



Weingarten Childrens Center
LISTEN • SPEAK • LEARN

Impact Report



2024-2025





Thanks to our dedicated families, staff, and supporters, we continue to transform lives of children who are deaf or hard of hearing, teaching them to listen, speak, and learn. Building on our traditions and longstanding center of excellence, we are expanding to serve more families of children younger than three, locally and remotely.

Staff Overview. We welcome two new speech-language therapists and two new paraprofessionals, who expand our staff by net one in each of those areas. Our teaching staff is unchanged, now all with at least two years of experience here, mentoring, and work with our cognitive curriculum.

Metrics

100%

Of graduating students will matriculate into mainstream classrooms this fall!

81%

Of our students made at least one year progress in listening and spoken language, as measured against hearing peers.



WEINGARTEN CHILDREN'S CENTER



Birth-to-Three.

We have again received grant funding to support reduced tuition to encourage families of children from birth to three to start on the path to listening and spoken language.



Pequeño y Yo.

For the first time, we are offering a parent coaching class in Spanish for families with children 18 months and younger. We hope this will bring in families, who may not otherwise have access to Listening and Spoken Language early intervention, helping to begin their hearing journeys and connect with our supportive community.



Special Day Classes.

WCC supports students with certain secondary diagnoses. Our highly diagnostic and interdisciplinary team has brought about some phenomenal results in language, cognition, and socialization!



Unilateral, Progressive, Mild & Moderate.

We have seen dramatic improvements in language processing, interpersonal skills, classroom-readiness, and confidence in even as short as a year for these children whose barriers are not as formidable as those for children with bilateral severe or profound hearing loss. **We are not just for cochlear implant wearers!**

WEINGARTEN CHILDREN'S CENTER



Renovated LGFC.

The Leah Grammatico Family Center is back up and running following post-flood insurance-funded renovation.



Daycare.

We will have three infants who are children of staff in daycare. Future hearing peers!

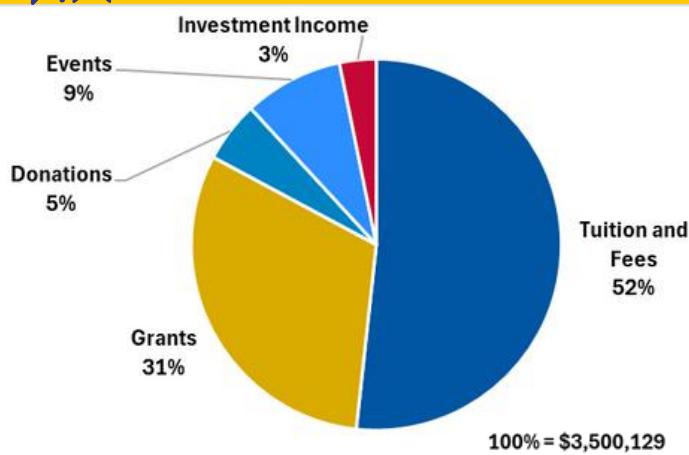


Social media.

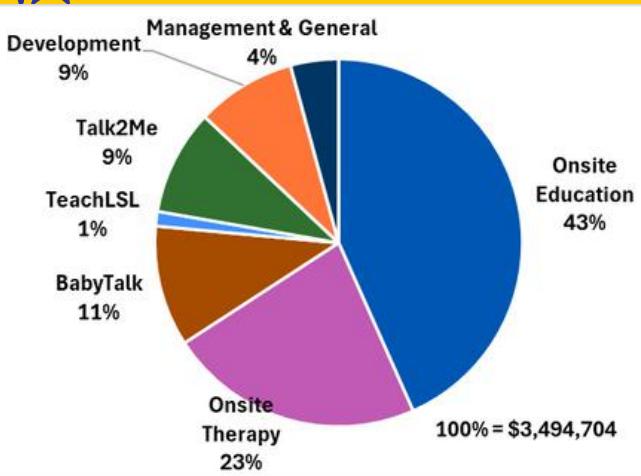
Our social media campaign kicks off this fall on Instagram, TikTok and Facebook to inform and attract families and give them hope that their children who are deaf or hard of hearing can succeed with spoken language.



Income



Expenses





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Our Mission

is to transform the lives of children who are deaf or hard of hearing, teaching them to listen, speak, and learn through:

- Proven spoken language and cognitive development curriculum
- Family-centered education
- Innovative technology

Outreach

Each of our lines of service applies great efforts to **inform, comfort, and motivate** families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Our messages:

- Your child CAN learn to talk
- Hearing technology alone is not enough to acquire language
- Language is the foundation of literacy, learning, and interpersonal relationships
- Early intervention is critical
- We produce outstanding results



IMPACT



Aguado family

"In May 2024, just weeks before our son Andres' preschool graduation, we received news that drastically changed everything: after an initial misdiagnosis of speech articulation disorder the year before, Andres was diagnosed with mild to moderate bilateral sensorineural hearing loss.

The diagnosis was unexpected, and we found ourselves navigating an entirely new world. At first, we were overwhelmed. We had already chosen a private school for Kindergarten and had a vision for his future. We didn't believe Andres' hearing loss was "severe enough" to require a specialized school for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. We naively assumed hearing aids and weekly speech therapy would be enough. Looking back, we realize now that we were reluctant to let go of the future we had envisioned for him.

After his medical team strongly recommended Weingarten Children's Center, we toured the school that summer. With my background in early childhood education research, I was immediately struck by the quality of instruction, individualized attention, and incredible teacher-to-student ratio. What moved me most were the students themselves—confidently introducing themselves, naming their hearing devices, and proudly explaining how those devices helped them. I knew, in that moment, that Weingarten was where Andres needed to be."



milestone moment

“In that first week, we saw how special this school is. Before WCC, Andres was so timid about speaking in public that he didn’t want to sing at his preschool graduation. On his sixth day at Weingarten, he stood in front of 40 to 50 people and sang “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.” That moment said everything.”



“That sense of belonging has carried into all areas of his life.”

“All of the WCC team are truly exceptional. Andres’ teachers—Michelle, Joanie, and Julia—have instilled in him a genuine joy of learning. The academics at WCC are strong; this is not just a special school for children with hearing loss—it’s an outstanding school, period. His therapists—Jessica, Kelly, and Urszula—make therapy feel like play, tailoring each lesson to what Andres enjoys most. When we panicked after he suddenly stopped saying his “S” sounds, the school audiologist, Lisa, quickly evaluated him and assured us it was due to his missing front teeth—not hearing loss. That quick reassurance brought us so much peace and reminded us how lucky we are to have the WCC team.

Andres has grown in ways we never imagined. He can name the parts of his hearing aids, manage them independently, and explain to others that his hearing aids help him hear. At WCC, he has learned that hearing aids are normal—and that he is fully accepted just as he is. That sense of belonging has carried into all areas of his life. He doesn’t feel different, and that confidence shows when we’re out in the world.”



“

“Considering that, at one point, we didn’t think his hearing loss was significant enough to require this type of education, I shudder to think where he might be today had we gone with our original plan of a mainstream school and weekly speech therapy. WCC gave him so much more than we ever imagined he would need—and exactly what he truly did.

WCC has also empowered us as parents—teaching us how to support his speech therapy at home. We’ve learned to better understand and empathize with his needs and to help him advocate for himself in everyday settings. WCC helped normalize his hearing difference—not just for him, but for us.

And then there’s the community. The relationships we’ve built with other WCC families—who truly understand this journey—have become our support system. WCC has not only changed Andres’ life—it has changed ours. We consider this team part of our family, and they will forever be part of our story.

We came to Weingarten in the midst of heartbreak and uncertainty. We leave each day filled with hope. WCC gave us a new dream for our son—and the tools to make it possible.”

”

-Veronica



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welcome SLPs

Tiffany Chen, M.A., CCC-SLP

Tiffany grew up in Rhode Island and earned her Bachelor's degree in Education and Psychology from Brown University. After moving to California, she discovered her passion for speech-language pathology and went on to earn her Master's degree in the field from San José State University. She is licensed in California and holds a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

[**Read More about Tiffany here**](#)



Varinia Rodriguez, M.S., CCC-SLP

Varinia earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from the University of San Francisco and a Master of Science degree in Communicative Disorders from San Francisco State University. She holds a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and is licensed in California.

[**Read More about Varinia here**](#)

welcome

Roxy Ledesma

Roxy Ledesma, joins us as a paraprofessional educator and will also support school administration. Roxy earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from Notre Dame de Namur and an Associate of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education from Skyline College. As a Bay Area native, Roxy has worked with youth and families in the Bay since 2003. She has ten years of experience in the ECE field as an Administrator and Educator. She has also helped open two childcare/preschool centers in San Mateo and San Francisco. [Read More About Roxy Here](#)



Sammi Landivar



Sammi Landivar is thrilled to join WCC as a new paraprofessional and feels deeply grateful for the opportunity to support the school community. She brings a lifetime of experience in music performance and education, sharing the joy of music in both entertainment settings and classroom teaching. Sammi is a certified therapeutic musician and harpist, credentialed by the National Standards Board of Therapeutic Musicians. As a recording artist, she also enjoys coaching young musicians and guiding them on their artistic journeys. Her passion lies in leading music groups of all ages, helping people connect through song and dance while exploring the healing and uplifting power of sound.

[Read More About Sammi here](#)

How can you change the world?

Help us by sharing your hearing journey with other families. You are all shining examples of the transformation that can happen when given the appropriate program and services. This is also a great opportunity to support WCC's outreach efforts and ensure that all students who are d/hoh have access to a quality education.

WCC also has an ambassador program. If you're interested in becoming one, please let us know. As an ambassador, we will share your contact with families who are newly researching LSL and WCC. Your stories are inspiring to families just beginning their journeys.

[bio.siteWCC](#)

Check out our bio site for all our links from the annual gala to social media.



WCC on Social Media



Thank you for
helping us spread
the word!

- Please follow us
- Like, comment,
save, and share
on personal story
or DM

Thank you & we will miss you

but hope you will participate in teletherapy programs.



Kelly Borkowitz, SLP

Congratulations to Kelly and her husband. They will be moving to be closer to family and nesting for their soon-to-arrive baby.



Jessica Bailey, SLP

Congratulations to Jessica and her husband. Last year Jessica and her husband moved up to Folsom and they just welcomed their first child.

Hear We Grow!

A Gala Benefitting
Weingarten Children's Center



“Our gala theme this year represents the growth that WCC provides to our children who are deaf/hard of hearing. These skills enable our children to go out into the mainstream classrooms ready and confident”

-Belinda
(WCC parent of Orlando)

 **Living the logo!**

Attention Alums:

We will have volunteer opportunities for **alums** that would like to sell raffle tickets, set-up day of or packing up post gala. Limited discounted tickets will be available to those alums. [Sign up here](#): Select "Alumni" or "Volunteering" under subject



**Gala Honoree
Julia Golomb**



 **Living the logo!**

