



2024– 2025 Impact Report



CEO MESSAGE

Welcome!

We are very proud to share our 2024–2025 Impact Report with you. Heuser Hearing Institute (HHI) has been giving children and adults across our community access to sound and language for more than 75 years. Together, we will continue providing award-winning curriculum, therapy and hearing health care to students and patients with hearing loss for many years to come.

During the past year, we launched **Building Foundations, Amplifying Futures**, our capital campaign to renovate and update the patient care facilities on our Old Louisville campus, which will allow us to serve **30%** more children, adults and seniors than we do today. Please join us in thanking Kosair for Kids again for their generous \$1,000,000 lead gift to support the upgrade of our facilities to match HHI's exceptional services and build a strong foundation for the future. With their support

and that of numerous foundations and individuals who have already contributed to the campaign, we look forward to reaching our goal in record time!

As you read this report, we hope you'll feel the same sense of pride and excitement that we do about how your investment supports our mission each and every day across the region and the state. Thank you for your continued support and belief in the transformative work of HHI. We couldn't do it without you!

Brett Bachmann
CEO, Heuser Hearing Institute



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THE IMPACT OF HEARING LOSS

705,533 PEOPLE *in Kentucky experience hearing loss.*

- ★ Kentucky ranks third in the nation per capita for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals, yet it ranks last in both high school completion and employment for this population.
- ★ Children and adolescents with hearing loss are 25% more likely to experience abuse and neglect.
- ★ Untreated hearing loss in adults is correlated with an increased risk of falls, dementia and even premature death.
- ★ Long-term opioid use has also emerged as a contributor to hearing loss and tinnitus.

AMONG THEM,
55%
OF DEAF INDIVIDUALS
are unemployed and not in the
labor force—nearly double the
rate of hearing individuals.

OUR WORK

Heuser Hearing Institute

Founded in 1948, the Heuser Hearing Institute (HHI) is the only nonprofit organization in the Greater Louisville and Southern Indiana region providing access to world-class and comprehensive hearing, speech, language and balance disorder services across the entire lifespan. Through the powerful combination of a **hearing health care clinic with speech and language services**, a **preschool and kindergarten** program for children with communication disorders regardless of the ability to pay and KY HEARS offering **statewide access to mobile and permanent hearing screening facilities**, HHI provides a unique continuum of care, from diagnosis to treatment, from childhood to adulthood.

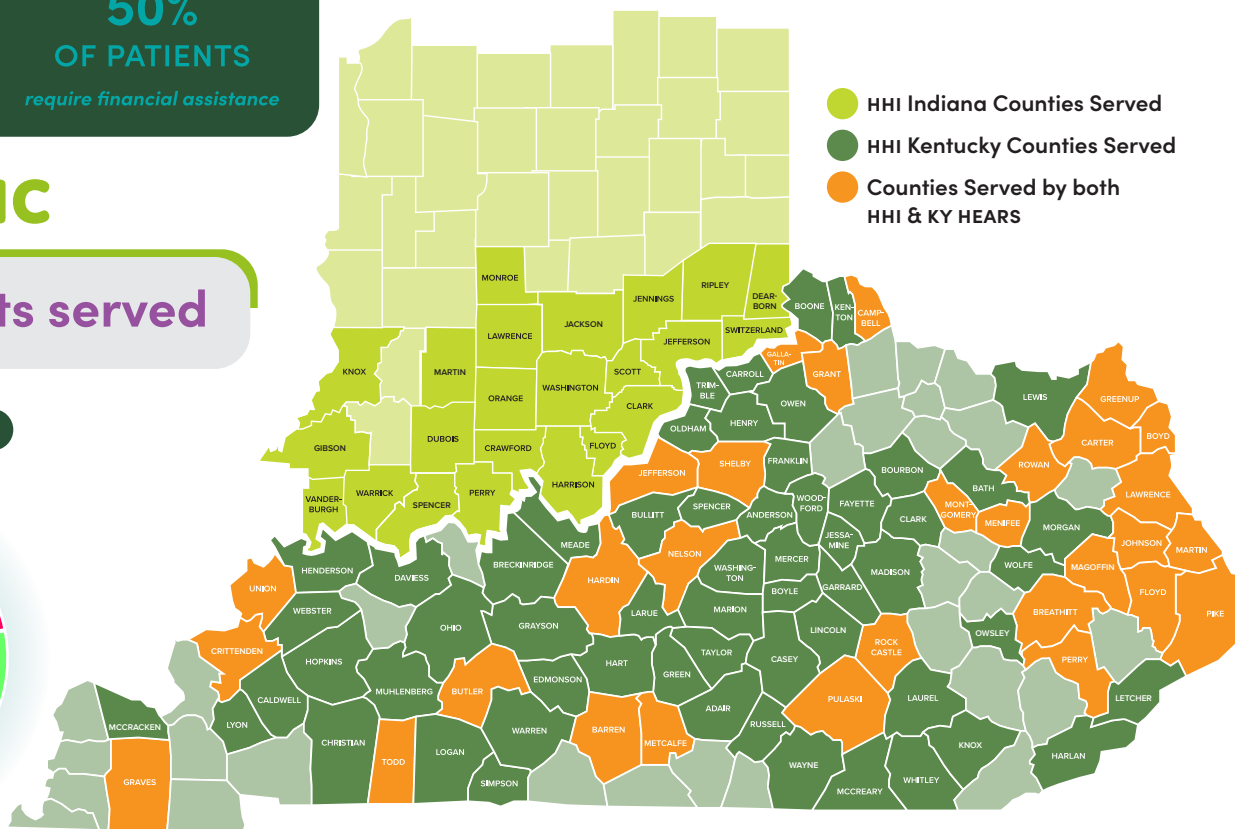
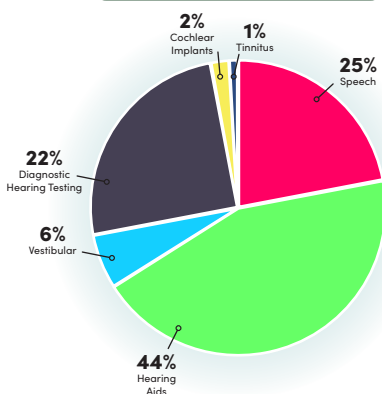
13,110
TOTAL PATIENTS

50%
OF PATIENTS
require financial assistance

THE CLINIC

7,089 patients served

Programs by # of appointments



ANGIE BREWER

On June 4, 2024, Angie Brewer was in an accident that led to a debilitating ringing in her ears. With a referral from her neurologist, Angie visited the Heuser clinic, where she was evaluated by an audiologist and diagnosed with tinnitus. After she was fitted with hearing aids to counterbalance the ringing, her relief was almost instantaneous.



Angie now uses an app on her cellphone to amplify environmental sounds, making the tinnitus less noticeable. Her hearing aids also feature customizable sound therapy features, which can play soothing sounds like white noise, nature sounds or music to help distract from the tinnitus and promote relaxation. By using hearing aids as an effective tool for managing the long-term effects of her injury, Angie has her life back and is experiencing relief daily from her symptoms.

"As soon as my audiologist Chase put the hearing aids in and turned the sound on, the relief was instant. It was amazing! While I still depend on them quite a bit, they have been a blessing, and I am so grateful to the team at Heuser for helping me get my life back."



THE SCHOOL

Heuser Hearing & Language Academy

Heuser Hearing & Language Academy (HHLA) is a comprehensive educational community that empowers those with hearing loss or speech, language and communications disorders to reach their full potential and effectively participate in the community.

HHLA Highlights

- ★ *HHLA is now nationally and internationally accredited through Cognia.*
- ★ *95% of HHLA children with Individualized Educational Plans have mastered their goals.*
- ★ *In addition to our D/HH and speech classes, HHLA now offers two neurotypical classes.*
- ★ *HHLA provided seven weeks of summer programming.*
- ★ *During the school year, all students receive free audiology services every day, including a daily hearing aid check, repair of broken devices, replacement of batteries and hearing testing.*

BLAIR FAMILY

Adaline (Addie) Ruth Blair was born on July 30, 2019, and after not meeting some developmental milestones, she was diagnosed with global developmental delay and speech-language development delay at around 10 months old. Her parents learned about HHLA through a friend, and Addie started attending the preschool program, speaking only a handful of words with very limited sign language. Through the teachers' and staff's use of speech, sign language and the arts—dancing and music especially—Addie has gained her voice and blossomed. She is now a smart, strong-willed and independent five-year-old who recently graduated from HHLA speaking in four-word sentences!



"Addie has made so much progress and is thriving thanks to Heuser. We are forever grateful to them for all they have done to transform Addie's (and our) life into what it is today. I have no doubt that Heuser has been one of the greatest impacts for her life."

THE STATEWIDE OUTREACH

Launched in 2022, KY HEARS is a statewide hearing health care initiative designed to increase access to hearing care, especially in rural areas throughout Kentucky. With both mobile and permanent hearing screening facilities, KY HEARS removes barriers to care, helping Kentuckians gain equal access to hearing health care that can improve student education and reduce employment gaps for those with hearing challenges.

Since the launch of KY HEARS:

- ★ 6,029 patients have been tested and screened for hearing loss.
- ★ 30 Kentucky counties have been served through workshops, fairs and hearing clinics.
- ★ A new office opened in May 2025 in Inez, Kentucky, to serve Eastern Kentucky.
- ★ 15,000 community outreach opportunities have been undertaken annually, including resources, information and social media engagement.

KY HEARS

DALE DOBSON

As a fifth-generation farmer surrounded by equipment his entire life, 65-year-old Dale Dobson knew he might be a little hard of hearing, but he felt it was just part of the life of an older farmer. Serving as the Director for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Farm and Home Safety Program, he and Dr. Cheryl Witt, his colleague, were making their annual rounds at the Kentucky State Fair in August 2024 to visit with old friends and explore new partnerships. Excited to explore hearing health care for farmers throughout the state, they ran across the KY HEARS mobile unit and met Dr. Devon Woodlee. After getting his hearing tested on the spot, Dale scheduled an appointment with the Heuser Hearing Institute team and was fitted with hearing aids. His fitting day turned out to be an emotional one for all. While walking outside after the appointment, Dale said, "I can hear the birds!" with an expression on his face that brought Dr. Witt to tears.

"I can truly talk to farmers now about hearing loss because I know just how much difference hearing aids have made in my life. I honestly didn't know I was that deaf but working with KY HEARS has helped me start a new chapter in life. LIFE IS GOOD and hearing it better just helps make it GREAT."

TOGETHER, we can do so much to help children and adults with hearing loss in our community. Your ongoing support gives the gift of sound and language to those in need.

 **For more information** on how your support can help local individuals with hearing or speech challenges, visit www.thehearinginstitute.org or contact Emily Cheshire, Philanthropy Coordinator, at echeshire@thehearinginstitute.org or (502) 371-9919.

 **And ask us** about **Building Foundations, Amplifying Futures**, our capital campaign to renovate and update the patient care facilities on our Old Louisville campus—it will allow us to serve 30% more children, adults and seniors than we do today!

Follow us!



(502) 371-9919

www.thehearinginstitute.org

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