

# TRIPOD

SUPPORT COMMUNICATION EDUCATION

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Phone 818/972-2080 V/TDD  
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For more information on childhood deafness call  
**The TRIPOD GRAPEVINE**  
(National) 800/352-8888 V/TDD  
(California) 800/2-TRIPOD V/TDD

Since 1982 TRIPOD, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has been committed to helping families raise their deaf and hard-of-hearing children in an informed and positive way. Its innovative programs have received recognition and commendation from educators, professionals, and the Deaf Community locally, nationally and internationally.

## 10 YEAR REPORT 1982 - 1992

### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

TRIPOD is a private, non-profit corporation committed to helping families raise and educate their deaf and hard-of-hearing children in a supportive environment.

TRIPOD's first priority is to assist parents in establishing natural interaction with their children who have a hearing loss to assure that the child can assume his place and role in his family. Assisting each family in the parenting process and developing communication strategies appropriate for both child and parents, empowers parents to interact with their child. The incorporation of speech, speech reading, American Sign Language, listening strategies, reading, and writing provide the major communication components of the Total Communication philosophy along with utilizing state of the art technology and equipment. Deaf role models are a part of all facets of the TRIPOD program which supports a bilingual and bicultural approach. Integration of hearing, deaf, and hard-of-hearing children at all program levels creates a unique educational model providing direct information access between student/teacher and student/peers. A team-teaching approach at each program level provides a balanced educational opportunity for all the children. These components of TRIPOD's philosophy converge on the development of language for the deaf and hard-of-hearing child which is key to his success now and as an adult.

In 1989, TRIPOD moved from its original West Hollywood site to its present location in Burbank and established a unique private/public partnership with Burbank Unified School District. This cooperative adventure has resulted in a model full inclusion program for deaf and hard-of-hearing children within the regular educational system.

Continued on page 2...Educational

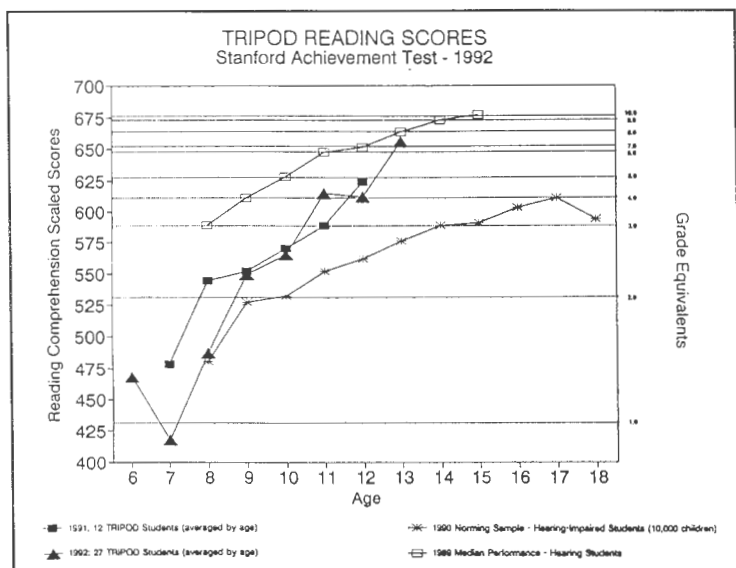
### ENROLLMENT

TRIPOD's educational program began in February 1984 with four deaf and hard-of-hearing preschool children. To date, TRIPOD has served over 200 students, 108 of whom are currently enrolled in a comprehensive educational program from parent-infant/toddler through middle school. Ninety-two families represent these 108 students.

The students come from 14 school districts with geographical boundaries of Culver City (S); Palmdale (N); Pasadena (E); and Ventura (W). Of these, 64 percent of the children come from extremely low-to-moderate income families; 33 percent are children of color, and 27 percent from single-parent families with female heads of household.

Recently analyzed test scores of TRIPOD students (grades 1-5) reflect an average score at the 75th percentile compared to other hearing impaired students. The longer TRIPOD students are in the program, the higher their scores in comparison to other hearing impaired students. Variables unique to TRIPOD's program that may have an impact on a student's academic achievement are:

- Preschool/Kindergarten Montessori Education Program
- Hearing peers who sign at all levels of the educational programs
- Deaf role models as teachers/aides/sign language instructors in various academic/home settings
- Sign communication skills on the part of all educational staff
- Home Family Sign Class which assists the family in establishing good communication skills
- Program philosophy that assists parents in being parents and good communicators.



California Test of Basic Skills (CTBS)  
4th Edition-Survey Battery  
Test date: May 1992

Form: A  
Level: 13  
Burbank Unified School District/TRIPOD  
Grade: 3 (2/3) combination class (SY)  
Score: Normal Curve Equivalent

Basis: Total Language # = 11

READ VOCB	READ COMP	TOTL READ	LANG MECH	LANG EXPR	TOTL LANG	MATH COMP	MATH APPL	TOTL MATH
70	67	69	68	56	62	45	68	58
44	31	37	54	64	60	45	60	60
52	46	48	54	31	56*	45	52	49
80	50	64	40	50	45	61	60	60
52	46	48	54	21	40	39	36	36
23	38	31	40	38	38*	45	41	43
32	60	47	35	34	34*	52	41	45
18	1	6	44	24	32*	-	21	-
18	1	6	31	20	24	15	31	21
10	23	17	14	20	16	23	26	24
23	31	27	5	20	11*	19	31	23

\* Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students in the class

The MONTESSORI PARENT-INFANT/TODDLER PROGRAM provides instruction incorporating Montessori methodology, information, counsel, and support at the onset of identification of baby's hearing loss.

The MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM provides each child with a learning environment that "caters" to his stage of growth and development - physical, cognitive, social, and emotional, within a Montessori philosophy.

The ELEMENTARY PROGRAM is aligned with the curriculum of the Burbank Unified School District where hearing, deaf, and hard-of-hearing students interact in grade appropriate academic pursuits. Information is acquired directly from either teacher or peer by the deaf and hard-of-hearing students without having to go through a third party (interpreter). The student/teacher ratio (15:1) in the team-teaching classroom allows for more individualized and small group work constantly reinforcing the importance of active involvement in learning.

The MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM continues the unique opportunity for hearing peers to share simple to complex information. Interdisciplinary instruction becomes the consistent educational approach rather than an occasional lesson. The deaf and hard-of-hearing students are given a rich communication environment with hearing peers who sign.

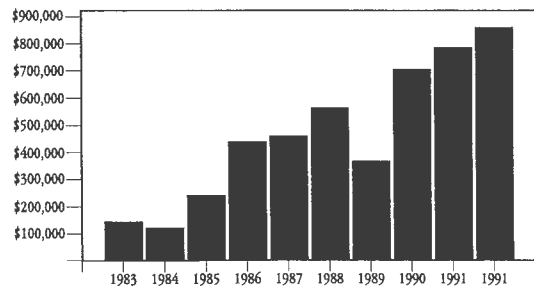
"...TRIPOD is the only program I am aware of that integrates private and public agencies on a daily basis. The state and county education systems are moving toward regionalization now where centralized education programs serve students from a surrounding area. TRIPOD fits perfectly into that. It's an excellent model for other programs around the state..."

Jack Hazekamp, Special Education Consultant  
California Department of Education

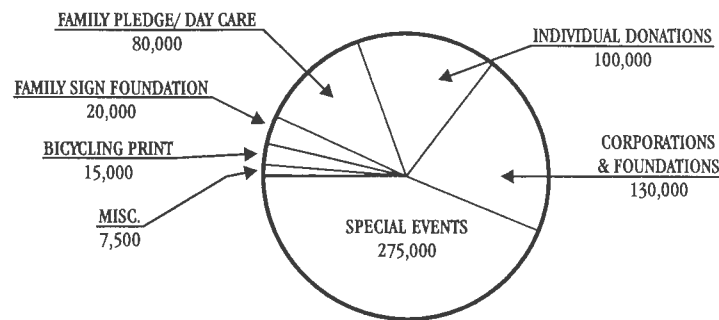


## TRIPOD SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Over \$5 million dollars has been raised to support TRIPOD's first ten years of operation. Annual film premieres have provided a major portion of the funding, along with other special events and contributions from the TRIPOD Family Pledge program, corporate and foundation grants, the TRIPOD Board of Directors, the TRIPOD Captioned Films program and individual contributions.



## DISTRIBUTION OF SUPPORT



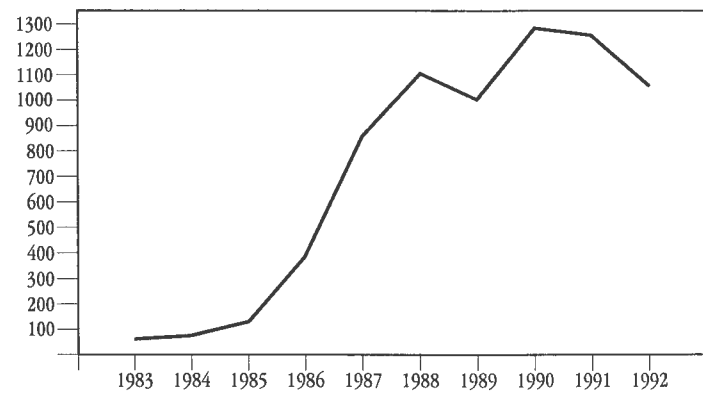
## THE TRIPOD GRAPEVINE

The TRIPOD GRAPEVINE, a national toll-free hotline, was established in 1983 to provide non-biased information, support and referrals for families of deaf children, educators, or concerned professionals from related fields. Over the past ten years, more than 7,000 callers have received answers, options, support and referrals from the TRIPOD GRAPEVINE (see below). By sharing information with others, these callers have, in turn, generated a "ripple effect," reaching many more people around the world.

Callers from every state in the nation, as well as a number of foreign countries, have turned to the TRIPOD GRAPEVINE for information. While the majority of the calls come from California and New York (40-46%), Pennsylvania, Texas, Ohio, North Carolina and Tennessee have also ranked high in total number of calls. Parents comprise 25% of all callers; students are the second largest group (13-17%). Deaf callers comprise about 5% of the total.

By far, the most requested topic is information about TRIPOD services (52%). "Advocacy" (assisting parents in finding other parents and parent support groups) is the next most requested service, and the third most requested service is general information about the deaf community -- organizations, attitudes of deaf adults regarding deaf culture, etc (11%). Callers receive a tailored packet of information based upon their areas of interest and concern.▲

## GRAPEVINE CALLERS



## EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

TRIPOD provides important information and education to families of deaf and hard-of-hearing children via instructional videotapes and a newsletter.

"Language Says It All," a 23-minute open-captioned documentary illustrates the intense need for language and early communication necessary for personal growth and family interaction afforded through total communication. The film shows how parents' special efforts in communicating with their hearing-impaired children bring rich rewards.

"Language Says It All" has received the following recognition (1987):

- Academy Award Nomination, Short Subject Documentary, 1988
- Chris Statue, 1st Place, Columbus International Film Festival, 1987
- Gold Award, Birmingham Film and Video Festival, 1988
- Gold Medal, New York Film and Television Festival, 1987
- Silver Apple, National Film and Video Festival, 1988
- Silver Cindy Award, Audio Video Communicators, 1988
- Silver Plaque, INTERCOM, Chicago International Film Festival, 1987
- First Place, Dore Shary Awards, 1988

Presentation Award, Corporation on Disabilities and Tele-communications, 1988-89

"Language Says It All" has been shown on PBS in the United States and abroad and has been translated into 5 languages.

A second videotape, "Once Upon A Time," (1989) is a reminder of how important story time is to parents and their deaf or hard-of-hearing child. It describes the ways in which parents learn to share a rich story heritage with their children.

TRIPOD's newsletter, SENSE, offers up-to-date information on deaf education and important issues of interest to parents and professionals.▲

## TRIPOD CAPTIONED FILMS

As part of its ongoing effort to serve the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, TRIPOD, in cooperation with participating film studios, has made available open-captioned (i.e. English subtitled) prints of major studio film releases. The circulation -- "bicycling" -- of captioned films across the country enables deaf audiences to experience the thrill of seeing first-run films on the big screen while at the same time helping to raise money for the sponsoring organization. From 1989 to date, 12 open-captioned films have been circulated to 35 different U.S. cities, serving 38 nonprofit organizations. The following films have been captioned and "bicycled" around the country:

- Aladdin (Walt Disney Pictures)
- Back To The Future Part II (Universal Pictures and Amblin Entertainment)
- Back to the Future Part III (Universal Pictures and Amblin Entertainment)
- The Bodyguard (Warner Bros.)
- Dances With Wolves (Orion Pictures)
- The Firm (Paramount Pictures)
- Grand Canyon (Twentieth Century Fox)
- Groundhog Day (Columbia Pictures)
- Hoffa (Twentieth Century Fox)
- Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (Paramount and Amblin Entertainment)
- Jurassic Park (Amblin Entertainment)
- Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II, The Secret of the Ooze (New Line Cinema)

In addition, the following films have been captioned and were screened in the Los Angeles area:

- Baby Boom (United Artists Theatres)
- The Big Chill (Columbia Pictures)
- The Bride (Columbia Pictures)
- Club Paradise (Warner Bros.)
- Ghostbusters (Columbia Pictures)
- Perfect (Columbia Pictures)
- Silverado (Columbia Pictures)



## MOVIE PREMIERES

Each year since 1983, TRIPOD has been honored to be the beneficiary of a movie premiere. These special events have provided over \$1 million in operating support. Each of the movie premieres was accessible to deaf and hard-of-hearing audiences because TRIPOD provided a simultaneous screening with open captions or sign interpretation. TRIPOD is indebted to the following studios for their generosity, and to the entertainment industry for its commitment to these events.

*The Big Chill* (Columbia Pictures)  
September 20, 1983

*Club Paradise* (Warner Bros.)  
July 7, 1986

*Baby Boom* (United Artists Theatres)  
October 6, 1987

*A Fish Called Wanda* (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer)  
July 13, 1988

*Back To The Future, Part II* (Universal Pictures and Amblin Entertainment)  
November 20, 1989

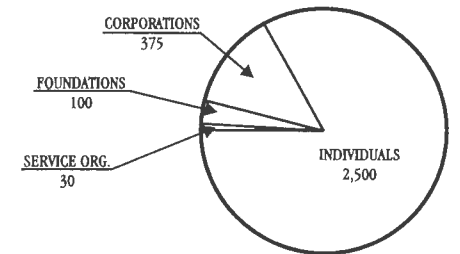
*Dances With Wolves* (Orion Pictures)  
November 4, 1990

*Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II, The Secret of the Ooze* (New Line Cinema)  
March 17, 1991

*Grand Canyon* (Twentieth Century Fox)  
December 15, 1991

*Hoffa* (Twentieth Century Fox)  
December 11, 1992

## NUMBER OF DONORS



## BENEFACTORS = > \$10,000 (cumulative after initial \$2,000 donation)

- Anonymous
- Nonie & Rick Bourke
- Cindy & Kevin Costner
- Rhea Perlman & Danny DeVito
- Mary & Robert Estrin
- Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Kantrowitz
- Meg & Larry Kasdan
- Sharon D. Lund
- Alida & Bill Messinger
- Eleanor Bingham & Rowland Miller
- Barbara & Chris Montan
- Anne Ramis
- Harold Ramis
- Helene & Barry Sacks
- Nancy & Robert Salka
- Michael Shamberg
- Joe Shapiro
- Fran & Charles Sloane
- Megan Williams

## PLATINUM PATRONS (one time gift of \$5,000 - 9,999)

- Shelley & Lou Cohen
- Elizabeth Freeman
- Lenore & Fred Kayne
- Kevin Kline
- Max Palevsky
- Richard Taubman
- Nina & Richard Thompson
- Mary Ellen & Robert Zemeckis
- Sidney Zerah

## PATRONS (one time gift of \$1,000 - 4,999)

- |                                      |                               |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Steve Abbott                         | Kazuyuki Kanda                |
| Arlene & Alan Alda                   | Karen & Lonnie Kane           |
| Beatrice Arthur                      | Walter Kaye                   |
| Barbara & Jon Avnet                  | Sharon & Paul Lees            |
| Barbara & Peter Benedek              | Sol Lehr                      |
| Lin & Tom Benedek                    | Sid B. Levine                 |
| Roz & Peter Bonerz                   | Barbara Lincoln               |
| Gail & Neil Breton                   | Dorothy & Phillip Lyon        |
| Dr. Sid Brown                        | Judith & Christopher McCarron |
| Marcia & Stephen Cannell             | Patricia O. Meder             |
| Phoebe Cates                         | Caryl & Jeff Merritt          |
| Jayni & Chevy Chase                  | Rick Moranis                  |
| Esther & Marvin Cohen                | Sheri & Steve Mutti           |
| Michael Forman                       | Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Namm        |
| Beatrice Koopman & Mark Freund       | T.J. O'Rourke                 |
| Donna & Gary Freedman                | Dianne & Jeffrey Rochlis      |
| Melissa Linehan & Ron Fujikawa       | Barbara Roddam                |
| Martin Gang                          | Frank Roddam                  |
| Dolly Gillin                         | Michael Rutman                |
| Doralee & Irving Goldman             | Lauren Sacks                  |
| Sally Field & Alan Greisman          | Jessica Sacks                 |
| Jamie Lee Curtis & Christopher Guest | Lawrence Scheinbaum           |
| Cathy Guisewite                      | Jodi & Eric Shapiro           |
| Myrtle W. Hachmeister                | David A. Solomon              |
| Dwynn & Charles Helms                | Sharon & David Soudakoff      |
| Bertha Horn                          | Tunny & Joe Szpiro            |
| William Hurt                         | Glenn & Tony Thomas           |
| Deborah Irmas                        | Patsy & Steve Tisch           |
| Judith Williams & Larry Jackson      | Peggy & Jim Tranovich         |

## TRIPOD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following individuals have served as members of the TRIPOD Board of Directors. Their dedication and commitment have built the TRIPOD program over the first ten years.

- Barbara Avnet (1985-86)
- \* Frederic A. Bourke, Jr. (1983-85)
- Linda Bove** (1985-)
- Neil Breton** (1987-)
- Gary N. Clark** (1990-)
- Cindy Costner (1991-1993)
- Mary Lloyd Estrin, Vice President** (1985-)
- Harry Eversole, Secretary/Treasurer** (1988-)
- Elizabeth Freeman** (1987-)
- Fran Garfinkel (1989-91)
- Dolly Gillin** (1993-)
- Phyllis Harper-Bardach (1987-91)
- Meg Kasdan** (1986-)
- Lenore Kayne** (1993-)
- \* Carl J. Kirchner (1982-88; 1988- Ex officio)
- \* **Herb Larson** (1982-)
- Barbara Montan** (1993-)
- Patricia Mykoski** (1993-)
- Bonnie Neeley (1985-86)
- Don Pennington** (1993-), President, TRIPOD Parent Association
- Kathy Ruccione** (1989-)
- Barry Sacks** (1986-)
- Robert Salka (1985-91)
- \* Michael Shamberg (1982-91)
- Eric Shapiro (1989-)
- \* **Joe Shapiro** (1982-)
- Trudy Sibley (1989-)
- Charles Sloane** (1985-)
- Joe Szpiro (1986-87)
- S. Craig Tompkins** (1991-)
- Rodrica Walker (1993)
- \* **Megan Williams, President** (1982-)
- Mary Ellen Zemeckis (1989-93)

Carl J. Kirchner - Executive Director

\* Founding TRIPOD Board Member

Current TRIPOD Board Members are listed in bold type

## TRIPOD SUPPORT GROUPS

### Directors' Circle

The TRIPOD Directors' Circle, a Pasadena community based support group founded in 1989, was founded to further the quality of deaf education and support families who have discovered that their child is deaf or hard-of-hearing.

### TRIPOD Friends

TRIPOD Friends is a support group organized in 1989 to assist TRIPOD's programs through volunteer activities. TRIPOD Friends established an annual luncheon in 1991 to honor individuals who have made a significant contribution to TRIPOD, the community, and/or education:

- 1991 Stephanie Beacham, Lenore Kayne, Megan Williams
- 1992 Linda Bove, Mary Lloyd Estrin, Ruth Sinay
- 1993 Dolly Gillin, Meg Kasdan, Marlee Matlin

### TRIPOD Parent Association

The TRIPOD Parent Association began in 1988 to sponsor a number of special events (Garage Sale, Casino Night, Family Pledge Drive, etc.) benefitting ongoing TRIPOD programs.

### Rags for Riches

Since 1986, The Saul Breton Foundation has generously supported TRIPOD through its annual "Rags For Riches" event (a garment industry benefit). ▲

## HISTORICAL TIMELINE

September 27, 1982	TRIPOD is incorporated as a non-profit organization.
July 1983	The TRIPOD GRAPEVINE a national toll-free hotline, begins taking calls.
February 1984	Montessori Preschool Program opens, serving children ages 2 1/2 to 6.
September 1986	Mainstream Elementary School Classroom is established at P.S. #1 Elementary School in Santa Monica.
September 1987	Montessori Parent-Infant/Toddler Program begins serving families with children ages birth to 3.
August 1989	TRIPOD begins private/public collaboration with the <b>Burbank Unified School District</b> .
	TRIPOD Captioned Films "bicycles" its first big screen captioned film.
June 1990	Partnership with St. Joseph Medical Center, Burbank, to provide audiological services.
September 1990	The Model Elementary School full inclusion program expands to three team-reaching classrooms at Washington Elementary School.
September 1991	The model full inclusion program begins in middle school (6th grade) at John Muir Middle School.
September 1992	Seventh grade full inclusion classroom added to the Middle School Program.
	<b>Tulare Unified School District and Santa Ana Unified School District</b> begin TRIPOD/BUSD full inclusion model.
October 1992	Students began to ride Metrolink (commuter rail service) to and from school.
February 1993	The TRIPOD Family Sign Foundation is established to provide all first-year families with free in-home sign classes.
September 1993	TRIPOD offers a comprehensive educational program from birth through middle school years. Expansion of middle school to include the 8th grade.
	The TRIPOD/BUSD full inclusion program is recognized as a <b>regional program</b> serving Burbank, Glendale, La Canada and Pasadena Unified School Districts. In addition, students come from 11 other school districts.
	Montessori Preschool/Kindergarten program opens in London, England based on the TRIPOD model.
October 1993	TRIPOD/John Muir Middle School chosen as one of four sites by Deaf West Theatre, Los Angeles to pilot theatrical productions for deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing students.