

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

A LEGACY OF INNOVATION

Dear Alexander Graham Bell Association Community,

Dr. Alexander Graham Bell is best known as the inventor of the telephone. But in his heart, he was always a teacher of the deaf. He was deeply influenced by two women in his life—his mother. Eliza Grace and his wife. Mabel Hubbard Bell. Both women were deaf and both were able to speak. Dr. Bell sought to improve the quality of life for others who were deaf and hard of hearing and to give them the gift of listening and spoken language. Dr. Bell believed that to hear and speak is to become a part of the larger world, to share in the great treasures of sound, music and a multitude of languages that would be otherwise inaccessible.

In 1890, a group of teachers came together to found a forerunner organization, the American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf, and named Dr. Bell as the organization's first president. Dr. Bell and the founding board members were visionaries who created a legacy of innovation.

Then, as now, the board of directors has identified a set of timeless guiding principles for the association. The work —and accomplishments—of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing exemplifies these accomplishments. Our association is...

Empowering and Respectful.

We empower families to make informed choices and we value the contributions of those who are deaf and hard of hearing. In March 2014, a large group of deaf adults, longtime members of AG Bell, celebrated the 50th anniversary of their community in Salt Lake City. The name of the group has changed over the decades, but the spirit of community among its members continues.

Forward-Thinking and Innovative. We value our heritage and history, while adapting to the changing environment, and promoting access to technology. In December 2014, AG Bell increased access to technology for closed

captioning in movie theaters through a landmark agreement with other consumer and industry organizations. Collectively, the organizations filed a joint agreement to the U.S. Department of Justice.

In addition, AG Bell released a position statement that will guide the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, a major education law that provides services and supports for students with disabilities.

Inclusive and Supportive.

Our organization provides a welcoming, inclusive and supportive environment for children and adults who are deaf and hard of hearing, their families and the professionals that work with them.

Nowhere was this more evident than at the 2014 AG Bell Convention which brought together more than 1,500 families, adults and professionals who are advancing listening and spoken language!

Dependable and Knowledgeable.

AG Bell demonstrated its reputation for providing evidence-based, reliable and accurate information about listening and spoken language by releasing the results

of its groundbreaking Family Needs
Assessment survey in a media conference
that drew more than 40 interested media
and individuals. AG Bell also developed a
web-based learning module. Together,
these resources shed new light on families'
journey with hearing loss and their challenges
and needs in navigating systems of support.

In the coming years, AG Bell will embark on a grand anniversary celebration. We will begin a celebration of the long and rich history of the association, the historic landmark building, and the lives of two very special people—Alexander Graham Bell and his wife Mabel Hubbard Bell. Thanks to the legacy of innovation that began with the founding board of directors—and continues today with our current board of directors—our organization is where it is today. We invite you to join us in celebration!

Sincerely,

Meredith K. Sugar

Meredith Sugar, Esq. AG Bell President

Emilio Alonso-Mendoza, J.D., CFRE AG Bell Chief Executive Officer





In 2014, AG Bell awarded more than \$400,000 in financial aid and college scholarships to young adults and the families of children who are deaf and hard of hearing. These gifts provide financial assistance and encouragement to those committed to listening and spoken language who aim to thrive in mainstream society. AG Bell supports their efforts to fully participate in and contribute to the advancement of the world around us.

FINANCIAL AID AND COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

AG BELL

RELIES ONTHE

GENEROUS

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ADVANCE ITS

MISSION.

MORE THAN \$400,000 IN FINANCIAL AID AND COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

PARENT-INFANT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM

The Parent-Infant Financial Aid Program assists families of infants and toddlers up to age 3 with costs of auditory support services, speech-language therapy and other related expenses. In 2014, a total of \$104,427 was awarded to families of infants and toddlers as they began their journey to help their child learn to hear and speak.

PRESCHOOL-AGE FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM

The Preschool-Age Financial Aid Program helps families of children from age 3 until they begin first grade. Aid supports expenses associated with auditory support services, speech-language therapy, preschool tuition and other needs. In 2014, a total of \$78,965 was awarded to families at a time when the costs of services is felt most significantly.

SCHOOL-AGE FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM

The School-Age Financial Aid Program supports children in grades 1-12 who attend a non-publicly funded school in a mainstream setting. In 2014, a total of \$75,000 was awarded to families to support education with a focus on listening and spoken language.

ARTS & SCIENCES AWARD PROGRAM

Learning is enhanced when it includes exposure to the arts and sciences, and for children

who are deaf and hard of hearing, immersion in these fields challenges them to listen attentively while enabling them to express their feelings and interests. The Arts and Sciences Award Program assists families of students in grades 1-12 to participate in programs focused on developing these skills through activities focused on science exploration, music, dance and performing arts, as well as the fine arts. In 2014, a total of \$28,000 was awarded to students in after school, weekend and summer programs.

THE GEORGE H. NOFER SCHOLARSHIP FOR LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY

The George H. Nofer Scholarship for Law and Public Policy is for full-time graduate students who are working on masters and doctoral degrees in law, public policy and public administration at an accredited mainstream university. This scholarship recognizes George H. Nofer's service and generosity to the Alexander Graham Bell

Association and to the fields of law and deafness research and education. In 2014, AG Bell

made two awards in his name to **Trevor**

Kezwerland Jewell Briggs. Trevor earned a B.A. in Political Science from New York University, an M.A. in International Relations from McMaster University, and is currently working on his law degree at University of Windsor. Jewell earned three bachelor's degrees from Loyola University in Forensic Science, Biology and

Chemistry, and applied her award toward a law degree from the University of Michigan.

AG BELL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Thanks to generous support from individuals over many years, AG Bell is able to offer several merit-based and competitive scholarships for full-time college students. In 2014, scholarships ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 were awarded to 18 applicants with outstanding academic performance who show great leadership potential.



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Thank you so much for awarding us this gift, we are so grateful for the ways it has added to our son's journey to sound! He has been activated with his cochlear implants for just over 15 months and the last few months he has been having a vocal explosion. Days before Christmas he called me Mama for the first time. I don't think anyone will ever be able to top that gift! We have very big dreams for our small little guy and the award check helped us move towards making them come true!

-2014 RECIPIENT FAMILY

THE LEADERSHIP **OPPORTUNITIES** FOR TEENS (LOFT) **PROGRAM** is for high school

students who are deaf and hard of hearing and use listening and spoken language as their primary mode of communication.

Since 1996, LOFT has enabled hundreds of teens

teens to advocate for themselves and others

Orlando, Florida. Participants came from across the United States. with one teen from Canada, one from India and one from China. For the third year in a row, two sessions of LOFT were held serving a total of



and structured environment in which

TEENS BUILD THEIR LEADERSHIP SKILLS

through team activities designed to challenge them.

The volunteer leaders for LOFT are adults with hearing loss who also serve as counselors and role models for teens in the program.



LOFT increases teens' self-confidence and understanding of their own strengths and skills.



40 TEENS.

In 2014, LOFT was held in

What LOFT teens value the most from the program:

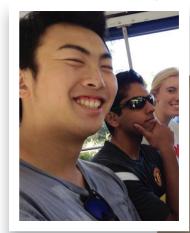
- Lifelona friends
- Increased comfort with advocating for themselves
- Leadership skills such as thinking outside the box, listening, stepping up, planning, teamwork and communication
- Sense of belonging
- Knowing they are not alone

Participants often experience a new sense of belonging and describe the positive effects of having a new support system through other LOFT participants.



LOFT went way above and beyond my expectations. It was more than a leadership opportunity – it was something that changed my life. It helped me see the world in a new perspective and gave me the ability to see myself in a new light. What I learned during the program will stay with me for many years. I made connections, friends, and found myself among others with the burning desire to make a difference in the world."

-2014 LOFT PARTICIPANT



ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL ACADEMY FOR LISTENING AND SPOKEN LANGUAGE



The Alexander Graham Bell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language continues its mission to advance listening and spoken language through standards of excellence and international certification of professionals, offering the Listening and Spoken Language Specialist (LSLS®) certification to qualified professionals who meet rigorous academic, professional, post-graduate education and mentoring requirements, and who pass the LSLS certification exam. LSLS certified professionals are licensed audiologists, speech-language pathologists or educators of the deaf who have voluntarily attained a high level of specialty education and experience in listening and spoken language theory and practice.

Between 2013 and 2014, 70 organizations requested approval to offer continuing education units (CEUs) for over 250 educational programs.

This indicates that organizations are recognizing the value of offering approved LSLS CEUs to their program attendees.

In 2014, the AG Bell Academy:

- Administered the LSLS certification exam in six locations in the United States, Canada and Australia.
- Exhibited and presented at several professional conferences.
- Developed an Ethics Committee to respond to inquiries of concerns regarding ethical practice in the field of listening and spoken language.

2,300 lives were touched

when they came by an AG Bell booth at a conference. wrote an article, advocated for people with hearing loss, shared their input in an AG Bell survey, worked with AG Bell on an initiative, made a financial contribution to AG Bell or volunteered with AG Bell.



2014 CONVENTION

AG Bell conducted its 2014 Convention in Orlando, Florida, bringing together a diverse community of parents, children and individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing, and the professionals who serve and support them.

CONVENTION BY THE NUMBERS:

Total participants:

Children served in the Children's Program:

CEUs:

Number of sessions:

 $24\,\mathrm{LSLS}\,|46\,\mathrm{m}\,6\,\mathrm{tracks}$

AG Bell is honored by the support of contributors across the nation and around the world. Because of your support, over two million people affected by deafness and committed to listening and spoken language learned about the importance of early intervention, received the support they needed to help their child acquire spoken language, attended schools and programs to enhance their growth, learned to advocate for themselves and for their child, entered college, and were trained to teach children and families on how to advance listening and spoken language. You make our mission possible. and we are deeply grateful.

> Our thanks to all of our supporters who made 2014 a great year for children and adults who are deaf and hard of hearing.



VOLTA BUREAU CIRCLE

(\$100,000 and above) Anonymous Estate of Daniel Barkan

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

(\$50,000 - \$99,999) Children's Hearing Foundation Helen Beebe Speech and Hearing Center The UPS Foundation

CIRCLE ALLIANCE

(\$10,000 - \$49,999)

Jovce Jackson Mars Foundation National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Philip L. Graham Fund Rothman Family Foundation Arlene and Jay M. Tenenbaum The Wasily Family Foundation

BENEFACTOR

(\$5,000 - \$9,999)

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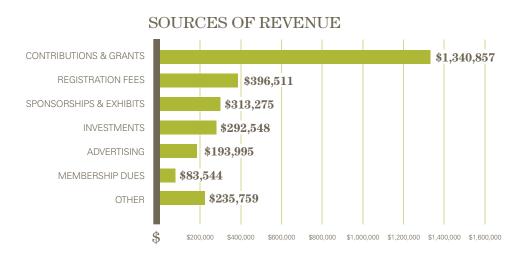
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Eric Zizza



Following is a summary of the 2014 revenue and expenses for the association. Programs and services offered by the association are designed to be as affordable as possible to members and participants who benefit from our services. All programs are made possible through the generosity of foundations and individuals who partner with the organization to advance listening and spoken language for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing.

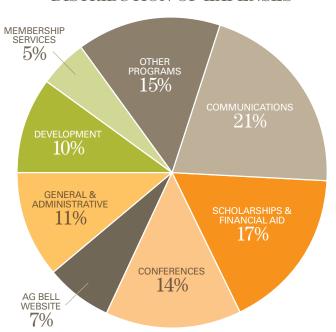


In 2014, more than 2 million individuals were directly served

through AG Bell programs, services, publications and books offered by AG Bell.



DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENSES



MORE THAN
2 MILLION
INDIVIDUALS
DIRECTLY SERVED
IN 2014

The Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell) helps families, health care providers and education professionals understand childhood hearing loss and the importance of early diagnosis and intervention. Through advocacy, education and financial aid, AG Bell helps to ensure that every child and adult with hearing loss has the opportunity to listen, talk and thrive.

With chapters located in the United States and a network of international affiliates and partnerships, AG Bell supports its mission:

Advancing Listening and Spoken Language for Individuals Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

TALK TO US

202.337.5220 866.337.5220 (Toll Free)

VISIT OR WRITE TO US

3417 Volta Place, NW Washington, DC 20007 Fax: 202.337.8314 Email: info@agbell.org

SUPPORT US

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