



LISTEN UP! PROJECTS GIFTS HEARING AIDS TO PAT COMPTON

Pat has been a patient at HHI for the last 8 years. A resident of New Albany, she grew up in Louisville where she worked for the U.S. Census Bureau part-time. She currently volunteers in the gift shop at Baptist East Hospital where she has done so for the last 15 years. The first time she visited Heuser Hearing Institute, she was experiencing vertigo – that was 3 years ago – and she was sold on the care and treatment she received immediately.

At the age of 78, Pat suffers from severe hearing loss. If selected for the new ListenUp Project where she would receive a new set of hearing aids, it would make a tremendous difference in her life. She heard about the project through Heuser Hearing Institute. “Since my hearing loss is so bad, I can’t hear at all when there is more than one noise in the room,” says Pat.

This grandmother of 5 and 2 great-grandchildren, wants to remain active and continue her volunteer time at the hospital where she enjoys meeting the many visitors who come to visit their sick loved ones and get much needed care. Pat is also an active member in her church Bible study and hearing would help her enjoy her Bible teachings and friends. She also performs with the Hikes Point Christian Church Praise Team, something that is aided by her wearing hearing aids. “I hope I can qualify for the new hearing aids because it would transform my entire life and let me go about my day doing all the things I love to do,” adds Pat.

About The ListenUp Project: The Heuser Hearing Institute’s Listen Up! Project is creating an opportunity for people to volunteer at various locations around Louisville in exchange for free hearing aids. This community-based solution started in 2016 from the generous donation by Delta Dental Kentucky’s Making Smiles Happen® Program. This program allows you or a loved one to volunteer at one of the Heuser Hearing Institute’s charitable foundations partners to receive the credit for hearing aids and start the path towards better living.



WORDS FROM CEO Brett Bachmann



Summertime is always the best of what might be,” said author Charles Bowden. The summer fond reminds me of my childhood days growing up in California and many fond memories of family and friends. The lazy days of summer are here, and while we move at a slower pace, there’s little rest for those who keep our doors open throughout the year. Even though our hallways are quiet, we are keeping busy preparing for a new school year.

Our speech pathologist and audiologists are keeping busy throughout the school break with students in need of lessons or therapy. We will host our summer camp, July 18-22 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon for current and incoming students at our downtown campus. On August 6, we will host our second annual HHLA Open House inviting our graduates back to campus to celebrate our history and the triumphs of our school. If you are a graduate of HHLA, please contact me or Wende Elkins at 584-3573 to send us your news or photos to be highlighted for our event.

We continue to network with physicians, nursing homes and other health professionals to keep our message in the community strong. Thanks to our friends at UPS, Signature Health and others for letting us bring our message to you. Our Research Department works on a never-ending cycle to bring new technologies and techniques to those we serve. Our latest initiative continues with our 3rd ListenUp Project recipient – Pat Compton. Pat Compton is a lively 78 year old volunteer who sings in her choir and has volunteered at her hospital gift shop for the last 30 years. Having a new set of hearing aids will transform her life and allow her to keep up the fast pace of her days. Stay tuned to hear more of her story.

As fast as the summer goes, make sure you’re tuning in to the sounds of summer! We’re here to make sure you can.

Enjoy Summer!

-Brett

HHLA EMPLOYEE PROFILE Meet Wende Elkins, Executive Assistant



If you know Heuser Hearing Institute, odds are you have run into Wende Elkins. She’s often the first voice you hear at Heuser when you call and is always the voice you hear when you have a question. Wende is the assistant behind the man at the helm of the organization that was founded in 1948 to address the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community. She has been executive assistant at HHI for the last 15 years, since 2002 when she first walked through the doors at 115 E. Kentucky Street.

Wende has seen many changes during her 15 years at Heuser. A native of Memphis, Tennessee, she has happily adapted Louisville culture and is a huge University of Louisville fan as she wears red and white all the time and is a proud member of Cardinal family. She and her 14-year old daughter, Taylor, can be seen at Louisville

volleyball games, basketball games and walking up and down Frankfort Avenue enjoying shopping and restaurants. Swimming at Lakeside is our favorite weekend activity.

One of the biggest changes at the school according to Wende has been the increase of technology. “When I first came to Heuser, there were no smart boards, no computer lab or iPads,” she says. “It’s been nice to watch the school (HHLA) evolve as technology advances,” she adds. When asked her favorite part of the job, her response is an easy one – the children. “No matter how stressful your day is -- one smile or hug from one of the children – and the day turns around,” she says.

Her job can also be frustrating, she adds, and money is always a factor. “Being a non-profit, Heuser is always in need of money,” says Wende. She often wishes the burden of fundraising could be lifted off their shoulders so the organization could focus strictly on hearing healthcare. Nonetheless, Wende believes the future is bright. “I wish for Heuser to have another amazing 68 years helping all who struggle with hearing loss.”



TIPS FOR HEALTHY SUMMER EARS

Whether it be playtime in the water or music in the sun, we rarely consider the safety of our ears, but summertime fun can be hazardous to our ears and hearing. Keep your ears safe this summer by keeping your ears dry and clean, protecting the skin of the ear, and avoiding music blasts.

Most of us can enjoy water activities in all types of water without any risks. But for some, a condition known as “swimmer’s ear” is common. Swimmer’s ear is an inflammation or infection of the outer part of the ear. It is caused from bacteria that results from polluted water being trapped in the ear canal. To help prevent swimmer’s ear, dry your ears after swimming and avoid exposure to known pollutants.

Skin cancer is more likely to develop on areas of the body more often exposed to sun. The ears are areas of high risk for skin cancer. The skin over the ear is thin and is rarely shielded from sun light during typical daily activities. Additionally, we tend to forget to use sunscreen on our ears. For the most protection from the sun, wear brimmed hats with UV coating and never forget to use sun screen.

The music of summer can be fun and memorable, but if it is too loud for even a short period of time; it can have life changing consequences. Over exposure results in permanent hearing loss. Symptoms of noise induced hearing loss include muffled sound or feeling like you can hear sound but not understand words. For safe listening with ear buds, your music should not be audible to anyone else. For concert listening, do not stand too close to speakers.

Enjoy the sun, water and sounds of summer, but don’t forget your ears. For safety, use sunscreen, keep your ears dry and turn down the volume.

Summertime Tips for Healthy Ears

- Keep your ears dry. After swimming, tilt and shake your head to drain water from ears
- Avoid swimming in dirty water from a lake or stream, rinse ears with clean water
- Use a shower cap to keep ears dry while showering or dry ears with a hair dryer
- Clean ears with a clean washcloth – avoid using cotton swabs, unless using to clean the outer ear. Do not dig into the ear canal with a pointed object
- If you wear hearing aids, take them out often as possible to give your ears a chance to dry out
- Use sun screen on your ears and don’t forget your ear lobes
- Turn down the volume of your music
- If you use earbuds, keep them clean and make sure your music is only audible to you

HHLA ALUMNI PROFILE Meet William Frentz



William Frentz played for Mockingbird, United, and Javanon Soccer Clubs growing up in Louisville. He also played for duPont Manual High School and Centre College. At Centre, he played right back for four years and for the U.S. Deaf Soccer team. William has been on the U.S. Deaf Soccer Team for 8 years now, and the upcoming trip to Italy will be his 3rd Deaf World Cup. William played the U.S. Deaf World Cup in Greece in 2008, where the team finished 4th, and Turkey in 2012.

William attended the Louisville Deaf Oral School, now known as Heuser Hearing Institute, from 1992-1997, and currently serves as a board member at Heuser Hearing Institute credits his achievements to the strong foundation of learning he received at the school. William is proud to represent Heuser Hearing Institute, the Louisville soccer community, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky on the global stage at the U.S. Deaf World Cup in Italy next week.

HEUSER NEWS

Congratulations to our HHI audiologists and teachers who just completed Med El training in June!

- Tiffany Price
- Brandon McGraw
- Joelle Biesel
- Margaret Verespice
- Tamara Engels
- Andrew Blank
- Claire Miller
- Kara Vasil
- Nick Leahy
- Angie Beach
- Ingrid Edwards
- Lisa Reedy
- Paula Carby



Ingrid Edwards, HHI clinic director, visits with patient at Signature Health Fair.

HEUSER EVENTS

HHLA SUMMER CAMP | July 18-22 9am-Noon | Downtown Campus

Current and incoming students and siblings ages 3-8 years. For more information, contact Katie Fromholt at 502.636.2084 x 378 or email pcarby@thehearinginstitute.org.

HHLA ANNUAL ALUMNI DAY | August 6 Noon-2pm | Downtown Campus

Games, food, fun and family day! Free and open to all graduates and current students and their families. Please send your photos to welkins@thehearinginstitute.org and information to Debbie Woods at dwoods@thehearinginstitute.org or call 502.584.3573 for more information.

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417 Benjamin Lane,
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Dupont Location | 502-584-3573
3900 Dupont Square South, Suite D
Louisville, KY 40207

Downtown Campus
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