# Resources for Young Adults

Megan Lengel
Usher Syndrome Connections Conference

### Introduction

- USH 1B
- Cochlear implant, oral English user (learned ASL as first language; moderately fluent)
- Bachelor of Science (Psychology & Sociology)
- USH Ambassador in VA and Young Adult Coordinator

# Outline

- Objectives
- Statistics
- Resources
- Goals
- Wrap-Up

# Objectives

- Get acquainted with what the USH Coalition provides for young adults
- Encourage young adults to participate and engage with the Coalition and each other

### **Statistics**

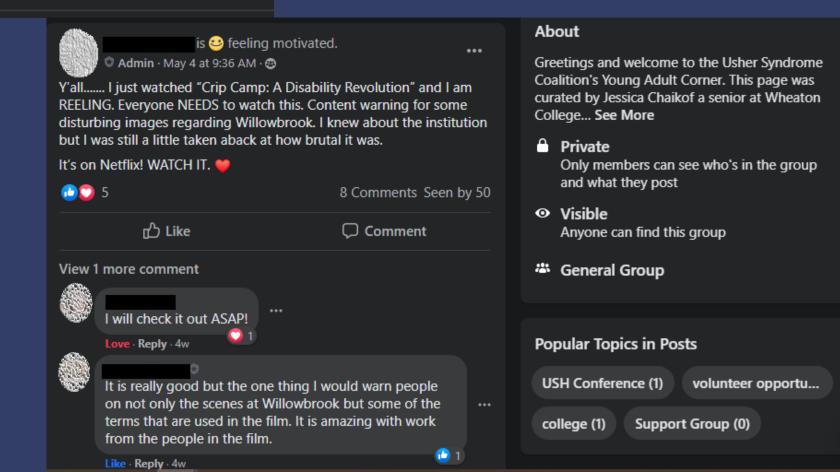
- Lack specific statistics on young adults (18-28) with Usher
- Children ages 0-21:
  - Conservative estimate: 7,560
  - Liberal estimate: 25,200
- Employment age adults ages 18-62:
  - Conservative estimate: 11,000
  - Liberal estimate: 27,500
- USH Trust Registry: <a href="www.usher-registry.org">www.usher-registry.org</a>

Young Adult Facebook Group

#### **Group by Usher Syndrome Coalition**

# Young Adults Living with Usher Syndrome

♣ Private group · 123 members



### Young Adult Facebook Group

- Social & informative environment
- Keep informed about USH and young adult-related issues
- Open to EVERYONE
- How to join?

### "Just for Young Adults"

- USH Blogs
- Webinars: "Educational Considerations for Students with Usher Syndrome" and "Starting a National Dialogue on Finding Children with Usher Syndrome"
- Contribute by filling out the comment box

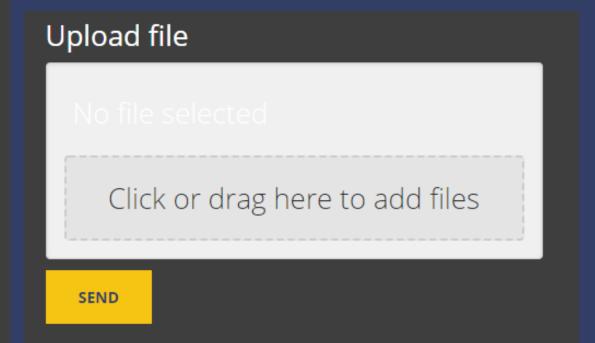
#### WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE YOUNG ADULT PAGE?

First Name (Required)

Last Name (Required)

Email (Required)

Type your experience here or upload a document below.



### **USH Blogs**

Open to all young adults to post as guest bloggers

#### YOUNG ADULTS BLOG

View all posts from young adults living with USH:

OCTOBER 1, 2019

SEEING IS BELIEVING: MY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

WITH USHER'S 1B

### SEEING IS BELIEVING: MY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE WITH USHER 1B

Megan Lengel, a recent college graduate and young adult with Usher syndrome, has offered to share with us her valuable experience attending college while dealing with Usher syndrome.

#### by Megan Lengel

College is insane. Even for someone without Usher syndrome, it can be the most hectic few years of life. The pressure seems to come from everywhere in college; students are expected to figure out their futures, form lifelong friendships, and make solid strides in their careers before graduation. For those with Usher (including me!)

the pressures can increase tenfold with the added

### **USH Blogs**

- Open to all young adults to post as guest bloggers
- Email info@usher-syndrome.org to add posts

#### **USH Talks**

- Hub of informational videos, community stories, and research updates
- USH Talks video podcast on iTunes
- View full catalogue on Panopto

All content is available on usher-syndrome.com

### Goals

- Virtual support group meetings
- Encourage active engagement in Facebook group
- Google Classroom
- NCDB
- Next in-person conference: Breakout Sessions

# Virtual Support Group

- Monthly
- Expand types of group meetings
- Special group meetings for specific demographic needs

# Facebook Group

- "Guest" Facebook group takeovers
- Diversify content
- Regular posts about USH topics
- Open to ideas!

# Google Classroom

- Resource collecting hub
- Place to share ideas for advocacy, new programs, and to encourage collaboration
- Accessible to more people

# National Center on Deaf-Blindness

- Usher-specific literature review of existing materials
- Conducting a small number of interviews
- Goals:
  - Increase "child find" of kids with Usher, birth 21
  - Identify and/or create materials
  - Identify or create trainings for all state DeafBlind project staff

### **Next In-Person Conference**

- Young Adult-specific Breakout Session
- Will ask for input

# Objectives

- Got acquainted with what the USH Coalition provides for young adults
- Encouraged young adults to participate and engage with the Coalition and each other
- Discussed goals for expansion

### **Contact Information**

- Email: ambassador.va1@usher-syndrome.org
- Facebook profile: Megan Lengel

### Reminder!

- Young Adult live meet-up later in week!
- Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup>
- 5 6 PM EST
- Bring questions!