



Dear Friends,

In January of 2006, I joined the Hear Indiana board of directors. I remember missing my first board meeting, because I was giving birth to my second son (who is now 15). As a private speech-language pathologist in West Central Indiana, I was frustrated with a system that wasn't working well for many families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. In 2006, Hear Indiana had just let go of their executive secretary due to funding issues (the annual budget was \$25,000). I saw and still see Hear Indiana as a vehicle for positive systemic change.

A couple of years later, Hear Indiana received a \$50K grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. The grant was large enough to hire a part-time executive director, and I began my tenure as leader of the organization in 2008 (while still working part-time as a therapist). Soon, the position became a full-time commitment, so I put therapy on the back burner.

It would be impossible to summarize the amazing growth I've witnessed, but the labor of love paid off! Suffice it to say, I feel as though a family beginning their journey with hearing loss now has many, many more resources at their disposal. As evidence...Hear Indiana now provides a network of integrated support to over 1000 families annually, with an operating budget over \$1.5 million.

But the time has come for me to return to my first love – Listening and Spoken Language© therapy. I'm also looking forward to a flexible schedule and being more available to my three teenagers at home. In October of this year, I will no longer be the CEO of Hear Indiana, but please know: my heart will be with this amazing organization forever. And I know that the next CEO will carry this torch with equal pride!

With much appreciation to you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Naomi Hahn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.