

## The Family Support Connection

# Parent-to-Parent Support

### Meet the family:

Mom: Yer, hearing

Dad: Lee, hearing

Children: Sophie, 12, deaf,  
profound hearing loss

Communication method:  
Voice

Newborn Screening: Not available

Age at Diagnosis: 2

Uses a cochlear implant

### Dear Parent:

We also have a child who is deaf and hard of hearing. When our daughter, Sophie, was born she could hear. However, when she turned two, we found out that she could no longer hear.

When we found out that our daughter had a profound hearing loss we were devastated. Eventually, we made a decision to move on and to seek the best program and tools to help her. We met with teachers of deaf and hard of hearing children, joined other parents with similar children for support and learned sign language.

Soon we heard that there was new technology at the University of Minnesota that could help our daughter with her hearing. We found that a cochlear implant could be an option for our daughter. We eventually enrolled our daughter in the program and our daughter received the implant. We also enrolled her in speech therapy and audiology training.

Currently, there are many tools and options that can help your child.

Today Sophie is able to communicate verbally. She received excellent help from her teachers because we have been engaged and involved in Sophie's education. We challenged her teachers to push Sophie. We also pushed her to excel as well.

As parents, do not despair and do not give up on your child. Whether your child succeeds or fails depends on you. There are many schools and organizations that are willing to help. If you seek the best for your child, he or she will be as successful or even more successful than hearing children.

If you have any questions, please talk to your child's teachers and health care professionals. Thank you for loving your child and for your willingness to help him or her become successful.

Sincerely,

\* This letter also is available in Hmong.

**Lee and Yer**

*For information about how to connect with a family like this, please contact the Family Support Connection at 1-866-DHOH-KID, or 651-265-2435 in the Twin Cities. Or, you can email [fsc@lifetrackresources.org](mailto:fsc@lifetrackresources.org).*