siemer Family Foundation

\$5,000+

Anchor Hocking Company • Barbasol Foundation • Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff LLP • Cardinal Health • GFS Chemicals, Inc • Grange Insurance Companies • Huntington National Bank, NA • KeyBank • OhioHealth • Nationwide Foundation • Safelite AutoGlass Foundation • Worthington Companies Foundation

\$1,000+

Archall Architectural Alliance, Ltd. • BakerHostetler • BMI Federal Credit Union • Broadfield Technologies, LLC • Crawford Hoying Management • Diamond Hill • Double L Management, LLC • EasyIT/Capital City Consulting, Inc. • Elford, Inc. • Fifth Third Bank of Columbus • Geiger Brothers • Heartland BancCorp • Inspire PR Group, LLC • Krieger Ford • Meaden & Moore • Ohio Lions, Inc. • OPOC.US • Performance Contracting • Phonak, Inc. • PNC Foundation • The Joseph Group • The Mercator Club • The Robert J. Weiler Company • TS Tech Americas • UBS Financial Services

\$500+

Cochlear Americas • Fuel Medical Group, LLC • New Albany Lions Club, Inc. • The Ohio State University • Oticon, Inc. • The Kroger Company

\$100+

Clarizio Home Team • Columbus Northeast Lions Club • Delta Dental • Design Group • Kelly BMW • Paychex • TCP Asset Management • United Healthcare Services of Ohio, Inc.



MEET JANA

Jana is a 19-year-old woman who is DeafBlind. Throughout high school, she faced profound isolation. Making friends was difficult, and with her family not knowing sign language, Jana struggled to express herself even to her loved ones. Despite efforts to seek mental health support, communication barriers left her without access to the help she needed. She continued struggling with depression and loneliness.

In her senior year, Jana began researching guide dogs. The possibility of increased independence (and an adorable companion) gave her a renewed sense of hope. With the support of her orientation and mobility specialist, she applied to Leader Dogs for the Blind.

After an initial visit with a trained dog, Jana felt optimistic. But when her application was unexpectedly denied, she was devastated. With encouragement from her family and teachers, she submitted an appeal — and this time, she was accepted. During training, Jana met Mika, the guide dog who would become her trusted partner. Their bond was immediate.

“I have really learned that if you keep holding on... you can always make it through.”

Today, Jana is a college student studying psychology. Mika helps her navigate campus safely and confidently. Inspired by her own experiences, Jana hopes to become a mental health professional for individuals who are DeafBlind — offering the kind of understanding support she once needed.

Jana receives services at Columbus Speech & Hearing as she continues building an independent life. With the right support systems in place, she’s turning challenges into opportunities, and adversity into action.

“I still struggle with my mental health... but I’ve learned that if you keep holding on, build a strong support system that can help you when you need it, and try your best, you can always make it through.”

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