

Loud and Clear



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Early Intervention Collaboration Helping Families Thrive

Early results from St. Joseph’s LENA program are helping parents and providers create positive outcomes for children in Early Intervention services. (Story continues inside)

Listen.
Speak.
Support.

"On The Same Page"

Early Intervention Collaboration Helping Families Thrive

It takes a village of parents, caregivers, LSL providers, and other hearing health professionals to create LSL outcomes. St. Joseph seeks collaborative relationships with like-minded organizations, like our new LENA program. The collaboration, funded by Early Learning Indiana through the Early Years Initiative, kicked off in May 2025. Since then, 25 families across Indiana have enrolled.

A LENA day is simple and effective. "LENA uses a device called a talk pedometer to record a full day of language activity in a family's home," says LENA coordinator Gabriella Marcy. The data collected from LENA sessions helps St. Joseph's Early Intervention Specialists measure the effectiveness of their services and provide individualized, data-driven recommendations to each family. "The program is giving us deeper knowledge of the home language environment that we don't get to see," says Marcy. "It's a really great tool to show families [what strategies] can be beneficial for their child."



The LENA talk pedometer (above) is worn in the center of this purple vest.

In just a few months, LENA sessions are already creating positive outcomes for families. "LENA tells us what we're doing right and provides insight to areas we need to focus on," one parent commented. Responses like these are exactly what Marcy hoped for with the LENA rollout. "It's really fun to hear parents' key takeaways from using our program," she says.

"LENA helps all of us to be on the same page."

-LENA parent

Over the next two years, Marcy and the LENA team are working toward a lofty goal: 200 families enrolled in the program by October 2027. "I'm confident that we will keep progressing and reaching new families," Marcy says. Until then, she'll be busy giving kids with hearing loss the tools they need to thrive, one LENA session at a time.

Golfing For Good

St. Joseph Golf Outing Raises Money for LSL Programs

On a gorgeous September day, St. Joseph alumni families, community partners, and supporters took over Wood Wind Golf Club in Westfield, Indiana, for our 10th annual Charity Golf Classic. 68 golfers showed out for a day full of golf, prizes, and supporting children and families receiving our services.



Southern Glazer's foursome, led by alumni parent Patrick Raymer.

St. Joseph was pleased to welcome Ascension St. Vincent and Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits as the event's major sponsors. Representatives from each organization brought some lively competition to the tournament field. "We were overjoyed to see a foursome of Ascension's surgeons at the outing," say President Jeff Chapman. "Dr. Chris Miyamoto commented how he enjoyed seeing many patients and their families playing and volunteering." We are so grateful to our major sponsors for sharing their passion for helping kids with hearing loss and joining us at the Golf Classic.

Of all the new additions to this year's Golf Classic, perhaps the most special was the brand-new game honoring the Slama family. Brian and Dana Slama, parents to St. Joseph alums Hunter and Rocco, founded the Golf Classic in 2015. A family of talented golfers, the Slamas have taken home first-place honors at nearly every event. This year, golfers had the opportunity to "Beat the Slamas" by hitting a baseball down the fairway as their tee shot, hoping to pass the mark Brian had set earlier in the week. The activity was a rousing success and a wonderful way to honor a family that has given so much to St. Joseph.

When all was said and done, our incredible field of golfers and sponsors helped St. Joseph to raise more than \$37,000 to support all agency activities. We couldn't be more grateful for our community of supporters- and we already can't wait for next year's Golf Classic.



Brian Slama poses in front of "Beat the Slamas."

Pursuit of Excellence

Program Committee Working to Improve LSL Services

St. Joseph staff are committed to our vision of becoming the preeminent Listening and Spoken Language resource, and the Standards and Quality Assurance Committee (SQA) is leading the charge. Kicking off in 2022, the SQA was created to evaluate the quality and efficacy of St. Joseph's LSL programs. Bailey Clay, Director of LSL Advancement, says the committee began to ensure that we are using the most up-to-date, evidence-based methods in our practice. Since her arrival in 2023, Clay has facilitated SQA, crafting it into a dedicated group of more than 15 St. Joseph staff members across both our campuses.



The SQA Committee improves LSL services for kids like Decklen.

During the academic year, SQA meets twice per month to identify needs across the organization and to create and share resources. SQA meetings allow providers across St. Joseph's diverse programs and services to collaborate and share their unique perspectives. "It's a really good opportunity for our whole organization to come together," says Clay.



SQA's efforts foster friendships across our staff.

SQA also works to make St. Joseph a better place for staff members through the Peer-to-Peer Program. The program offers new staff the opportunity to create a positive relationship with a current staff member, someone to answer questions about our processes and serve as a smiling face around the building. "It's kind of giving somebody a person they can have a relationship with, a friendship with," Clay says.

As the academic year continues, SQA will focus on creating digital resources for parents and families and refining organization-wide goals and standards for different age groups. The work might not be easy, but Clay finds the process wholly rewarding. "It challenges us to be humble enough to see where we can grow and advance, and to be courageous enough to lead change."

188th Year In Review

Celebrating the achievements and progress of the past year

This fall, St. Joseph Hearing + Speech will celebrate its 188th anniversary. Though much has changed since the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet traveled from France to St. Louis in 1837, our core mission remains: to serve to children with hearing loss and model the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph, loving our dear neighbors without distinction. It's been a year of tremendous growth and change, full of opportunities to expand programs, refine services, and further our mission.

In January 2025, St. Joseph announced a rebranding from “St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf” to “St. Joseph Hearing + Speech.” The transition, guided by months of discussion with staff, board members, and other stakeholders, was implemented to better reflect the breadth and diversity of our programs and service models. Our updated identity reflects our commitment to Listening and Spoken Language and providing the best available LSL services to children and families.

Many collaborative programs and partnerships began this year. In Missouri, St. Joseph teamed with Special School District of St. Louis County to create Sound Partners. Funded generously by Emerson, it provides LSL coaching and support to families transitioning out of early intervention services. In Indiana, St. Joseph received three multi-year grants to support new initiatives such Music Moments, designed to teach children and families LSL strategies through music and rhythm. Additionally, grant funds from the Lilly Endowment supported the implementation of an organization-wide database, “LILLY,” to manage and analyze enrollment, assessment, and outcome data, which will benefit children across all of our programs.

In a year full of dynamic growth and exciting beginnings, we are so thankful for our wide community of staff members, volunteers, community partners, sponsors, and of course, the children and families at the heart of our services. It is an honor beyond measure to strive towards our mission and vision, and we look forward to another year of progress, innovation, and service.



St. Joseph staff in Missouri (above) and Indiana (below), August 2025

Up Next @ St. Joe's



December 5, 2025
Hilton St. Louis Frontenac

Kick off the holiday season with us at this signature event. Join us for the cocktail hour, the after party, and a wonderful winter evening!

April 30, 2026
Indianapolis- Location TBA

Drivers, start your engines! Join us for a turbo-charged evening as we present the Richard T. Miyamoto Heroes for Hearing and Mary Boucher Jones Compassionate Service Awards.



Support Us

Our services would not be possible without support from donors like you. We are so grateful to have you in our community as we strive to be a preeminent resource for Listening and Spoken Language solutions.

If you haven't given this year, please consider supporting an upcoming event or making a donation to help fund our classrooms, Early Intervention, Outreach programs, and other services for children with hearing loss and their families.

Questions about estate planning or leaving St. Joe's in your will? Contact Chief Development Officer Zareena Koch to learn how. zkoch@sjid.org | (314) 651-9535: text or call

