

Hear ME! Hear ME!

The gazette of *hear ME now*

Fall 2018

hear ME now and Maine Hands & Voices Celebrate the Start of a New School Year!

This year's annual community Back to School picnic was held in collaboration with Maine Hands & Voices on a beautiful August evening on Mackworth Island in Falmouth. This event is always a wonderful way to connect with old and new friends before the start of a new school year! Please check out our [Facebook](#) page for more pictures from the event.



Pamela Dawson
Executive Director

Dear friends of hear ME now,

The school year is underway! Students and staff alike are listening and speaking at hear ME now, in their own homes and in community schools! See page 3 for some wonderful back to school photos from the hear ME now community.

Thanks to your ongoing support, we have much to tell you about...

hear ME now cares about family experiences. We recently hosted the Maine premier of *The Listening Project*, a wonderful documentary in which fourteen young adults who are deaf share their experiences navigating their way through everyday life, school and friendships. Read more about this moving film on the left hand side of this page.

We have our own local version of moving family journeys! Over the past months, we have been gathering home video clips of Maine children and their families as they grow in listening and speaking, and have developed a series of short videos that highlight the amazing progress that is possible over time. It has been a heart warming project for all involved and will give hope to families at the beginning of their own hearing journey. See our Facebook page for more information.

hear ME now is sharing our specialty with other professionals to increase opportunities for families in all of northern New England. Our staff continues to mentor speech pathologists working with children with hearing loss in New Hampshire and Vermont. See page 3 to learn more about this exciting program.

hear ME now embraces change. The *Break the Sound Barrier* Ski Race has undergone a major expansion to connect with more of our families and friends that don't wish to ski, but want to enjoy this great event. By including Winterfest activities for all ages, we have more people than ever signed up to be a part of the fun. See page 2 for more information.

We can't do what we do without your help and support. Thank you!



The Listening Project

Following our Back to School community picnic, hear ME now hosted the Maine premiere of *The Listening Project!* *The Listening Project* is an intimate and direct documentary featuring fourteen young adults sharing their stories about growing up deaf in a time of rapidly improving hearing technology. They discuss their experiences navigating their way through everyday life, school and friendships. They share stories about family support, judgement by others, career challenges and successes, and the importance of accepting their deafness on their own terms.

The families in attendance enjoyed this "glimpse into the future," and the high school students seemed to really identify with some of the experiences being shared. We will be showing the documentary at other upcoming events, and urge you to follow us on Facebook and sign up for our e-newsletter on our website to stay informed. You can also learn more at www.thelisteningprojectfilm.org.

hear ME now Video Launch – Family Journeys in Listening and Speaking!



For several months we have been working on an exciting project. With the help of families, a generous videographer, our Board, and staff members, we have developed a series of short videos of children who are deaf or hard of hearing growing in listening and speaking over time.

This has been an emotional and uplifting project for all involved and we can't wait to share it with you! We launched our first video of Taylor, age 14, on October 25th. Please go to our website or Facebook page, [@hear-ME-now!](#) to see the videos and let us know what you think!

Hear Me! Hear Me!

One Family's Story: Zach's Listening Journey



Zachary Glidden has been profoundly deaf since birth. He received his first cochlear implant at 14 months and his second implant at age 3. Since being implanted, Zach has been “like a sponge,” soaking in all the sounds and language around him. Thanks to the help he received from the wonderful experts at hear ME now, Zach was mainstreamed in his local school district at age 4.

An avid reader, Zach's favorite subjects in school are math, science and technology. He also enjoys many types of music, and he is learning to play the piano. Zach recently attended the Farm Aid 2018 concert, and thanks to his cochlear implants, he was able to experience and enjoy all 12 hours of music!

In September, Zach began his freshman year at Marshwood High School in South Berwick. He is an active member of his school community, enjoys reading Stephen King novels and being active outside. Zach participates on the Varsity golf team, and he will be on the ski team this winter. He also enjoys baseball, hiking and mountain biking. Hearing loss has not slowed this kid down!

-The Glidden Family—Lisa, Michael & Zach

Join us in our 18th year!

hear ME now's **Annual Break the Sound Barrier Ski Race & Winterfest** will be held on March 3, 2019. As fall is upon us, we're already thinking about snowy ski slopes! We've been busy during the off-season planning for another exciting ski race fundraiser in 2019. Last year we moved our event to Mt. Abram and added Winterfest activities with family friendly outdoor games, sledding, outdoor fire pit, hot chocolate, and s'mores. It was a huge success so we're doing it again and we hope you can join us!

On Sunday, March 3rd gather family, friends, and colleagues to form a fundraising ski team and join us on the mountain. Mt. Abram, located in Greenwood, is just minutes away from Sunday River and easily accessible from the Portland area.

We have been so fortunate to have wonderful sponsorship partners that make this event possible. If you're interested in creating a race team, volunteering, or just joining in on the fun and helping support this event and the work we do at hear ME now, let us know. We can't wait to see you!



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hear ME now

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"Where children with hearing loss learn to listen and speak."

We asked and you responded!

Check out your back to school photos, from Kindergarten to High School, on the following page.

***Don't forget to like our page on Facebook @hear-ME-now!**

Hear Me! Hear Me!

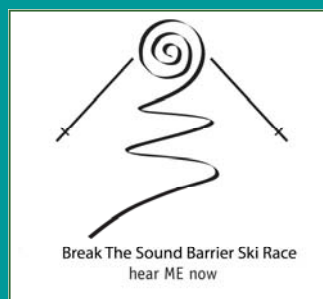
Sharing What We Know

This summer, hear ME now started an exciting pilot program with the state of New Hampshire! We are supporting young children with hearing loss, their families, and New Hampshire based speech language pathologists as they facilitate listening and spoken-language development. And, we are doing it through the internet! We are able to connect to families in their home as they go about their daily routines and coach them and their local speech pathologist. Careful observation and data collection helps us meet them where they are in their knowledge and skills of listening and spoken language and move them forward on an individualized basis.

By using a tele-health approach, we are increasing the capacity of the early intervention system in New Hampshire and ensuring all families have access to specialty services in listening and spoken language – no matter where they live!

If you know of any families or speech pathologists in Maine, New Hampshire or Vermont that could benefit from this support, please contact Pam at pdawson@hear-me-now.org.

SAVE THE DATE



Join us on March 3, 2019 | Mt. Abram

for our
17th Annual hear ME now
Break the Sound Barrier Ski Race
and Winterfest





On July 7th the *“Break the Sound Barrier” Annual Motorcycle Run* benefiting hear ME now included a kids bike parade. Kids gathered in Kennebunk with decorated bicycles. Over 50 motorcycles arrived and were available for viewing. What a fun event! A **HUGE thank you** to the **Widows Sons Maine Chapter** for organizing this fun event and continuing to generously support hear ME now!

“We love hear ME now because they are family.” - Amanda Brooks Landry

“Hear Me Now gives our family Hope.” - Adel Shaikhi

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