Meet the Huerta Family

When Diana didn’t pass her hearing screening at birth, her mother Alma was told not to be concerned but to return for another screening.

After repeated hearing screening failures, the doctor suggested a procedure to drain fluid from Diana’s ears. The family was living in Fort Hood, Texas, at the time because Diana’s father, Hector, is in the Army. When Hector was called up for duty in Iraq, Alma moved to California to be closer to her family and get help for Diana.

Diana’s hearing loss did not change after the procedure, and Alma began to worry. The results of a comprehensive hearing exam documented that Diana had bilateral, severe hearing loss. She was able to hear only very loud sounds.

Alma had no idea what to do about the diagnosis. Like most families of babies with hearing loss, everyone in Diana’s family is hearing. At a hearing aid center, Alma was given a brochure on John Tracy Clinic (JTC). She im-
mediately enrolled in the Parent/Infant Program at JTC’s Long Beach Center. Further testing done by JTC audiologists indicated that Diana had profound loss in her right ear, and they recommended a Cochlear Implant so that Diana could have access to the sounds of speech.

When Hector returned from Iraq, the Huertas moved back to Texas, where Diana underwent an operation to receive the implant. The family then relocated to a base in Virginia. Hector, an E-4, has now been sent to Iraq for the third time and Alma is back in California working with the teachers at John Tracy Clinic to gain full advantage of Diana’s new implant. They are building Diana’s ability to listen to speech and environmental sounds so she can begin using spoken language. Diana, who is now three and half years old, shows an eagerness to learn and participate in every activity, and her JTC preschool teachers and audiologists expect that she’ll soon be talking up a storm. Alma is delighted with each new word and happily keeps Hector informed of Diana’s progress.

“No other place has helped me like John Tracy Clinic,” Alma says. “I learn so much every time I go to class or work with the teachers. In Texas and Virginia, I felt so alone. At John Tracy Clinic, I feel strong enough to overcome any obstacle. I am so lucky to be part of it, and I want to thank all the people that make JTC happen.”

The Huerta family’s next move will be back to Virginia again, where Alma has decided she will continue Diana’s speech and language training through JTC’s online Parent Distance Education, a program that has been directly supported by AMVETS and AMVETS’ NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY for over 30 years.
JOHN TRACY CLINIC
provides hearing health information and support worldwide
to parents of young children with hearing loss
No family turned away by inability to pay!

AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary’s
fundraising efforts are needed more than ever!

Proceeds from sales of
books, crafts, baked goods, garden items, raffle tickets, Bingo cards, decorations and more
help JTC continue to deliver wagonloads of services across the globe!
Posts each create fun group projects to raise monies for JTC!

Help load the wagon
with your donations for JTC children

$300
International Parent Education
Helps provide a parent with eight months of online lessons with a hearing loss specialist

$600
Baby Hearing Tests
Helps provide two babies with a comprehensive exam with a pediatric audiologist

$1200
Preschool Language Services
Helps provide four children with two sessions with a spoken language expert

$2400
Family Summer Program
Helps provide a family with two weeks of onsite workshops with JTC’s multi-disciplinary team
is raising funds to help

JOHN TRACY CLINIC

provide services to families of young children with hearing loss across the globe

Your generous support is needed!