

Sound Start Babies Program Accepts Grant for Exciting New Therapy



Pictured from left to right, Mark Schey, Heather Schey, Henry, Phil Siana, Stephanie Deyo, Kayley Mayer

Mountain Lakes, NJ-- On the morning of December 8, 2015, the Lake Drive Foundation received a check for \$126,000 from a major private family foundation to develop tele-intervention therapies for the Sound Start Babies Program. Philip Siana of the donor foundation joined the babies including Henry, above, in their morning activities when he presented the check. Philip explained that the donor foundation's mission is to provide grants to organizations that foster new knowledge and inspire dignity, empowerment, and creativity in children: "the Sound Start Tele-Intervention Project fits squarely within our mission statement."

The Sound Start Babies Program provides early intervention for babies with hearing loss from birth to 3 years of age. Therapy is provided in a school setting and in home. The \$126,000 grant expands the program's ability to help children in need of its life-changing services by adding tele-intervention through cutting edge teleconferencing technologies.

Kayley Mayer, a teacher of the program, stated, "We are extremely excited about the tele-intervention project. Our vision is that it will be a catalyst for change in the way services can be provided. The project will allow us to provide more families with strategies to help their children with hearing loss, leading to future language and literacy success."

Kate Hoy, also a teacher of the program, spoke about obstacles that would be overcome with the new technology. "Many times, a child's services are provided at daycare or with a caretaker. Telecommunication will be a great opportunity for working parents to have an active role regardless of their schedule. It will help provide consistent communication between parents and practitioners that otherwise would not have been possible."

The Lake Drive Foundation raises money solely for the Sound Start Babies Program. Funding the program has resulted in boundaries being broken down for countless children, allowing them to communicate, learn and enjoy limitless lives. Stephanie Deyo, president of Lake Drive Foundation explains, "Getting a large grant from this foundation is an indication not only of the importance of Sound Start and the teleintervention project, but also how efficiently we manage our donations. We are proud that over 90% of donations to Sound Start go directly to the babies' program. An achievement most charities cannot match."

In fact, 100% of donations made online go directly to the Sound Start Babies Program. To donate, or to learn more about the Sound Start Babies Program, please visit our website at www.soundstartbabies.com.