

# The Evenstad Family



# Brian Evenstad January 1997

- Brian Identified at birth with moderate to severe hearing loss
- Failed NBS at 1 day and at 5 days
- ABR confirmed Hearing Loss at 2 weeks
- Follow-Up ABR at 4 weeks
- Received first Hearing Aids at 6 weeks Phonak Analog



- Lots of early intervention
- Consistent use of hearing aids to the best of our ability
- Hearing Loss slowly progresses in High frequencies
- Started with analog H.A.
- Digital H.A. at about 3
- 8 ½ receives Freedom Cochlear Implant
- Continues hearing aid use left ear
- Upgrades to Phonak Nadia Fall 2009
- Lack of Clarity using hearing aid
- At 13 Receives N5 Cochlear Implant
- At 18 Upgrades to N6 Cochlear Implants



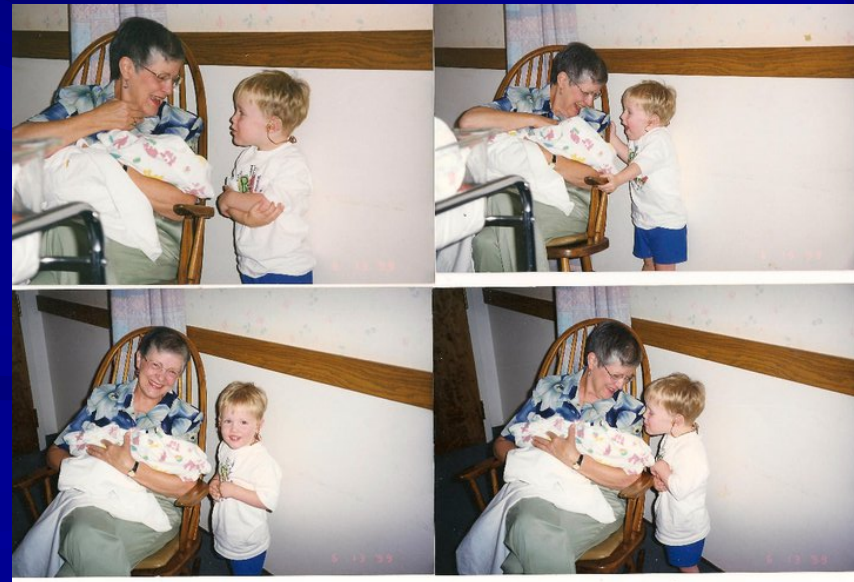
# May 2014: Realized I had no need to fear!

- So many questions ran through our mind when he was identified with a hearing loss---as well as when Emily was identified.
- Basically—will they do what all other kids do? Yes!!
- Did they work harder  
Absolutely!!!



# Emily Arrives June 1999

- Emily failed NBS at 1 Day (my testing) and 2 Days (ABR)
- ABR at three weeks confirmed a moderate hearing loss
- Programmable Analog Hearing Aids at 6 weeks-
- Lots of Early Intervention
- Digital Hearing Aids at 1 ½
- Right ear Profound Fall of 2001 (2yrs old)—slowly improved over two years to moderate to severe
- Left ear Profound February 2005; huge fluctuations until May then stayed profound—tested every two to three weeks—Very difficult time
- Freedom Cochlear Implant at 6 (exactly three months after Brian received his) left ear
- Hearing aid Right ear
- Has lost hearing three times in aided ear due to trauma—hearing has returned within a month--



# Freshman At UNC

- Started working at 14—  
Presently at Munchie Mart
- Completed “Teacher  
Cadet program”-
- Swimmer,runner,skier...  
outdoor enthusiast
- UNC,Spec Ed-Minor ASL



# Don't Assume Siblings Will Be Similar

## Both Identified at Birth Both LVAS

### That's where the Similarities Stop

- Brian EASY to test
- Sloping Audiogram(50DB-110DB)
- Slow Progression of Hearing Loss
- Kept hearing aids on most of the time/ Wore FM all the time
- Needs CIs mapped frequently
- Emily Not so Easy
- Flat Audiogram (60db-70DB)
- Emily experienced dramatic drops in hearing-and her hearing fluctuated
- Difficult to keep aids on/ Hated Home FM
- Needs CI mapped two times a year

# Intervention and Schools

- CO Home Intervention starting almost at birth
- Bal Swan Children's Center
- Toddler Group Children's Hospital
- Speech 1-2 x a week until 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Center Based Pre school -5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Both attended a Charter School for Two Years
- Completed High School at Center Based High School
- 504s and IEPs





# What and Who Contributed to their Success

- Strong collaboration between the educational team, the private audiologists, and the parents/kids and the SLP
- Respect a parents decision even if you don't agree
- Don't be afraid to NOT KNOW something—technology is always changing
- Think Outside the Box
- Include siblings
- IEP help
- Sometimes parents need to talk to other parents and/or kids!!
- Community summer jobs
- Meeting D/HH role models
- Good friends both hearing and D/HH
- Exposure
- **Strong Advocacy Skills from a very Early Age**





# Hands & Voices

Growing Up With Hands & Voices



# Second Mortgage??



## Technology Improves Constantly

We have added two hearing aids and four upgraded CI processors—plus remotes--