



FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Non-profit Organisation: 030-787NPO



children with HEARING LOSS

IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

- **Structure: Sustainable, ongoing fundraising programme to change lives with the gift of hearing**
- **Focus sector: Disability, Health Care, Inclusive Education**

Our story

- The Foundation was established in 1997 with a God-given vision to make a difference in deaf education for children in Southern Africa.
- Since inception, our vision has expanded to assist families with fundraising for a cochlear implant, hearing aids and/or school bursaries for inclusive, mainstream education.
- To this day, we are dedicated to helping deaf children and adults who cannot afford the high shortfall costs of a cochlear implant procedure/hearing aids.

*As the most critical sense for connecting to society,
we believe that financial standing should never prevent anyone from the gift of hearing.*

The problem

- The majority of SA's population (84%) is reliant on the public health sector, which lacks sufficient systems, services, skills, and resources.
- They have a minimal number of audiologists, restricted access to intervention such as hearing amplification devices, and limited schools that cater for children with hearing impairment.
- Consequently, hearing loss is a low priority for public health systems, as technology is too expensive, and services are restricted - making hearing care opportunities inaccessible for many.
- Most underserved deaf children & adults are awaiting intervention, for whom many a Cochlear Implant is completely impossible without financial support in the private sector.
- While certain medical schemes in the private sector provide some level of coverage for hearing intervention, many do not, and others have challenging limitations - leaving the burden of high shortfall amounts on families who cannot afford it.
- Only 16% of South Africans can afford private healthcare & medical aid – which leaves approximately 52 million people dependent on public health care.

The reality:

- **Over 1.5 billion people globally live with hearing loss, with more than 80% of them residing in low- and middle- income countries.**
- **In SA, more than 4 million deaf people require intervention, of whom less than 10% are receiving treatment.**
- **Around 6,000 deaf children are born in South Africa each year.**



Our solution

- We focus on the objective to ensure easy access to quality hearing health services, audiology management, hearing amplification & intervention for deaf individuals of all ages, irrespective of race, gender, or socio-economic status.
- Our ongoing fundraising programme towards the gift of hearing forms part of a sustainable support system within a network of partners to facilitate our work for the successful outcome of every project to help a deaf individual reach their full potential in a hearing world.
- By changing their quality of life with access to sound and a mode of communication, we focus to create equal opportunities, better education and employment opportunities, sustainable futures and independence for deaf children and adults to be socially integrated into society where they can in return make a difference in South Africa.

We assist financially challenged, deaf children and adults to obtain a cochlear implant or hearing aids to facilitate their learning to speak and become part of the hearing world.



1. Cochlear Implants

- As a platform that can stand between a child linked into the hearing world or being completely isolated, we take our responsibility serious to help children & adults with hearing loss who can't afford the high costs/shortfall costs for cochlear implantation and the audiological care associated with this intervention.
- Our continuous stream of cochlear implant funding requests includes deaf individuals between the ages of 10 months and 12 years who are diagnosed with bilateral profound deafness.
- A cochlear implant is the only solution for a profoundly deaf child to gain access to sound & spoken language, and therefore, financial support alone can break down the barriers to a better-quality life & future for children who cannot afford this expensive, lifelong, hearing solution.
 - *Obtaining a cochlear implant commits an individual to lifetime use of such a device.*
 - *Funding for future maintenance & rehabilitation remains an imperative need for most patients.*
 - *We currently support the shortfall amounts of 20-30 patients with medical aid per annual.*
 - *We aim to financially support the full cost for 2-3 children without medical aid per annual.*

2. Hearing aids

- In relationship with our network partners, our organisation always undertakes to assist financially challenged individuals with hearing impairment, by providing financial support for audiological services and products they cannot afford.
- Even though the South African government occasionally issues hearing aids, the quality of these devices is often not good enough to hear well, and therefore not good enough to develop/improve spoken language.
- Hearing loss which affects communication also negatively impacts on cognitive development, pragmatic skills, and education/employment opportunities.
- Hearing aid-options are based upon an individual's type and degree of hearing loss diagnosed after a detailed audiological examination, which is mostly impossible in the public sector due to a lack of services & limited availability of entry-level hearing aid options only.
- The dispensation of these entry-level hearing aids in the public sector of South Africa is also burdened with problems such as lack of provision of batteries, poor repair services and inadequate follow-up. This affects the maximum benefit derived from a hearing aid.
 - *Hearing aids have a warranty period between 1-2 years for different components, subject to T's&C's.*
 - *Funding hearing aid orientation, counseling, fitting & future follow up consultations remains a need for most patients.*
 - *Support is handled on a case-by-case evaluation basis after a patient has been tested & diagnosed.*

The difference between a cochlear implant and hearing aid

A hearing aid makes sounds louder; however, this may not be enough if the inner ear is badly damaged.

Cochlear implant



- A cochlear implant is a device that is surgically inserted into the inner ear to bypass the damaged parts.
- Electrical signals stimulate the hearing nerve, sending impulses to the brain.
- The brain recognizes these impulses as sound.
- It's the only solution to provide hearing when a deaf person obtains little or no benefit from hearing aids.
- This life-changing operation provides severely deaf children the only chance of age-appropriate speech and language development and allows deaf adults to flourish in a life of choice and independence.

Hearing aid



- A hearing aid is a small device worn on the ear, consisting of a microphone, amplifier and loudspeaker that transmits sound into the ear.
- It is a restorative mechanism that amplifies sound to compensate for hearing loss, making it easier to hear and understand speech.
- Different types of hearing aids are available, and selection is influenced by factors that include type & degree of hearing loss, needs, lifestyle, and priorities to accommodate hearing needs.
- They can greatly improve the quality of life for children and adults with hearing loss by keeping them connected to the world around them.

Measurable impact

Our project intends to bring the following changes:

- Age-appropriate speech and language development
- Better educational outcomes
- Ability to hear speech without visuals/lipreading
- Recognition of everyday environmental sounds
- Sound and speech detection & understanding
- Ability to hear in noisy environments
- Increased self-esteem, social interaction & overall emotional wellbeing
- Improved cognition
- Creating positive family dynamics
- Better quality of life & sustainable future opportunities

Governance

Our board members are the main decision makers and responsible for legal duties & financial accountability:

- Mr. N vd Merwe Snr (Founder)
- Mr. J Grobbelaar (Chairman)
- Mr. HN vd Merwe Jnr
- Mr. D Mbokane
- Mr. P van Deventer

Organisation Manager, Ms. E Basson:

- Reports to the Board
- Maintains fundraising initiatives
- Daily operational duties
- Partner & finance liaison
- Allocations & budgets
- Governance
- Grant applications & Reports
- Resource development
- Beneficiary identification & support

Our work is legit, ethical, and reliable. We always implement & deliver with integrity.

Registrations:

- Association incorporated under Section 21: 1997/010956/08
- Non-profit Organisation: 030-787NPO
- Public Benefit Organisation: 930005868
- B-BBEE Status: Level 1, Procurement Recognition 135%, 75% Black Beneficiaries

Bank details:

Foundation for Children with Hearing Loss
Standard Bank
Account number 011 794 798
Branch Gezina
Branch code 014845



Your donation will have an unimaginable impact in the lives of deaf children/adults



It goes without saying that donors play the biggest role in our success and sustainability. They are key to the work we do. **And that is exactly why we invite YOU to our cause**, to see and feel the real-life implication of your donation. We can give feedback in numbers, percentages, and reports, but it is the heart-warming story of each beneficiary that will convince you that you could not make a better investment.



- Please view our YouTube Channel for extraordinary moments of our beneficiaries: <https://www.youtube.com/@childrenwithhearinglossins5335/videos>
- Please follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FCHLSA/>
- Overview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vY_vwo-aak

*Your support will give them a life that they could never have thought possible.
You'll help guide them to a brighter future, full of energy and hope.
They'll realise their dreams, overcome obstacles, and grow into the person they want to be.*

Sincerely,

Erika Basson

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