



Justin Osmond proves doctors wrong by becoming a notable musician.

Sound Start Babies Program to Help More NJ Children Thanks to Generous Supporters

Mountain Lakes, NJ— The Sound Start Babies Foundation hosted its annual benefit at The Mansion in Mountain Lakes on May 17, 2018, generating \$265,000 in event income, marking a record night for the Foundation and its mission. Guests enjoyed dinner, drinks, a Wine Pull, Live & Silent Auctions, and a moving speech by Justin Osmond.

Justin Osmond, of the famed Osmond family, brought the crowd to tears as he told the story of his life. At the age of two, Justin was diagnosed with a 90% hearing loss. When he received hearing aids, Justin could finally hear the world around him. While other children were playing, he spent many hours in speech therapy. His hard work paid off, as he was able to prove doctors wrong and become a notable musician and motivational speaker.

Sound Start Babies supports children ages 0-3 from around New Jersey who are deaf or hard of hearing. The program provides much-needed intensive therapies to these babies and toddlers. Proceeds from this year's benefit will expand the reach of Sound Start Babies' new Tele-Intervention Program to areas of New Jersey that have limited qualified professionals trained to help babies with hearing loss. This "TeleReach" initiative is a pilot program providing early intervention services via secure internet video connections such as FaceTime. The program has proven effective in getting appropriate care to previously unreachable babies and their families.

Event proceeds will also benefit babies born with hearing loss who have additional special needs including early, sometimes subtle, signs of autism. Staff will be adequately trained to meet these challenges and provide programming for these babies and their families.

To learn more about the Sound Start Babies program and how you can help, visit <http://www.soundstartbabies.com>.