>> I guess we're ready to get started.

Okay. My name is Gretchen force and I'm

excited that you are here today, and I'm

excited the talk about why -- a podcast

is actually a great way to support

parents can hearing loss, so what am I

doing here? I'm just a mom, right? So

I wanted to start -- I'm a nurse

practitioner and I just -- I thought

these were funny so my podcast is free

and ad free to listen to, I pay my own

way the EHDI, the powered cast has no

corporate donors and grants and

it's produced as a public service and I

do serve on two boards as a parent

with hearing loss. I think that's

important to know I'm just a mom because

it's different to talk about mom to mom

and it's different to talk to somebody

who isn't getting money from anywhere, I

don't have a grant that I'm trying to

make sure I appease everyone and I don't

have any funding, it's just me.

So I wanted to make sure the

worth word's a better

place. I don't have a course or a class

I'm trying to sell and I don't plan on

making one and I don't ever plan on

making money for the podcast but if I

could figure out how to pay somebody to

do the production, I would be thrilled.

I like to talk but I don't like doing

the back end stuff. I'm a family nurse

practitioner, I got pregnant with my

first child when I was working in women's

health, I also worked for yearses a a

labor and delivery nurse. I used to

tell patients you don't get an easy

pregnancy an I see birth or an easy baby,

but I guess I believed I would. Well,

I was wrong. Severe morning sickness or

more like all day sickness plagued

me, I was on strict bed rest at 28 weeks

and this is when NetFlix actually middled

you the DVDs and we couldn't get

regular TV and the only thing I had was

D ABC just started to scream TV so bed

rest wasn't super fab fun.

I asked my husband o to the

hospital are we still going to love her

if something is wrong, and he reassured

me we would. My epidural was

great and everything progressed as a

foreigner labor and delivery nurse could

have dreamed. After

Greta was born they handed her to me and

after the nurse snappedded our first

family photo of three I expressed

concern other her color and I handed her

to the nurse and said can you check her

for a cleft palate and I'm sure the

nurse thought I was increase but my

husband's family had a long history of

cleft palate and it's often missed. The

next thingty new the room was full of

people and they were whisking get Greta

away from me and the next time I would

see her was in the the nick. But she

passed the hearing screening and I

thought that meant she was Oh.

Farthest Marylander many doctors visits

and and ear infections and a speech

evaluation at two where the SLP asked me

why I brought her? I thought what I

just brought her here because the cleft

palate team told me to.

I was told she had mile hearing loss but

she didn't qualify for any infant

toddler services. Fast-forward five

years later we had moved states and we

were getting ready to -- we moved to a

different state where my husband was a

graduate student and for a couple years

we didn't have great insurance but

everything seemed okay and she was getting

ready for kindergarten so I knew the

school district had an audiologist and

they would go a hearing test for free so

I made an appointment and I took her to

the school district audiologist, he did

the evaluation then with he said she has

some hearing loss but it's going to be

okay, all our

teachers wear mics so they'll be finer

and he handed any the audio gram in

the summer we moved and to Michigan,

beshe started kindergarten -- sorry.

The first year we got to Michigan was to

maybe her ENT appointment and we went to

the ENT, I handed her the audio gram and

she said to me where are are her hearing

aids? I said what do you mean? She Sid

didn't anybody tell you she needed hearing

aids and I said no-no one ever told me

that, so her office set us up and this

is where I believe God intervened in our

story. I grew up in Idaho and my

husband is from California and I never

thought I would live inner but one of

those states and I told my husband I

didn't want to live he's of the

Mississippi river and he agreed but my

husband graduated from school in 2011

and the U.S. was still coming out of

the great restings and good jobs were

hard to find and he was offered a great

job. The only downside but

that it was in Michigan but living in

Michigan I'm sure changed the

trajectory of our children's lives.

The audiologist spent so much time

helping me what hearing loss she had and

helping her get fitted for hearing aids

and sent us to teachers for the deaf to

help her school how to help herrer guided

and supported us each step of the wayment

she also happened to be the first

problem who told me about EHDI and said

if you want the learn about this this is

the the place you should go; and San

Diego is nicer than Cincinnati to me.

Greta's teacher's mom also happened to

be the teacher of the deaf so so she was

able the help her daughter with my

daughter.

So Greta's my oldest, the blond next to

my husband and a few days later I

was driving down the road and the nurse

called my to let me me my daughter did

not pass the school hearing test and I

thought Duh, we already knew she had a

hearing loss and secede no it's not

Greta it's Eliza and Eliza is the

darker haired child and she hadpassed

all her hearing tests but it was the

beginning of her progressive hearing

loss. It took us until she was 14 to

wear her hearing aids. Then fast

forward a few more years and our

daughter Carly was born. She passed her

newborn hearing screen and even a six

month hearing test. I assumed she was

happy and quite but when her hearing was

testerred at ten months she was diagnos

ed with mild to moderate hearing loss

but this type it wasn't a big deal, we

knew the the drill and because Michigan

has a way to help get hearing aids

covered for children she was fitted at

11 months. Then I got to learn about

how hard it is to keep hearing aids on a

newborn infant, how they can take them

out, put them in their mouth and caps

became my new best friend and luckily

someone sold them on Etsy and they were

super cute so we adjusted and we had

a lot of support. When Greta was in

fourth grade so when we moved back to

Idaho finally, I loved summers on labor

Michigan but the gray Midwest winters

were hard on my soul and I was glad to

be back in my home state and that was

until we set them up in school. But our

school district actually had a full-time

audiologist and for some reason the

state legislator and the state of Idaho

is actually proud that we're fifty-first

in poor people funding and they think

they're getting a great deal. So funding

is a huge issue but highway school

district has a full-time audiologist and

more funding than most and that's one to

have reasons we picked where we did. So

the first name difference told was the

schooled would provide her an p.m. but

not a pen like she had been

using so being a new kid she didn't

want to draw more attention to herself.

Finally in 10th grade they provide a

Roger select but away had a meeting that

spring and they said they would and put

it in the notes but I said where is her

Roger select and they said we didn't

order her one and I said you need to

look at the notes so they did get her an

p.m. When we moved back the Idaho Carly

was in preschool for a listening and

spoken language at the tricounty area

but when I went to the education

director she told me Carly doesn't

qualify for services, I said what? She

has an yech and this is a federal law

and you have to accept her IEP and her

comment was well, since I guess you know

the law we'll do it. What? Because I

happen to be an informed parent? Needless

to say I was disappointed in my

childhood school district but this is

all that amazing training came in

so handy, I had been well trained and

attended workshops about how

to be an advocate for

my child.. We moved to the

Idaho I jumped in and got involved this

Hands and Voices and I melt so many moms

and professionals and every

mom who I've met had a story to

tell. Some stories are so relatable,

trying to keep hearing aids on infant is

so hard. How many hours have I swept up

hearing aids or the time we thought

Carly swallowed a hearing eight

battery or the I'm she showed up without

her Baja and when I asked her where are

your Bajas and she said I think I left

them outside on the grass of the school

which required a trip back to the

school where this were found to be grass.

That's the cost of her Bajas that she

wore that I sent her to school with

every day and Greta was one of the first

kids in Idaho to use a sound Berk.

And then after woe fought so hard with

our insurance policy to get her Bajas

covered we fought so hard and then it

took over a year and a year later her

hearing loss has changed so much that

now she needed to move to an implantable

option. Every parent has a story from

the figuring all the acronyms . . .

The a list we all No Doz on and on so

figuring out how to understand her

audio gram, I told her I'm a nurse

practitioner and I learned how to read

an audio gram in energying but it didn't

mean anything until I had a deaf child,

and all of the amazing people,

educational professionals and

everyone thetic parents, deaf monitors

that helped you realize your child is

going to be more than okay. If you know

anything about me I happen to love to

talk. I also happen to love

podcasts and I felt like there were

enough health podcasts and then the

world shut down because of cohave you

and I realized the stories I wanted to

share with the world were the stories

of my amazing mom friends who

walked this journey with me.

90 percent of kids with hearing

loss are born to hearing parents and I

thought it kind of recommended that

sometimes I feel like I'm in the

middle, I'm not hard-of-hearing, and

sometimes I feel

misunderstood by the deaf community and

that I have also feel misunderstood by

me but I found out it's helpful if the

name of the podcast is searchable so I

decided to change the title to

something that was more searchable so I

changed it to raising a child with

hearing loss. The podcast is now other

a year old and I've had over 2,000 play.

People of all ages and demographics it's

fun to see where people listen from,

mostly from the unite but Sweden and

India and Belgium have tuned into the

podcast.

And these are the episodes in order of

most listenedded to so I've had the

privilege of interviewing close friends,

mentors, audiologists and even my own

kids. I'm receive grateful

for those that have allowed me to

interview they want. It's scary and

people are worried they'll say

something wrong. So I really

appreciate all the guests who have agreed

to can on. Part of the

introduction of my podcast is due to the

nature of the subject some of the

FEMAs have been camed toe protect their

identities but the voices and stories

are their own. The podcast is intended

for the families the share their own

journey without judgment and please

transport and honor each family's

choice.

This is educational and . . .

. also the software helps provide

transcripts so the podcast so it can be

more accessible to everyone and I that

it that was important, this is a

modality that hearing people use.

Everyone has a story to tell. A podcast

seems to be working. And most

of the parents with children with hearing

loss are ages zero to three are

millennials and millennial are listening

to podcasts. They have different parenting

characteristics than I did as a young

parent, they love information and they

want to make decisions with as much

information as possible and they also

want on demand information. When I was

on a bed rest with Greta I had DVDs and

this generation only remembers being

able to access information almost

instantaneously so this one says wow I

wish I had this when my daughter was in

the Nicu. This one says

I've a wife of a man with significant

hearing loss. It happened in his 20s

and is the source of a lot of confusion

and headache until he feels in a

boardroom and he realized he was in a

conversation he wasn't hearing and

thanks for being a voice

and advocate. The podcast feedback has

been positive and it's appealed to other

audiences.

We tell our stories because they bond

us. Telling stories helps us build

empathy for strangers. Tell telling

story gives Us hope that some

stories end well and resolve in peace of

how we share stories

matters too. Our children's stories

are different than ours, we aren't

trying to tell their storys be how our

life is changed by being thrown into a

world we didn't expect. The parents get

to tell very little part of the story

with each provider; just the parking

lot that provider is most interested in.

Maybe ten minutes at a doctor's

appointment but those short minutes

don't leave a lot of room for sharing

the full story.

Many providers rarely have opportunity

to listen to the whole story so providers

are busy and podcast arests are a

great way to fill that gap of time,

because you can do it while you're driving

in a car, so they can still hear these

stories. I also can't help but be

excited that there are troves of

stories that might make a good

quantitative study of parent asperseses

with the medical system. These

stories are helpful to help professionals

identify the gap this is

services. A friend of mine whose son

had unilateral deafness and

he was born -- he had unilateral loss

but it was we'll get tubes in

his ears and he'll be okay and

eventually he was diagnosed at three

with hearing loss and by the time he was

three he's missed out on all the early

intervention services because she didn't

feel like anybody told her so I when I

listen to these stories it breaks my

heart that these things happen. There's

other stories where every system works

and it's great. 2023 there's an

increasing number of ways to

provide support and there's time the use

the resources and technology to spread

awareness and increase empathy and

understanding and how you can help. I

invite you to listen to the podcast,

share the podcast with your friends and

family and if you're looking to be a

guest on the podcast. Thank you very

much for coming today. I

appreciate it.

>> No questions but I expect you're

all e-mailing me to tell me you want to

be a guest on the podcast.

It's oniTunes Spotify and

anchor Fm and also on Google.

>> Great, I will remind you that the

session feedback is on the app. We're

going green this year and there's a

refreshment break near the

ballroom.