problem:

Around the world, more than 34 million children are deaf or hard of hearing. With training and technology, nearly all of them can learn to hear and talk.

More than 30 million of these children are born to parents who can hear. These parents face a new world with a diagnosis they did not expect. They want to know what they should do to help their children listen and speak so they can learn alongside peers with typical hearing in school, join in family events, be part of their neighborhood and community, and grow to become self-reliant adults.

With technology like hearing aids and cochlear implants, children with hearing loss can listen. With training and therapy, they can speak, read, write and gain independence.

These children can catch up to their peers in school, sports, and community projects. They can play the piano, sing and dance, become fully literate, and live full, productive lives without limits.
solution:
Listening and spoken language makes it all possible.

For 132 years, AG Bell has worked to ensure that every child who is deaf or hard of hearing has the opportunity to hear, talk, and thrive in society. Early intervention makes all the difference.

AG Bell has always provided professionals with the tools and information that will support their efforts to enable children with hearing loss to speak. Among these tools are research symposia, access to the latest technological information and best practices, and certification to achieve the highest standards in helping children to listen, speak and excel.

But that’s not all we do.

AG Bell advocates to ensure that public policy gives children with hearing loss the same access to education, culture and workplace benefits that people without hearing loss enjoy.

We educate the general public that people who are deaf and hard of hearing can hear and talk.

And we support families who choose Listening and Spoken Language for their child with information, guidance, financial aid and emotional support.

With your help our mission continues.
YOU give children the chance to live a life without limits.
Over the past few years, our entire globe has adjusted to many changes. Some have been very difficult; others have afforded new opportunities—ways to help others achieve their goals and to provide comfort and support to people throughout their journey.

AG Bell carried forward from our 2021 adjustment new technologies and new methods for improving the lives of children who are deaf and hard of hearing around world.

Beginning in March of 2020, the staff of AG Bell has been working outside the Volta Bureau, our historic home. Connected through technology, the team—which includes people across the United States, Canada and Spain—continues to serve the public, support families, educate professionals, and communicate its mission. Our networks have grown to over 70,000 subscribers and more than 250,000 regular users of website resources.

Changing from live events that gather people together to learn and to share to virtual programs and activities that broaden our reach to new people and new places, the 2021 and 2022 Global Listening and Spoken Language Virtual Symposia reached more professionals in more countries than ever before. They attracted nearly 1,000 professionals and students from 50 countries and at the same time maintained the high-quality experience of learning the latest research in our field from illustrious professionals. Participants networked with each other and strengthened their capacity to bring quality Listening and Spoken Language therapy to help more children around the world who are learning to hear and talk.

Because our prestigious Leadership Opportunities for Teens (LOFT) Program demands travel and group gatherings, we adjusted to an online experience thereby safeguarding the health of our attendees. The teens with hearing loss who have participated have acquired skills in self-advocacy and leadership, as well as in the use of technology to improve their ability to listen, learn and thrive alongside peers with typical hearing. Additionally, AG Bell added a new program—the Learning Experience and Adventure Program (LEAP)—that works virtually with teens to identify their strengths and teach them to use those strengths to work with others to achieve their personal goals. In both cases, the online experience gives teens the ability to connect with each other and find “someone who understands me” through the virtual programs. As we join forces to advance in this new age, we celebrate your participation in our mission, and thank you for helping children who are deaf and hard of hearing live a life without limits.

With gratitude,

Ken Levinson, CPA
Chair, Board of Directors

Emilio Alonso-Mendoza, J.D., CFRE
Chief Executive Officer
### Consolidated Financial Assets as Audited

#### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</td>
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<td>Accounts Receivable, Net</td>
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<td>Grants Receivable</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets, Net</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beneficial Interests in Perpetual Trusts</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,997,874</strong></td>
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#### Liabilities and Net Assets

**Liabilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lines of Credit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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**Net Assets**

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Without Donor Restrictions</td>
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<tr>
<td>With Donor Restrictions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$15,849,182</strong></td>
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**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$16,997,874</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We gratefully acknowledge the support of private foundations, corporate sponsors, and individuals who made it possible for AG Bell to reach over two million people around the world in 2021 and 2022. Your support enables AG Bell to deliver on our promises and help children live a life without limits.
strategic plan
objectives

2021-25

GOAL: Expand LSL and related activities globally through growth of AG Bell’s initiatives, services, participation, partnerships in 10 additional countries by 2025 and be sensitive to diverse needs of each particular culture.

OBJECTIVES
1. Identify which countries are best open to and positioned for AG Bell’s services to families, professional training, certification, and public policy.

GOAL: Increase stakeholder engagement in the US at the chapter level to access more people who are deaf and hard of hearing and their families; build greater connectedness through participation at regional/local events; develop corps of volunteer leaders; and serve as a model for other chapters around the world in view of customs and cultures.

OBJECTIVES
1. Support more chapters hosting regional programs by developing template weekend/one-day event formats.
2. Increase accessibility of LSL regardless of socio-economic background.
3. Identify opportunities for people to be involved in advocacy on deaf and hard of hearing issues and LSL at the local level.
4. Define and develop resources that can be distributed by chapters.
5. Expand parent support resources and connections.

GOAL: Increase the knowledge and skills of professionals to support the development of LSL.

OBJECTIVES
1. Increase the number of professional members including, but not limited to, LSL certified members.
2. Expand professional member engagement with AG Bell as a professional home and in program development.
3. Grow the number of LSL certified professionals around the world through partnerships with domestic and global organizations.
4. Increase access to LSL knowledge and skills.
5. Identify more revenue sharing opportunities through mentorship and online courses.
6. Engage more professionals in outreach activities with universities, medical facilities, school districts and professional organizations.

GOAL: Diversify funding to reflect global growth of initiatives and other mission-related activities and from more individual major philanthropists.

OBJECTIVES
1. Create Global Council who can financially support international growth and provide access to other philanthropists with interest in this mission.
2. Create and implement a campaign to endow the LOFT program.
3. Engage and prepare local ambassadors to help identify and cultivate potential supporters.
4. Expand cultivation of potential donors through direct communications, print materials, events and in-person encounters.

GOAL: Increase awareness of LSL and solidify AG Bell as the “go to” resource for LSL.

OBJECTIVES
1. Cultivate relationships with public policy leaders, industry leaders, partners inside and outside of the field, public at large.
2. Conduct a public service PR campaign to increase recognition of LSL.
3. Train and engage local ambassadors to visit with legislators at home offices.
early intervention & financial aid

arts & sciences
FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM

With the support of generous foundations and donors, AG Bell offers several types of financial aid and scholarships. Since 2017, the Turn It Up Fund housed at AG Bell provided supplemental funding to the Arts & Sciences Financial Aid Program which supported families. Learning to play the piano, guitar, violin and flute, students are not only acquiring a skill—one immensely more difficult to master with hearing loss—but they are also gaining self-awareness, poise in performance, and self-discipline. We know that musical ability improves learning in general, and we hope you share our pride in their achievements.

“This has been an amazing year for Elena and our family! Even with all difficulties from the pandemic, we’re grateful we have been healthy. Elena was able to keep developing her spoken language skills. With her dad working from home, Elena was much more exposed to Spanish; she has been developing this language so fast and she achieved the same level as she had in Portuguese.

continued

parent & infant
FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM

The Parent and Infant Financial Aid Program helped families as they took the initial steps to provide their child with hearing aids, cochlear implants, and therapy to develop language. The unexpectedness of their baby’s hearing loss often leaves parents at a loss on what they need to do so that their child can grow up with all the experiences and opportunities that children with typical hearing enjoy. The support that AG Bell can provide frequently reinforces their choice to provide their child with Listening and Spoken Language and can help strengthen their commitment to persevere in the vital first years when diligence is most needed for their child’s language development.
Elena had an important milestone this year. She started a regular preschool two half-days per week. Preschool is in English, which is a language she has been exposed to before only during therapy sessions, some classes and social interactions (very limited during pandemic). It is her third language!!! We carefully chose a preschool where the teachers were open to learn about cochlear implants and how to work with Elena’s special needs. She started making friends, and her best friend is Sarah, who is now 5 years old, has great language skills and she has taught Elena a lot of English! We were very surprised about how quick Elena started picking up on that language. Nowadays, when she’s playing by herself, she’s using English (jargoning with some intelligible words) instead of Portuguese or Spanish. But she keeps using the correct language when talking to mom (Portuguese) or dad (Spanish). Programs like AG Bell’s Financial Aid truly are changing lives, and families are grateful for what you make possible for their child.

**preschool**

**FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM**

Preschool Financial Aid assisted yet more parents at a difficult time when public health support wanes and before school-based support begins. Typically, families find themselves juggling household expenses to allow for the special assistance their child needs to be ready for kindergarten in a mainstream setting.

**school age**

**FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM**

School-Age Financial Aid can help children who benefit from education in a specialized environment. Many children who are deaf and hard of hearing begin their education in school districts where the services they need are unavailable or are not as structured as they need in order to develop language and literacy at a rate similar to peers with typical hearing. Support from AG Bell helps parents manage tuition and other educational expenses.
Throughout 2022, AG Bell continued to build up the number of therapists and teachers of Listening and Spoken Language who have been certified to meet the highest professional standards in our field. In 2021, the organization celebrated the milestone of 1,000 Certified LSL Specialists during the Global Symposium. Professionals from around the world presented videos of their practice and built networks with practitioners from the U.S. and abroad.

Amongst the milestones in service to professionals was the establishment of the LSL Certification Examination in Spanish. Working with ambassadors from 22 Latin American countries and Spain, the AG Bell Academy finalized the examination in Spanish and recruited its first group of 40 candidates for the beta exam. Educational materials were translated into Spanish and broadly disseminated, and Spanish-speaking mentors were recruited to build a pipeline to support expansion of certified LSL professionals throughout Latin America and Europe. The Academy looks forward to expansion into other languages to reach the children in need of high-quality auditory-verbal therapy and education on every continent.
ag bell certified professionals

1,084 certified LSL specialists worldwide

760 certified LSL specialists in the United States

324 certified LSL specialists in other countries
LOFT has long been a watershed program of AG Bell. Founded in 1996 by visionary board member Ken Levinson, LOFT has grown from 20 teens every other year to 40 teens each summer and has now graduated 722 youth who are deaf and hard of hearing. The impact of LOFT carries on long after teens graduate from the program. Graduates who have successfully begun their careers return to LOFT as counselors to support, guide and inspire succeeding waves of LOFT participants.

In recent years, for safety reasons, AG Bell pivoted to turn the in-person Washington, DC-based program into a virtual program. The principle focus of the virtual program was to strengthen the teens’ use of technology and provide them with accessibility tools and the ability to advocate for their needs, skills they will need well into the future. Great efforts were made to ensure that the self-advocacy and leadership training that are hallmarks of LOFT were fully integrated into the virtual program. The adults who lead LOFT, who are also deaf and hard of hearing, were highly gratified to see that the teens, despite encountering each other only through videoconferencing, adapted easily and enjoyed the special value of LOFT that is the bonding and interconnection between LOFT participants.

With the support of the Johnson Scholarship Foundation, AG Bell also instituted a new program for teens, the Learning Experience and Adventure Program (LEAP), a two-day virtual program focused on the identification, development and application of personal strengths.

AG Bell is gratified by the long-term support of LOFT Sponsors and welcomes the gifts of new supporters particularly to LEAP. Their commitment is preparing young adults to live independent lives without limits and achieve their dreams.
AG Bell is grateful for the support of many individual donors as well as foundations and corporations. We are particularly grateful to those who donated to the Joseph Rosenstein Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Thank you!

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Children’s Hearing Foundation
Estate of Paul Edward Gatza
Wasily Family Foundation
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Cochlear Americas
Hearst Foundation
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MED-EL Corporation
National Geographic Society
Oticon
Rothman Family Foundation
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We would like to thank the hundreds of volunteers who have committed countless hours and their best thinking to help children with hearing loss thrive and achieve their dreams. Volunteers have served on boards and committees, in working groups and project teams, and individually with the time they have available. They have helped to shape our strategic planning, led our state chapters, shared their stories through blogs, articles and videos, given their best thoughts to being more inclusive and supportive around the world, and helped legislators understand Listening and Spoken Language and the needs of children who are deaf and hard of hearing. They have improved our communications, introduced us to people just learning about hearing loss, guided parents to advocate for their children, reviewed financial aid applications, selected sessions for the annual symposium, counseled teens at LOFT, and participated in program development. We are deeply grateful for the time they share, the intelligent thought they contribute, and the many ways they raise awareness of children who are deaf and hard of hearing.
AG Bell is grateful for the service and support of its Board of Directors, the AG Bell International Board of Directors, and the Board of Directors of the AG Bell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language. Their contributions of time, commitment and planning for the future works and sustainability of AG Bell are deeply appreciated and make it possible for children with hearing loss around the world to learn to hear and talk.

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The Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization (53-0196644) that has been working globally to ensure that people who are deaf and hard of hearing can hear and talk since 1890. With your support, AG Bell serves as a lifelong resource, network and advocate to remove barriers and enable individuals with hearing loss to learn to listen, speak, read and live independent, self-reliant lives as full members of society. You change lives with your support of AG Bell.

We look forward to welcoming you to the historic Volta Bureau.

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