



# 2018

## IMPACT REPORT



Heuser Hearing Institute

Heuser Hearing & Language Academy

# Welcome

We are thrilled to share our first Impact Report with you. Heuser Hearing Institute has given children and adults in our community access to sound and language for 70 years. With your support, we will continue to provide award-winning curriculum and therapy to children who are deaf and hard of hearing and quality care to patients with hearing health needs for many years to come.

As you read this report, you'll see what your investments in our mission have achieved this year. Thank you for your continued belief in our work.

Sincerely,

*Brett Bachmann*



Brett Bachmann  
CEO  
Heuser Hearing Institute

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# Hearing Health

by the Numbers

## HEARING LOSS

is the third most common health issue in the U.S.

## HEARING LOSS

affects nearly **694,301 Kentucky residents.**

## About 2 to 3

out of every 1,000 children in the US are born with a detectable level of hearing loss in one or both ears.





**YOUR SUPPORT GIVES CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING THE GIFT OF SOUND AND LANGUAGE.**

### **ADDISON'S MOTHER SHARES HER STORY**

Just over five years ago, I was holding a perfect newborn baby girl in my arms and being told that she had failed her newborn hearing screening. I was overcome with sadness and fear for our gorgeous baby, who was born to a life with so many beautiful sounds to offer, yet she was living in her own silent world. This was going to be a new journey where life would be tough, and we would be alone... or so we thought.

As time would pass and we would find more resources and learn more about our child, the future slowly became brighter. Addison enrolled at Heuser Hearing & Language Academy at age three. We knew from the very first visit that this was home... it was where she was meant to be!

She had the privilege of attending Heuser for two years, and it became her home away from home, our extended family.

I gave the teachers a baby girl wrapped tightly in her cocoon, who was barely three. Her speaking mainly consisted of some basic signs and a very limited vocabulary. At the end of this school year, they gave me back a butterfly with the biggest most beautiful wings, ready to fly away and take on this world. They gave me a child who just last week asked us: "Can

you hear the birds singing?" They gave me a child with a passion for music, who loves to sing and couldn't be more confident in her ability to do so.

These are things I thought were merely my dreams for her... things I didn't realize would one day become her reality. It's time for her to move on to kindergarten as any other child her age would. We will embrace this change and see her through it, but Heuser Hearing & Language Academy will always be our home. It's where teachers change lives and lifelong friends are made.



***Can you hear the birds singing?***

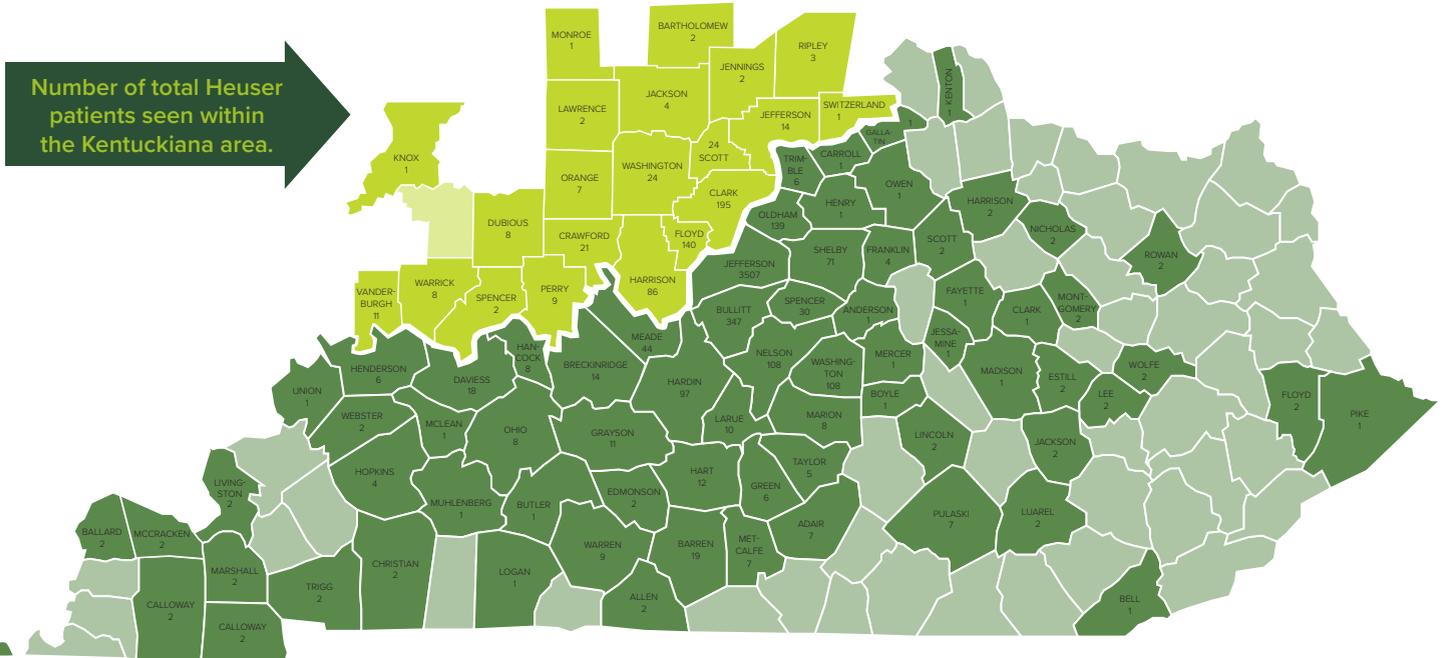
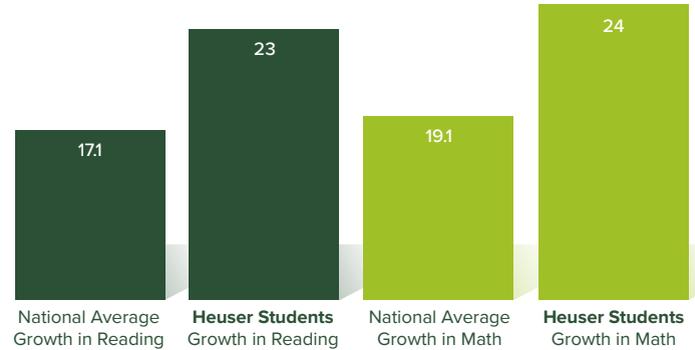
# Our Work

Look what we've accomplished together.

**Twenty-six percent** of patients are under age 18.

**5,100 patients** were treated last year in **63 Kentucky counties and 20 Indiana counties.**

**Heuser Hearing & Language Academy's** students exceed the national growth average for reading and math





## YOUR SUPPORT IMPROVES QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PATIENTS.

### MYAH'S STORY

Myah Meredith, a beautiful red-haired, blue-eyed girl, was born on February 13, 2000. As first born child of Doc and Kimberly Meredith, she brought lots of anticipated joy. Upon leaving Hardin Memorial Hospital, they were told to return in two weeks for another hearing screening. After failing the second screening, they were referred to Norton Children's Hospital for an ABR (Auditory Brainstem Response test). The intern working started crying as the results were displayed on the screen. Myah had no brain response to hearing in either ear and was profoundly deaf in both ears.

**Being only a month old, Myah didn't know what challenges lay ahead.** They were referred to Heuser Hearing Institute. At two months old, she was fitted with hearing aids. Being so young and growing every day, the molds that went in her ear to hold the hearing aids had to be remade each month. One day a week, Cheryl Donaldson, Director of Early Intervention and Speech

Services, would visit Myah's home for speech therapy. She worked with Myah on making sounds with her voice and also taught her to be aware of all the sounds in her world. Cheryl also taught Myah's parents how to teach Myah that sound comes from the ear and to learn to listen for it.

**Early on, Heuser mentioned that Myah would be a candidate for a cochlear implant.** It was evident that Myah wasn't gaining any speech sounds with hearing aids. The path was set and Myah became the first child in Kentucky to have a cochlear implant at age one. Four weeks later, the cochlear device was turned on. She cried upon the sound of just room noise. Each week, she learned to hear more sounds and make sounds with her voice. By age two, she had surpassed hearing children her age in speaking. Heuser reduced her speech therapy to once every two weeks. At age three, therapy stopped, but learning, hearing and speaking did not.

***Heuser Hearing Institute definitely made an impact on Myah's life.***

Myah attended LaRue County High School as the only student in the entire school system with a cochlear implant. **She made a 34 on her ACT with a perfect score of 36 on the reading section and a perfect score of 36 on the grammar section.** She graduated in May 2018 with honors and was salutatorian of her class of over two hundred students. She received the National FFA scholarship for academics and leadership. Myah received the Presidential Scholarship from Eastern Kentucky University, where she is attending as a pre-vet major and then plans to further her education at Auburn University for Vet School. Myah's mother Kim shared that, "Heuser Hearing Institute definitely made an impact on Myah's life."



Heuser Hearing Institute launched the ListenUp! Project in 2016 thanks to a generous donation from Delta Dental of Kentucky's Making Smiles Happen.

Every year, countless Kentuckians deal with the problems associated with hearing loss but are unable to afford the proper care needed to experience sound. The ListenUp! Project provides hearing aids to those in our community who are unable to afford them in exchange for volunteering at Louisville area nonprofits.

ListenUp! recipients have volunteered a total of

**4600**  
hours

at local nonprofits

Checking in with our first recipient, Miss Rosie Lee Brown:

Miss Rosie Lee Brown, a retired chef, was the first recipient of the ListenUp! Project in 2016. She volunteered in the Foster Grandparent Program, serving children with exceptional needs at the JCTC Early Childhood Development Center. She struggled with hearing loss for years and found it increasingly difficult to hear the children when she volunteered. Rosie is so thankful to the ListenUp! Project and loves her hearing aids!

*Special thanks to Delta Dental of Kentucky and Good Samaritan Foundation for funding the ListenUp! Project.*



**Together, we can do so much to help children and adults with hearing loss in our community.**

**VISIT US.** Schedule a tour to see our award-winning curriculum for students who are deaf or hard of hearing and our hearing health clinic.

**VOLUNTEER.** We're always looking for amazing volunteers. Learn more about our volunteer opportunities and join our Butterfly Society volunteer group at [thehearinginstitute.org/support/volunteer/](http://thehearinginstitute.org/support/volunteer/).

**SUPPORT.** Your ongoing support gives the gift of sound and language to children and their families. Learn more about the ways to give at [thehearinginstitute.org](http://thehearinginstitute.org).

**To schedule a tour, volunteer or discuss ways to give, contact Shannon Kisselbaugh, Director of Philanthropy, at (502) 371-9939 or [shannonk@thehearinginstitute.org](mailto:shannonk@thehearinginstitute.org).**

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Heuser Hearing Institute (EIN: 61-1383955)  
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Academy (EIN: 61-0492369) are 501(c)3  
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