



Hearing Education And Adults Resources

ABOUT H.E.A.R. ME OUT

H.E.A.R. Me Out exists to give people with hearing loss a voice, connect them to the assistance they need, and help eliminate some of the challenges they meet in both their personal and professional lives.

I'm Not Alone

H.E.A.R. Me Out Founder Darnell Parks was born completely deaf in his right ear and with a slight hearing loss in his left. Over the years, the hearing in his left ear has gotten progressively worse. He can no longer hear well over the phone or watch TV without captions, and now relies primarily on reading lips and social cues in the environment to aid his hearing. Despite his hearing loss, Darnell has excelled professionally as a music producer and audio recording engineer. And, even as his hearing declined over the years, his love and passion for music remained strong, and he continues to pursue that passion today.

The idea to start H.E.A.R. Me Out came to fruition several years ago while Darnell was pursuing a job change. While interviewing for a position he was well-qualified for, his potential employer recognized the challenge he would have with phone work – an essential skill for the job. The company asked if he knew of any technology or resources for the workplace that could help. At the time, he was unaware of any technology for the phone or even where to start looking for help. His potential employer didn't either, and Darnell was passed over for the job.

Instead of getting angry or frustrated, this experience helped Darnell realize he probably wasn't the first person with hearing loss to encounter a situation like this. More than likely, this type of situation was happening to hard-of-hearing people all over the country every single day! And from there, H.E.A.R. Me Out was born.

H.E.A.R. Me Out, which stands for Hearing Education and Adult Resources, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides information and resources to the deaf and hard of hearing, friends and family who want to help, and critical training for employers seeking to prepare for the growing number of customers and employees with hearing loss.

H.E.A.R. Me Out believes that people with hearing loss should not be at a disadvantage for employment simply because they cannot find help. And conversely, businesses should have the opportunity to find the information they need for assisting employees or customers who have a hearing loss.

Meeting the Growing Need

Today, more than 35 million Americans have some type of hearing loss, which makes the deaf and hard of hearing the largest disability group in the United States. Many studies forecast that over the next 50 years, hearing loss will impact nearly 53 million people! This can be attributed to several factors, including widespread exposure to harmful noise levels (e.g. earbuds, headphones, concerts, sporting events) and hearing declines in the aging baby boomer population – which will soon account for more than half of the population in the U.S.

Clearly, the need for resources for people with hearing loss is greater than ever and will continue to grow. H.E.A.R. Me Out was established to meet that need. Backed by more than 30 years of experience in corporate training and education as well as helping deaf and hard-of-hearing adults, the organization provides:

- Critical training and education for employers
- Information and resources to help with hearing loss
- Support for friends and family
- Online directory of hearing resources and services
- The latest in hearing technology and news

Critical Training for the Corporate World

As the hard-of-hearing population grows, smart businesses are seeking the critical training they need to prepare for the growing number of customers and employees with hearing loss. H.E.A.R. Me Out's imP.A.C.T. Training gives businesses the practical knowledge to legally, professionally and successfully serve the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing.

Through H.E.A.R. Me Out's imP.A.C.T. Training, business people ranging from HR and communications employees to CEOs gain a greater understanding of hearing loss and how to better identify and serve the deaf and hard of hearing. They learn how to effectively interact and communicate with this booming consumer population and the financial impact and legal risks of neglecting them. Businesses gain awareness of the tax incentives and financial gains of hiring a candidate who has hearing loss and discover technologies and communication resources available for the workplace.

For more information about H.E.A.R. Me Out, visit www.JustHearMeOut.org.