

DESERT VOICES

IMPACT REPORT



2024-2025



LETTER FROM DESERT VOICES

What an extraordinary year it has been! Desert Voices has experienced tremendous growth and achievement, with exciting developments unfolding both within our facility and throughout the broader community. Our commitment to advancing Listening and Spoken Language education continues to gain momentum and recognition.

The energy within our halls is palpable as students make remarkable progress in their communication journeys. Beyond our walls, we've strengthened community partnerships, expanded our outreach efforts, and elevated awareness about the transformative power of auditory-verbal education. Each day brings new opportunities to demonstrate how our approach empowers children with hearing differences to develop listening and speaking skills that will serve them throughout their lives.

We warmly invite you to visit our campus and witness firsthand the incredible impact of our work. When you walk through our doors, you'll not only see the progress our students are making—you'll actually hear it. The sounds of children's voices, laughter, and confident communication fill our spaces, creating an atmosphere of hope and possibility that speaks volumes about what we accomplish together.

None of this would be possible without our remarkable network of supporters. Our individual donors, foundation partners, corporate sponsors, dedicated board members, passionate volunteers, and engaged community members form the foundation that allows us to pursue our mission with excellence. Your belief in our vision, your financial contributions, your time, and your advocacy create the resources and encouragement we need to continue changing lives.

From the bottom of our hearts, we extend our deepest gratitude. THANK YOU for being part of the Desert Voices family and for helping us create a world where every child can listen, learn, and thrive through the power of spoken language.



KRISTEN LEVI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



TRACIE LEBLANC
**DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMS**



DANI MERRILL
**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
MANAGER**

DESERT VOICES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TIM LOUIS (BOARD CHAIR)
DESERT CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

BRIAN BLANEY
GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP

JAMES CHAPPELL
COMMUNITY LEADER

TOM CHAPMAN
ALTSPORTSDATA

AMANDA DEMARIS
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI PARENT

DEAN HOWARD
CHANEN CONSTRUCTION
ALUMNI PARENT

MATT LEITZ
BOTBUILDERS
ALUMNI PARENT

MARC MCGOWAN
COMMUNITY LEADER

MARCUS PINCHERA
HIRERISING

ZACHARY RAWLING
COMMUNITY LEADER

RUSTIN ROACH
DBM GLOBAL

PHILIP WELP
FANATICS

TONY HANNAN
SCHUFF STEEL



A black and white photograph of four children (two boys and two girls) sitting on wooden steps, smiling and huddled together. The image is partially covered by a yellow rectangular box containing the text 'OUR MISSION'.

OUR MISSION

Desert Voices is dedicated to serving children and empowering them to reach their full potential. Our mission centers on Early Intervention and Early Education, where we teach children who are deaf or hard of hearing the oral language skills essential for speaking and understanding spoken communication. Through evidence-based Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) instruction, we prepare our students to successfully transition into mainstream educational settings by Kindergarten or First Grade.



ENROLLMENT

FAMILIES SERVED

Desert Voices operates on a rolling enrollment calendar. Every family's journey begins at different times, and to ensure we continuously meet the needs of families who choose listening and spoken language, we evaluate our programs as we progress through the year. Our four programs work in natural progression, with enrollment moving each month to ensure all families are being served.

REFERRALS



families served

37



preschool

21



early intervention

16



FUNDRAISING OVERVIEW

Desert Voices is committed to providing our families with the best possible LSL experience and education. To serve our families and retain our highly qualified team members, we must raise 90% of our operating budget through fundraising. Every family who receives services from Desert Voices receives scholarship funds, ensuring that no child is ever turned away due to financial need. We are incredibly grateful to every donor who believed in our mission this past year, making it our most successful fundraising year to date.

* Throughout the fiscal year, we held four major events, all of which exceeded their previous fundraising totals. The Annual Schuff Steel Golf Tournament, hosted by Schuff Steel, continues to be our flagship fundraising event. We are profoundly grateful to Schuff Steel's community, vendors, and sponsors whose ongoing commitment ensures this event's continued growth and success.

* From individual donations and family foundations to corporate partnerships, private school tax credit contributions, grant opportunities, and community fundraising events, we are deeply grateful to our loyal donors who champion our mission year after year. Their unwavering commitment enables us to continue providing life-changing services to the families we serve.

25%

Increase in special events



12%

Increase in campaigns and grant contributions



SAVE THE DATE

Vino for Voices



March 25, 2026

Join us for an elegant evening of exceptional wine and cuisine while connecting with our families, dedicated team members, board of directors, and fellow supporters who champion our mission of empowering deaf children with communication opportunities. This year's event will take place at the prestigious Polo Field and Riding Club in Scottsdale, Arizona. Scan the QR code to join our mailing list or discover how you can support this meaningful event through a direct donation.



Scan Me

Schuff Steel Charity Golf Classic



April 25, 2026

Join us for our 22nd Annual Schuff Steel Charity Golf Classic, hosted at the beautiful Palm Valley Golf Club. The Schuff Steel community has shown their unwavering support for 22 years, and each year their commitment to our mission continues to grow. This popular event WILL SELL OUT—scan the QR code now to join our list and secure your participation.



Scan Me

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community events allow us to strengthen partnerships, spread our mission, and gain valuable feedback on our programs and services.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- * Grandparents Day
- * Trunk-or-Treat
- * Winter Holiday Party
- * Parent Education Nights
- * Field Day
- * Muffins with Moms /Donuts with Dads
- * Year-End Celebration
- * Schuff Steel Golf Tournament
- * Annual Alumni Event
- * Vino for Voices
- * Desert Voices Open House
- * AZ Lemonade Fundraiser



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Our community partnerships were integral in providing volunteer support for the school, growing referrals, and helping us expand our reach to families in need of LSL care for their children.

- * A.T. Still University
- * Phoenix Children's Hospital
- * Hearing Loss Association of America
- * Hands & Voices Picnic
- * OPTION Schools
- * ARSHA
- * Family Resource Centers
- * Banner Children's Hospital
- * Local School Districts
- * Arizona's Early Intervention Program (AZEIP)
- * Pediatricians
- * Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- * Encircle Families (formerly Raising Special Kids)
- * Phoenix Psychology & Counseling
- * Kendra Scott LLC
- * Arizona State Schools for the Deaf & Blind (ASDB)

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Phoenix Country Day School's 5th grade class brought big smiles and lots of fun when they organized a field day for the preschool and toddler students!



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



CARLY
Class of 2015

- * We are so grateful for the 7 years Carly was blessed to receive services at Desert Voices. This strong foundation set her up for success, and we couldn't have done it without all the support we received.
- * Carly graduated early from Liberty High School in December 2024.
- * Carly earned a full academic scholarship and attended Glendale Community College for free from January to May 2025. She's interested in social work and becoming a certified sign language interpreter. Her scholarship is now on deferment as she is serving an 18-month mission in Little Rock, Arkansas.



SADIE
Class of 2023

- * Sadie's family is the proud audience to her daily living room concerts, showcasing her self-written songs. Her passion for singing is only outweighed by her love of unicorns and rainbows.
- * Graduating the preschool program in 2023, Sadie mainstreamed into Kindergarten at her local public school. Now in 2nd grade, Sadie enjoys art and horse-back riding, and wants to be a triple-threat when she grows up - singer, dancer, and baker!
- * "It was amazing to see Sadie confidently step into a mainstream classroom, knowing there was nothing holding her back."

AUDIOLOGY



**18
MONTHS**
of strategizing



\$225,000
invested



\$225,000
still needed to fund
our first year of
operation

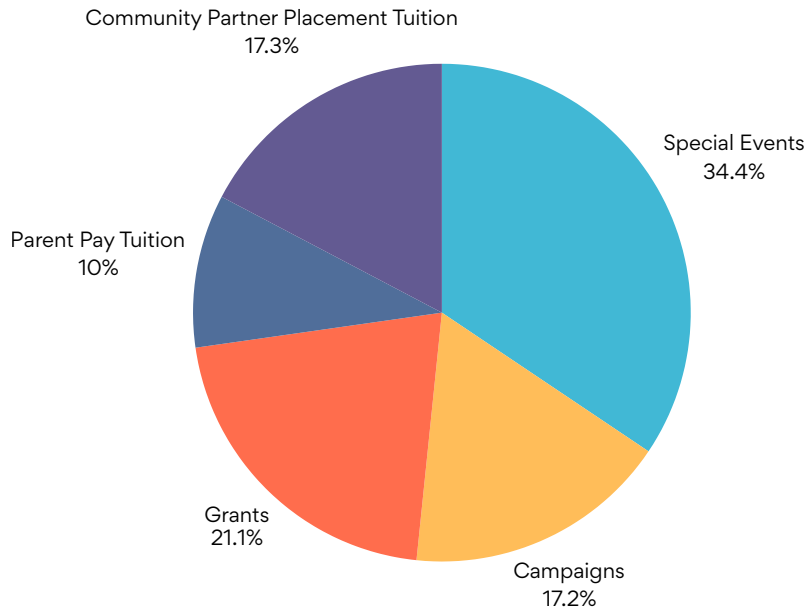
Desert Voices is excited to announce that we have launched a fully operating audiological suite onsite! The success of our comprehensive LSL program relies heavily on the ability of the child's amplification to work properly and have optimal programming. Previously, we partnered with an audiologist from Phoenix Children's Hospital, who assessed the student's hearing devices weekly, ensuring proper fit and assessing overall functionality. This service was a great benefit to families and allowed students to receive instantaneous care instead of waiting weeks for an audiology appointment. We recently expanded this successful program to having full-time comprehensive audiology services on-site, including audiological evaluations, regular hearing testing, device fitting and programming, earmold fitting, and troubleshooting. Students having immediate access to these services maximizes the benefits of their LSL education. Through our newly established partnership with Medical Service Providers, we can now offer comprehensive audiological services to qualifying families based on Federal Poverty Level criteria, ensuring that economic circumstances don't prevent children from accessing the hearing support they need to succeed.

Scan here to learn more!

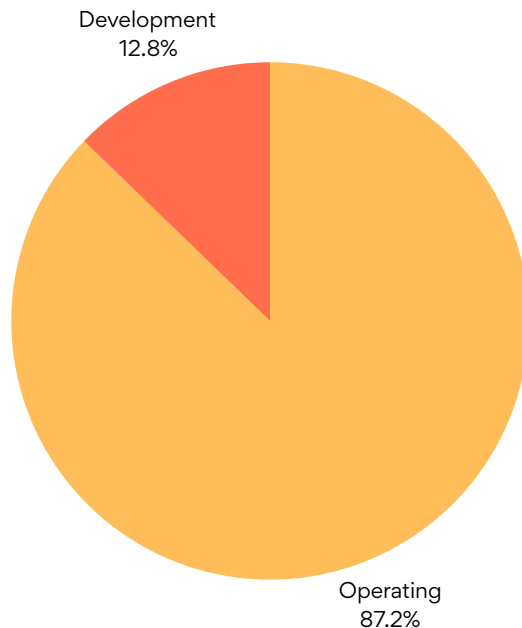


FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INCOME \$1,431,795.13



EXPENSES \$1,236,659.44

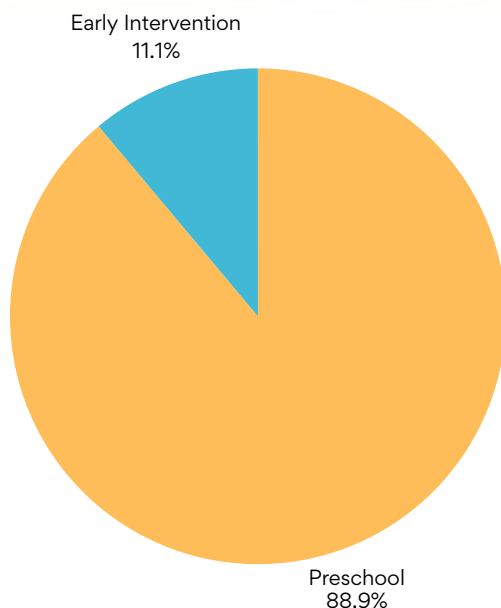


SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Desert Voices provides scholarship assistance to every family who attends our services across all four programs. Our commitment is simple: no family should be turned away due to financial barriers. We work with each family individually to ensure our services are accessible and affordable for everyone.

\$300,237

IN SCHOLARSHIP
FUNDS AWARDED IN
2024 - 2025



FUTURE OUTLOOK

PROGRAMS

In order to ensure we are maintaining best practices in the field of Listening and Spoken Language, we are continuously making adjustments to all four of our educational programs. Every child's journey is unique, and we tailor our approach to ensure their success. This upcoming year we added a self-contained kindergarten classroom for five students. We are excited to see the growth these students will make before they mainstream in the spring of 2026

AUDIOLOGY

With the introduction of audiology services, Desert Voices is deepening our community impact and extending support to more families than ever before. Access to sound is fundamental to a child's spoken language development, yet many families face barriers in maintaining their child's hearing devices or securing proper audiological care. We are actively pursuing funding opportunities to support families who need these critical services, including providing hearing aids when financial resources are limited.

LEGISLATION

We are continuing our efforts with legislation to ensure all families have access to equitable information on language and therapy approaches for their deaf or hard of hearing child. We want every family to know there is help for their child's Listening and Spoken Language journey. Our goal is to empower families with all of the information necessary to make an informed decision about the best communication options for their child and family.



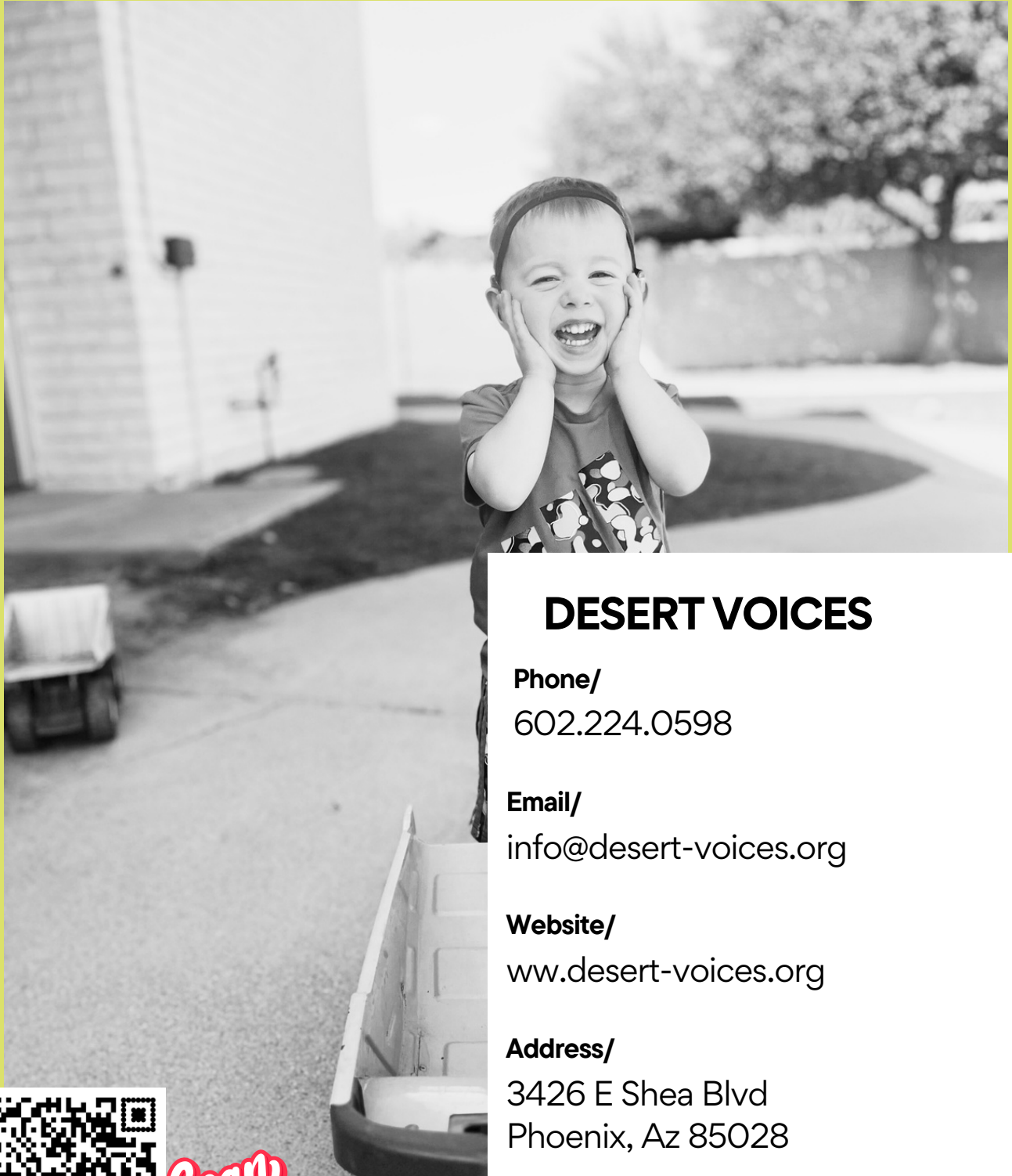
The future is bright for Desert Voices! We're excited to see what lies ahead and proud of everything we have accomplished!



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Children with hearing loss face unique challenges in educational settings that can significantly affect their academic achievement, social development, and long-term outcomes. Even mild hearing loss can impact a child's ability to learn language, develop reading skills, and participate fully in classroom activities. We work with our families and community partners closely to make sure they fully understand this impact and what we can do to support them.

CONTACT US



DESERT VOICES

Phone/

602.224.0598

Email/

info@desert-voices.org

Website/

www.desert-voices.org

Address/

3426 E Shea Blvd
Phoenix, Az 85028



*Scan
me*