

Press Release



Naomi Horton, Executive Director | PO Box 347 | Zionsville, Indiana | 46077 | Phone 317.828.0211 | info@hearindiana.org

Contact: Naomi Horton, 317-828-0211,
Naomi.Horton@HearIndiana.org

Hard-of-hearing WNBA All-Star Tamika Catchings is giving back, getting involved with deaf and hard-of-hearing community

Hear Indiana night set for Atlanta @ Fever game on Sat., Aug. 27

Indianapolis, Aug. 16, 2011 – Thirty two years ago, Tamika Catchings was born with a significant hearing loss. When she started school, she wore hearing aids to hear her teachers. While the Indiana Fever forward and WNBA All-Star now considers her hearing loss as a blessing, there were drawbacks at first.

"When I was a child, I was ashamed of being different. I wanted to fit in with everyone else. Now that I'm older, I appreciate the way God has made me, and I love the fact that I'm able to reach out to so many people and be an inspiration," said Catchings.

As for the impact on her profession, Catchings said, "I actually think my hearing loss makes me a better athlete, because I am not distracted by noises on and off the court."

As a hard-of-hearing individual, Catchings is hardly alone. Every other day, a baby in Indiana is born with a hearing loss. In fact, one in 10 Americans lives with hearing loss today.

While Catchings is honored to be a role model, she's not settling for that. She's also giving back to support the cause.

On Saturday, Aug. 27, Catchings will participate in Hear Indiana Night at the Indiana Fever vs. Atlanta Dream WNBA basketball game. The community night will include a Hear Indiana information booth at Conseco Fieldhouse, in-game announcements about hearing loss, block seating for Hear Indiana friends and a postgame question-and-answer session with Catchings.

In conjunction with the event, the downtown Indianapolis Noodles and Co. will host a benefit lunch and dinner. Twenty-five percent of sales between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. at the W. Maryland St. Noodles and Co. will be donated to Hear Indiana.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.hearindiana.org/fever.

About Hear Indiana

Hear Indiana is the non-profit Indiana chapter of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (www.agbell.org). For more than 40 years, Hear Indiana has helped children with hearing loss achieve their fullest potential as independent members of society.

Hear Indiana believes parents have the right to make an informed choice, and the organization empowers and supports individuals and families with hearing loss who communicate through listening and spoken language. We believe in early detection, intensive amplification, and ongoing intervention. Hear Indiana offers informational resources, educational programming, support for families and professionals, and advocacy in areas related to listening and speaking.

For more information visit www.hearindiana.org.