



UNC
HEALTH CARE

**UNC program teaching deaf children to listen and talk
To host concert featuring The Nomads Band
At Southern Village**

CHAPEL HILL – CASTLE, a program that teaches deaf children to listen and talk will host its second annual concert and fundraising celebration featuring Chapel Hill’s own Nomads Band on Saturday, August 29 on the Green at Southern Village. CASTLE or the “Center for the Acquisition of Spoken language Through Listening Enrichment,” is part of the UNC Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, and is a unique program that teaches children who are deaf or hard of hearing to listen and talk. CASTLE trains early intervention and school professionals across North Carolina to work with children developing spoken language through listening.

The concert at Southern Village will be held outdoors on the Green from 6 to 9 p.m. There will be activities for children and a silent auction to include gifts and gift certificates. Food will be available from a variety of local establishments situated immediately adjacent to the Green or you can bring a picnic. Children who have benefitted from CASTLE will participate through music and other performances.

The Nomads Band, known for its upbeat spirit, plays old soul, rhythm and blues, beach music and dance music from the past forty years. The Band has itself been a Chapel Hill favorite for more than forty years. They will play three long sets starting shortly after 6 pm and ending at about 9.

This year’s Silent Auction features over 50 items ranging from a wine tasting party for 20 and tickets to Disney World, to handmade jewelry and crafts. Items can be seen and bids accepted on the website, www.BiddingforGood.com and look for CASTLE or UNC. Online bidding begins August 15th and ends August 26th. We are also still accepting donations for the auction.

CASTLE is an independently funded program administered through the UNC School of Medicine. It is a public/private partnership originally initiated with private funding and currently also supported by the North Carolina General Assembly in addition to several private foundations and families.

Program services are available through CASTLE in Durham and Wilmington. Services vary per location and include speech and language services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing, preschool classrooms for children aged 3 to kindergarten readiness, a toddler class for children 18 months to 3 years of age, a Training and Mentoring Program for professionals who work with children who are deaf and hard-of-hearing, and a training program for graduate and undergraduate students in deaf education and speech-language pathology programs in North Carolina colleges and universities. Training professionals and students is crucial for our state to provide appropriate services for children whose families have chosen a spoken language approach as the majority of professionals continue to be trained using a sign language/ manual approach. More than 90% of children born with a hearing loss have parents with typical hearing and many of those parents wish for their children to learn to communicate using spoken language. With today's advances in technology, appropriate early intervention services, and family commitment, most children who are deaf or hard of hearing can learn to listen and talk, and can be mainstreamed in school with their hearing peers.

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For more information on the Benefit or CASTLE services, please contact:

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