

HLAA Chapters Sow Joy Every Day

BY MARILYN DIGIACOBBE
AND ALISSA PERUZZINI

Mark Twain once said, “To get the full value of joy you must have someone to divide it with.” That sentiment encompasses the spirit of HLAA and why the theme, *Sow joy. Nurture community.*, was chosen for our 2021 Giving Campaign.

What each of us does to share our joy and help others with hearing loss truly matters — and thanks to the hundreds of individuals who contributed to the 2021 end-of-year campaign, we’re now able to do more, for more people.

During November and December 2021, we invited members, volunteers and friends to donate to HLAA and to invite someone they know to take action for their hearing. In just two months’ time 831 supporters joined the effort, generating \$415,624, and encouraging more people with hearing loss to utilize HLAA’s national and local chapter resources.

These critical funds will support HLAA annual operations and help deliver on our promise to inform and engage more people who need our support.

Making a real difference within the hearing loss community is at the heart of what our local HLAA Chapters do every day. The Arizona Working Adults Chapter (AzWAC) based in Tempe, is a perfect example and embodies the connection, support and activism central to our mission. By hosting gatherings with expert speakers, providing educational sessions on assistive technologies and offering advice for managing interpersonal communication in the workplace, the Arizona Chapter encourages and helps individuals with hearing loss to excel in their work life.

“The ability to be your best on the job is no small matter for many people — including those with hearing loss,” explains Peggy Staples, president of AzWAC. “We recognize that these individuals want support as they strive to reach their full potential in the workplace.” To provide support, AzWAC offers online forums so its members can discuss common concerns and solutions. They also arrange social events where members of the community meet, share their experiences and exchange insights.

By working together with local chapters such as AzWAC, we can reach even more people who need our help, provide them with information and resources which will empower them in their daily lives and advocate at the local and national level so that their rights and needs are met.

We sincerely thank everyone who participated in the 2021 Giving Campaign and who are helping to continue to spread the joy of this community. After 42 years of supporting and advocating for people with hearing loss, we know that belonging can make all the difference. **HL**

Marilyn DiGiacobbe is director of development and Alissa Peruzzini is development manager at HLAA. Reach out to them at development@hearingloss.org.



HLAA Arizona Working Adults Chapter

*Front row (left to right):
Connie Hancock, Karin Lusk-
Rydin, Minerva Gutierrez,
Peggy Staples (President),
Dave Staples*

*Back row (left to right):
Unknown (guest of Kevin Hsu),
Kevin Hsu, Harry Wolfe, Rachael
Hedrick, Debra Rohden*