

A Voice Discovered

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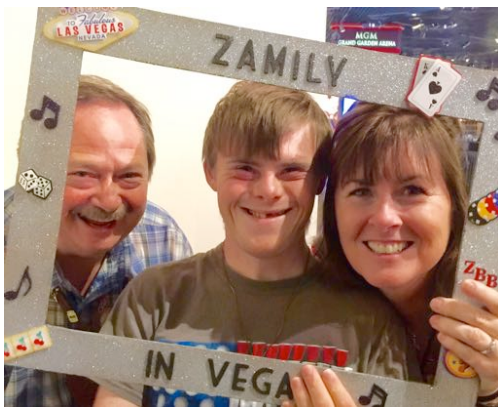
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2017 Grant Recipient Spotlight

We are so excited to share a little bit about our 2017 Grant recipients. In 2017 we set out to give 5 grants for up to \$1500 each and ended up awarding 6 grants with our Targeted Fundraising program! Two of our grant recipients received mounts so that they are able to attach their communication devices to their wheelchairs ensuring that they can take their devices with them wherever they go! The other 4 grants went to people who needed an AAC (augmentative and alternative communication) assessment, AAC therapy, training and/or an iPad with communication app. We would like to start with our first ever grant recipient to receive an iPad with communication app in addition to an AAC assessment.

Jared is 26 years old and attends one of the fantastic Arc of Ventura County day programs. Jared loves music, particularly the Zac Brown Band and Brian Collins as well as hanging out with his family and friends. He also enjoys spending time in the water and sailing! Jared is a social person and has a number of interests but has always struggled to express himself due to difficulty with his speech.



Jared and his parents

Jared and Mark chatting at the Arc



Jared received a grant from A Voice Discovered in 2017 for both services and equipment. At the Arc of Ventura County's day program at Arcade, the staff recognized that Jared might benefit from having access to a communication



Upcoming Events

- **AAC and the IEP Workshop**

April 10th 6-8 PM
The Arc Camarillo – Skyway
300 Skyway Dr. Camarillo, CA

[Spanish translation available](#)

RSVP

Linda@avoicediscovered.com

- **Chipotle Fundraiser**

April 14th 4-8PM

Chipotle Camarillo Outlets
660 E. Ventura Blvd.
Camarillo, CA

Go to website for flyer

www.avoicediscovered.com

system such as an iPad with communication app. Through the Arc's Digital Literacy Program Jared gained access to an iPad with communication app. While he was able to use the iPad with communication app at the day program he did not have a communication system at home. As Jared was exposed to the iPad for communication at the Arc, his mother Suzanne thought that it would also be important for him to have an iPad to communicate with at home so she filled out a grant application through A Voice Discovered. Throughout the assessment Jared had access to an iPad at the Arc as well as an iPad with the same communication system at home, which he borrowed from the AVD lending library. Jared was learning how to use the iPad to communicate at the Arc and Jared's family worked with him at home to start incorporating this communication system into his everyday life.

Thanks to the wonderful staff at the Arc Jared was provided many opportunities throughout the day to incorporate the new communication system. Mark is the staff member who works with Jared most days and took a special interest in working with him to improve his communication with the use of the iPad. Through Jared's hard work, his family's love, support and commitment to his communication and Mark's intuitive and compassionate approach to helping Jared learn to share his thoughts and ideas, Jared has grown in his ability to express himself. After the AAC assessment and extended trial, he was provided his very own iPad, communication app, and protective case through the A Voice Discovered grant program. In January the Arc of Ventura County honored Jared for the hard work that he has put into improving his communication skills. With the help of the staff at the Arc, he gave a speech about his AAC journey. This month, Jared had the opportunity to give another speech to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors about his journey. He truly is becoming a voice for those who are voiceless! Jared is proof that it is never too late to start the AAC journey! Thank you to Jared's family and the Arc of Ventura County for making this happen!

His mother Suzanne shares her thoughts:

"My ultimate hope is that with this exposure, he can be an advocate for AAC and alternate speech and communication and can help others succeed to have more rewarding daily interactions with others and have their own basic needs met. Jared's frustration level went to zero and his happiness and contentment rose above 100%!

On another side note, with the success of his 'talker', J tries to say more words and signs more. I feel he has learned the value of communicating his needs and now he is making sure he does that by whatever means is available to him at the time. It is all so exciting to finally, after almost 27 years, hear my sons' wishes, desires and needs. And with that, I humbly thank you and your team for opening that huge opportunity to him!!!!"



Jared with Mary and Mark as he receives participant of the year award at The Arc of Ventura Co.



Jared and Brian Collins (Country musician)



Jared at the Special Olympics