



**Global
Foundation
For Children
With Hearing Loss**

Dear Friends--

The Global Foundation For Children With Hearing Loss celebrates its 2-year anniversary this month, and what a two years it has been.

It all started with an inspired idea.....

To empower teachers and families in developing countries with the tools and expertise to help their young children who are deaf or hard of hearing acquire the language, education, and resources they need to achieve their full potential. As these teachers and families share their new knowledge with others, our efforts are exponential and sustainable.

This vision has since captured the imagination of many compassionate, talented people who have selflessly volunteered their time and energies to help us bring it to life. Over the past 24 months, we:

- Instituted a [talented board of directors and advisors](#).
- Secured our 501c3 status in a mere 4 weeks – faster than average 6-8 month waiting period.
- Developed a multi-year [Vietnam Deaf Education Program](#) in collaboration with Thuan An Center and Ho Chi Minh City University of Education to train teachers and families to help young children with hearing loss in Vietnam develop listening and spoken language skills. The initiative involves 35 schools for the deaf spread across 20 Vietnamese provinces.
- Launched our first [Teacher Training Workshop](#) in July/August, 2010. 90 teachers and 25 families traveled from the 35 schools to board at Thuan An Center and participate. Four American professionals developed the one-month curriculum spanning audiology, speech pathology, early intervention, auditory-verbal education. A team of 12 professionals taught the material in Vietnam.
- Conducted our first [Mobile Mission](#) in January, 2011. The foundation's team traveled to four schools for the deaf in Dalat, Danang, and Ho Chi Minh City to supplement the summer training workshop with in-classroom mentorship, evening sessions for parents, and on-site audiology training for school staff. Five other schools sent teachers and families to engage bringing the total count of participants to over 150.
- Fit 95 hearing aids on children whose families otherwise could not afford them.
- Conducted a day-long lecture series in Ho Chi Minh City for 200 medical professionals, teachers, and families about language development and audiology.
- Are now laying plans for the second summer teacher training workshop scheduled for June/July 2011 at Thuan An Center. Over 100 Vietnamese participants are expected, including 60 who passed last year's final test and will return to build on their knowledge. We expanded [our team to 16 professionals](#). New this year is an in-depth audiology track for school staff and medical teams. We will also fit hearing aids on children from low-income families.
- Are securing funds in support of our second Mobile Mission tentatively scheduled for February 2012.
- Are collaborating with Solar Ear, GEO Outreach, Symbiosis on a project in the DR Congo.

And this is just an abbreviated list.

Some of the teachers I have met in Vietnam were surprised to learn that I have been hard of hearing my entire life. They had never met someone with my degree of hearing loss who could communicate effectively through spoken language.

That is what fuels my passion for this work.

The course of our lives is greatly influenced by where we are born. I know my life would have been different without the auditory and language support that I received in the USA during my earliest years. This organization is committed to helping children growing up deaf or hard of hearing in developing countries have similar opportunities. With quality hearing instruments, dissemination of expert knowledge, and a framework of support services, we can set children with hearing loss on a path to achieve their full potential in their hearing communities— no matter where in the world they live.

The Global Foundation For Children With Hearing Loss has always been about collaboration and ingenuity. Speech and hearing professionals, educators, business professionals, social entrepreneurs, university professors, graduate students, NGO partners, grant organizations, and supporters across the world have offered their time, talents, resources, and enthusiasm to the foundation's vision. Our success to date is reflective of your efforts.

I am honored to be leading this movement and look forward to expanding on the great model we have started together. I cannot thank you enough for all your support.

Warmest regards,



Paige Stringer
Founder / Executive Director

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