

# **Ear Community Programs**

Since 2010, the Ear Community has helped thousands of children & adults who were born with Microtia & Aural Atresia all over the world! Our organization promotes education, teaches advocacy & raises awareness while shining a light on our rare cause, including bringing families together who are in the same situation, so they never feel alone with Microtia & Atresia.

### **Ear Community's Events**

Our organization's events bring families together in a relaxed environment where they can come together & mingle while learning about the latest options for Microtia & Atresia as well as get the answers to their questions from the medical professionals that join us. Our events are FREE! We provide entertainment and lunch for all attendees. Since 2011, Ear Community has hosted over 100 events in many countries! Our events are priceless to our community!

#### Pax's Ear Fund

Pax's Ear Fund is made possible by a sweet little boy, named Pax, & his family! Pax's Ear Fund is a hearing health reimbursement program that allows audiologists to be reimbursed for fitting/programming services when patients are denied coverage for this service by their insurance provider leaving them unable to pay the fee or high deductible at the time of the fitting/programming. Pax & his family understand how important it is to help provide the gift of hearing to those in need.

### Pax's Eyewear Fund

Pax's Eyewear Fund is made possible by a sweet little boy, named Pax, and his family! Pax's Eyewear Fund would provide eyeglasses & sunglasses for microtia kids, with straps or an alternative option of helping keep these glasses to stay up & on when ears are missing or underdeveloped.

#### **Hearing Device Donations**

Since 2012, the Ear Community has donated over 170 Bone Conduction Hearing Devices to children & adults who are in need or who have been denied coverage for these hearing devices by their insurance providers. We have helped provide the gift of hearing to those in need all over the world!

## **College Scholarships**

Since 2012, Ear Community is proud to have awarded 20 college scholarships so far to those who have microtia and atresia attending colleges and universities in the United States!

## Ally's Act

Ally's Act is a Bipartisan Federal piece of legislation that would ensure private insurers cover Bone Anchored Hearing Aids and Cochlear Implants for children and adults from birth to age 64, including device upgrades, accessories, surgery, the necessary appointments needed for these hearing devices and aural therapies including speech, ASL or cued speech. Ally's Act is named after co-Founder, Ally Tumblin, of the Ear Community Organization.

### **Genetics Research on Microtia and Aural Atresia**

Ear Community collaborates with Harvard, MIT – The Broad Institute, Vanderbilt and Seattle Children's Hospital on genetics research for our community. It was a goal for Ear Community's Founder, Melissa Tumblin, to find the answers our community was looking for, including never having another mother blame herself for thinking she did something during her pregnancy to to cause her child's ears to be missing with hearing loss. Thanks to this research, we now have new findings that show damaging variants can cause Microtia and Aural Atresia. A number of recent articles have been published thanks to this research for this rare cause.

## **National Microtia and Atresia Awareness Day**

This awareness day is embraced around the world and takes place every November 9<sup>th</sup> – think of the number 9 as the shape of an ear! NMAAD honors the beautiful children and adults in our community who are born with Microtia and Aural Atresia. It is the intention of Microtia and Atresia Awareness Day to help promote public awareness & the hope that future generations of families will leave the hospital equipped with more answers than questions & their dreams for the child intact. It is also the hope that if more people learn about Microtia & Atresia, that they will be kinder & more accepting. Through this National Day of Awareness, individuals with Microtia & Atresia & their families can find out about organizations & resources for information & support. Medical professionals, schools, teachers of the D/HH, hearing loss organizations, hearing device companies, law makers and our community members have embraced our special day all over the world since 2016 .

A 501c(3) Nonprofit Organization
Tax ID # 46-0923897

Microtia Atresia Communication

www.EarCommunity.org