

Project EARS (Education Audiology Rehabilitation Services) was founded by Johnnie Sexton a few years ago as a non-profit foundation for the sole purpose of furthering his desire to create access to services related to hearing challenges for people all around the world. One of his recent efforts was to take services and equipment to a group of 47 deaf children in an orphanage in Vietnam. Now, the focus of the Foundation's efforts will be on counseling individuals with hearing challenges towards acceptance and how to advocate for themselves and/or their family members in their own lives.

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JESA is the provider of all Kooser Workshops in North Carolina except for those workshops held in Sanford, NC. Bright Audiology will provide the Kooser Workshops in Sanford.

P.O. Box 10187
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THE KOOSER PROGRAM

The *Hidden Impact* of Hearing Loss



Presented by
**John E. Sexton &
Associates, Inc.
and
Project EARS, LLC**

THE KOOSER PROGRAM: The *Hidden Impact* of Hearing Loss

THE KOOSER PROGRAM was developed by Cathy Kooser-Fathergill, a licensed social worker, who has a severe sensorineural hearing loss. Cathy obtained her bachelor's degree in social work in 1998 from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio and her master's degree in social work in 2004 from the University of Cincinnati.

The instructors of **THE KOOSER PROGRAM** are certified and taught by Cathy to ensure and maintain the integrity of the program.

"Although hearing loss plays a role in shaping and defining those of us who experience it, we cannot let it stop us from becoming who we are meant to be, nor from living the lives we are meant to live!"

Cathy Kooser-Fathergill

OUR MISSION

The mission of **THE KOOSER PROGRAM** is to enhance and empower the life of individuals with hearing loss and their families through education and support services.

OUR GOAL

The primary goal of this program is to increase awareness of the hidden impact of hearing loss and how to effectively cope with this impact. Participants will learn about the following topics related to the impact of hearing loss:

- Types of hearing loss
- How to read an audiogram
- Assistive listening devices
- Negative coping mechanisms
- Positive communication strategies
- Psychological effects
- Relationship issues

TESTIMONIALS

"Buying hearing aids without taking this workshop is like buying a car without knowing how to drive."

Workshop participant, August 13, 2004

"I learned great empathy for Donald and all the things I had misunderstood before, I now understood... I think it's one of the greatest things for the spouse of someone who has a hearing problem."

Workshop participant April 22, 2004

Attending the class was very important for me. I feel very strongly it saved my life...I will never forget...how they helped me change an important part of my life...Workshop participant, December 2, 2005.

John E. Sexton & Associates, Inc. (JESA) has served hearing challenged people for well over 20 years, both in North Carolina and around the world. The primary philosophy on which JESA services has been based is to take services to local communities. Access to good, quality services for individuals with hearing challenges is one of the greatest obstacles today for those people.

Johnnie Sexton, JESA Founder, has spent more than 30 years working with hearing challenged people as a teacher, speech therapist and an audiologist. He is a native of North Carolina and has worked diligently on behalf of consumers through close to 20 years of volunteer services on state licensure boards. Sexton is very pleased to expand JESA services to become the NC statewide authorized provider of the Kooser Workshops for all citizens of North Carolina.

Dr. Leslie Bryan, Director of Counseling Services for JESA, has been working with hearing challenged clients in a medical setting for several years. It is her passion to work more closely with individuals who face hearing challenges in a counseling role and to help them learn to happily and effectively manage their listening environments. Bryan is also a native of North Carolina.