

## Conner's Journey

Conner Svetly started at Desert Voices in 1998 at the age of 3, following in the footsteps of his older brother Joey.

Conner was diagnosed with profound bilateral deafness at 6 weeks of age and wore hearing aids until he received his first cochlear implant just before his 3rd birthday. He thrived at DV and graduated at age 5 ready to begin mainstream kindergarten at Cherokee Elementary School.

He successfully attended Cherokee, Cocopah and Chaparral High School. Conner was very involved in all sports and played club/travel baseball until high school. In high school-his parents finally let him play football and he shined as a defensive lineman and helped Chaparral win 2 football State Championships

Conner was very academically motivated and with the help of CART (provided by SUSD) he was able to be successful in honors and AP classes. He was a member of the National Honor Society. He was selected as a 1st team Arizona All Academic and a "Top 18 under 18" by ESPN Magazine.

Conner was able to continue his football and academic career at Chapman University in Orange, California where he Majored in Business and Minored in Chemistry. He was awarded the Graeme Clark Scholarship from Cochlear Corporation. In his Sophomore year and final year of playing College Football, Chapman won the SCIAC Championship and played in the Division 3 NCAA Playoffs. (It's a nice ring!)

After graduating from Chapman, with the intent on attending Medical School, Conner was accepted to Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, MD where he received a Masters Degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He was also named a Centennial Scholar at Johns Hopkins.

Conner is now in his first year in Medical School at Midwestern University in Peoria, AZ. He was selected to be a peer liaison by faculty and was voted Vice President of his class by his peers. Midwestern has been terrific in accommodating his deafness. He has CART for lectures (the same person he had in high school) He has a special stethoscope that connects directly to his implant processors using Bluetooth technology so he can hear all the heart sounds! He will use surgical masks that have a clear plastic middle to assist in lip reading while in surgery. He is not sure what area of medicine he would like to go into-but is very interested in ENT!

Svetly Family