



# PRESS RELEASE

## CHICAGO PRODUCTION COMPANY LAUNCHES KICKSTARTER CAMPAIGN TO COMPLETE THE DOCUMENTARY “LOUDER THAN WORDS”

Documentary about two families overcoming the struggle and controversy of cochlear implants in the deaf community and how to bridge the gap between the hearing and deaf worlds

**July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – Chicago, IL** – New Slate Films launched a Kickstarter Campaign on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in order to raise \$32,500 to complete the powerful documentary, ***Louder Than Words***. This feature length documentary chronicles the lives of deaf parents, Jill and Michael Stark, as they make the sometimes controversial and difficult decision to provide their two young children with cochlear implants.

The film also features Rachel Coleman and her family, hosts of the beloved **EMMY WINNING** children’s show, *Signing Time*. For the first time the Coleman’s share their personal story. It is the story of their decision as to whether or not to give their six year old daughter the cochlear implant surgery and the history behind the cochlear implant controversy in the deaf community.

Directed and funded solely by Saj Adibs, principle of New Slate Films, ***Louder Than Words*** was originally planned as a one year shoot. Following these families for seven years, the documentary delves into the divisiveness in the deaf community about cochlear implants. It shows, in depth, the conviction and determination of loving parents who want nothing more for their children than to have better lives. But, is it better to remain deaf in the close knit, loving deaf community our venture into the sometimes non-accepting hearing world?

"Any parent can relate to this story. It's not about deaf or hearing, or cochlear implants. It's about parents doing whatever they can to provide the best possible future for their children" says Adibs.

***Louder Than Words*** employs many medical specialists and members in both the deaf and hearing communities who share their personal opinions and stories. It shows the joys and triumphs along with the complexities and prejudices these families encounter on their journey.

"Their [the Starks] choice to implant their children with cochlear implants has not separated them from the close community of the deaf; it has only allowed them additional access to the world of speech and sound." – Dr. Dana Suskind, Otolaryngologist at the University of Chicago Children’s Hospital.

Adibs and Arreola hope to raise \$32,500 through Kickstarter by August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to complete the post-production of this important documentary.

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