



clarity

2019 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY |

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Message from our Executive Director



In 2018, Clarity's services touched the lives of 1,788 individuals (1,471 children and 317 adults) and their families!

131 individuals (130 children and 1 adult) received speech and language screenings,

evaluations and/or therapy.

1,511 individuals (1,208 children and 303 adults) received hearing and audiology screenings, evaluations, tinnitus therapy, and/or hearing aids.

146 individuals (133 children and 13 adults) received psychological evaluations, learning intervention and/or counseling.

Services were provided at Clarity to 1,175 children from low income families through Medicaid and other 3rd party payers. Our donors also

made it possible for 36 clients (18 children and 18 adults) to receive speech, hearing, psychological or counseling services through the Clarity Cares Fund, an income-based sliding scale. Without the support of our donors, these services would have been inaccessible. Thank you for opening doors!

Clarity added a fourth Speech Language Pathologist, Cheryl Nix, to its team, which increased our capacity to meet the needs of children and adults in our community needing speech therapy. In addition, our professional counseling program's capacity also increased with the addition of a second full-time licensed professional counselor — Abigail Zender, Licensed Professional Counselor and Registered Art Therapist. Clarity continues to be the only agency at the Center for Developmental Services offering counseling services to address social-emotional-behavioral concerns.

Together we are changing lives! Thank you!

Elizabeth Ingram Shands, Ph.D.
Executive Director



A MOTHER'S LOVE FOR HER PRECIOUS BOY

Before we found Clarity, everything was different. I was different; my husband was different; our son, Luke, was different; our lives were different. Our expectations, experiences and the way we thought our lives would be were different from where we are today. We were filled with many emotions—uncertainty, confusion, anxiety and worry. We longed for answers for our precious boy, Luke, so that we could get him the help that he needed.

Luke is an amazing and intriguing three-year-old boy who I am honored to call my son. He loves trains, cars, singing, exploring and swimming. He is filled with such joy and his face lights up the room when he walks in. I could go on and on about how amazing he is, but today I want to share with you the journey we have taken with him.

Luke was around two years old when my husband and I became concerned that he was still making noises similar to that of a six-month-old baby and not yet using words. He appeared to be behind in his speech development and at first, we chalked it up to be his personality and shyness. Shortly after he had turned two, we made the decision to take him to get tested developmentally after he still was showing no signs of progress. During the assessment, it was quite evident that Luke was not only behind but there was another concern—autism. Like every parent, we wanted to get Luke all the help he needed as soon as possible. And we wanted him to have the best help available. That is where we found Clarity.



The first person at Clarity that joined Luke's journey was Terri Fulton, M.S., CCC-SLP, who evaluated Luke's speech and language skills and became his speech therapist. Being that Luke was a non-verbal two and a half year old, he qualified for the services immediately. During the assessment, we watched Terri interact with Luke as they played with cars and she prompted him to speak. At the very moment Luke repeated Terri, saying "Ready, set, go!" I immediately looked at my mother-in-law with shock and amazement. It was a moment I will truly never forget. Luke had just spoken his first words—"Ready, set, go!" I knew then that Clarity was exactly what Luke needed and we were ready to GO on a journey with Terri. It has been almost a year since we started working with Terri and Luke has progressed from being nonverbal to being a child who is speaking so many words that we have lost count of their number. Our precious child has found *his* voice.

On our journey we have received other services at Clarity. Holly Hurley, M.S., CCC-A, Audiologist, conducted a hearing test for Luke and we were happy to learn that his hearing is perfect, which meant his delayed speech and language development was not resulting from hearing loss. Elizabeth Shands, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist at Clarity, entered our life next. She completed a psychological evaluation that would answer questions we had had for many months about delays with Luke's social and communication development. A week after Luke's evaluation, Dr. Shands met with me, my husband, my mother-in-law and Luke to review the results. She was very supportive and reassured us that no matter the results we would still have the same precious boy we walked in with when we left. She thoroughly reviewed the findings of the evaluation making sure we were confident in the evaluation and understood the results.

That day, we were told Luke is on the autism spectrum. This confirmed what we suspected during our time of unanswered questions, but we finally had an answer. I went from not knowing anything about autism spectrum disorders, speech therapy and children with special needs to these topics becoming my life. I went from crying every night because I didn't know what was "wrong" with my little boy to crying tears of *joy* when I heard "I love you" for the first time from my precious boy. I believe in Clarity—not just because it changed my son's life but because Clarity has changed the lives of all those I hold dear.

Nikki Smith
Luke's Mom and Clarity Board Member

70 years of **clarity** 2018 in Review
the speech, hearing, and learning center

36

Children and adults
received Clarity Cares
Scholarships for services at
Clarity.

714

Screenings completed by
the Mobile Speech and
Hearing Team.

1,788

Lives touched at
Clarity thanks to
your support!



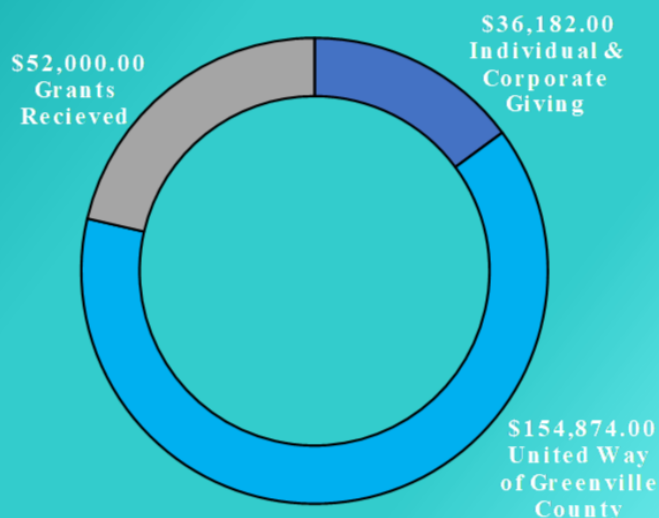
Clarity celebrated **70 years** of
touching lives in the Upstate of
South Carolina
with the 1st annual
Clarity for All Ball



\$22,931.00

Funds Raised

Contributions Received



Clarity provided top-notch service during **7,057** office visits

79%

Of pediatric
patients served at
Clarity qualify as
low-income



17%

increase in
Office visits

A Message from the President of the Board of Directors

I feel uniquely privileged to serve as the 2019 Clarity Board of Directors' President. My intention on the board is to help make Clarity's mission a reality. Clarity's staff is fully dedicated to serving the Upstate community, touching the lives of those as young as newborn to adults who are 100+. They reach individuals of all ages, providing services that afford a quality of life that many of us take for granted. The right to hear, communicate, learn, and have mental health are essential for functioning in our society, yet many in our community experience these activities as a daily struggle. Furthermore, there are numerous families who cannot financially afford to access services critical to overcoming such struggles. The Clarity Cares program enables families in such circumstances to afford speech, hearing, and learning services through either a free or reduced rate, and creates life-changing avenues from merely surviving to truly thriving. Clarity's staff continues to grow, adding more staff members in audiology, speech therapy, psychological and counseling services, transforming even more lives with their expansion. As a board member, I have been moved over the last few years of stories in which children with autism are now able to express their needs and feelings to their parents and adults with long-term severe hearing loss are now able to hear the kindness of their family members. I have personally accompanied a family member through evaluation and treatment, seeing firsthand, the staffs' undue attention to their patients' needs. The work of Clarity is one of importance and significance. I have the honor of contributing to Clarity's mission and with your support, know and fully trust that an investment in Clarity equates to a multitude of meaningful outcomes in our Upstate community.



Ellen Hampshire, PhD.
Board President

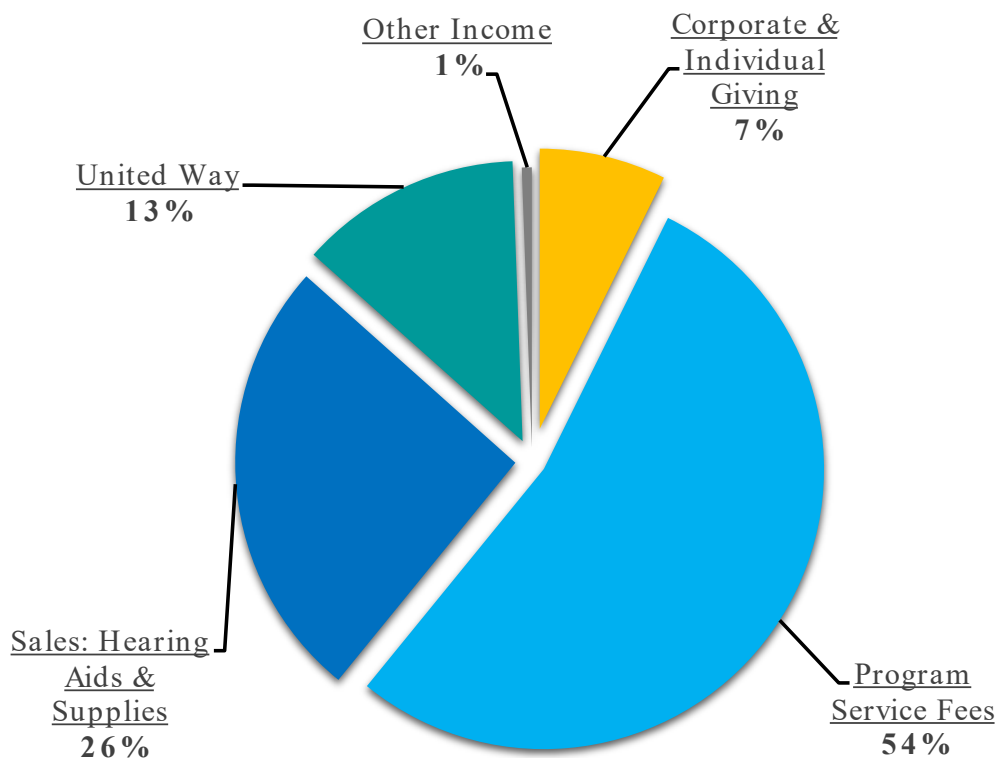
Revitalization of Mobile Speech and Hearing Screening Program

Early identification of hearing loss and/or speech/language delays is essential to improving long-term developmental outcomes. With this in mind, Clarity's Mobile Speech and Hearing Screening Program was revived in 2018 with the support of a \$30,000 grant from the Margaret Linder Southern Foundation. This generous grant allowed Clarity to purchase state of the art mobile hearing and speech screening equipment.



Under the direction of Clarity's Director of Speech Services, Terri Fulton, MS, CCC-SLP, and Director of Audiology and Hearing Services, Holly Hurley, M.S., CCC-A, 714 speech and hearing screenings were completed in 2018 with infants and children during the school day and at no cost to their parents or daycare/school. Following these screenings, 252 infants and children were referred for further evaluation due to concerns for hearing loss and/or speech/language delays.

2018 REVENUE SOURCES



EXPENSE ALLOCATION



2018 was a big year for Clarity because we celebrated our 70th birthday. In April of 1948, a small group of concerned individuals gathered together because children and adults with hearing impairments needed help and help was not available to them. From this gathering, the Greenville Hearing Society, which eventually became Clarity, Inc., became a reality. Through the years, Clarity's staff and board of directors have been visionary leaders in our community, identifying and implementing services to address critical needs in our community. Many lives have been impacted for the better through services provided by Clarity with the generous support of our donors. Thank you!

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Grants

Margaret Linder Southern Endowment Fund
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United Way of Greenville Community Impact Funds
United Way of Greenville Community Learning Grant

We make every effort to ensure accuracy of our donor lists, but if we've omitted your name, please contact us at (864) 331-1400.



Clarity, Inc.
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Greenville, SC 29601

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