



Quietly Making Noise

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QUIETLY MAKING NOISE MAKES ACOUSTICALLY SOUND IMPROVEMENTS

For nearly 30 years, Lisa Schott, president and principal acoustical consultant at Quietly Making Noise (QMN), has been quietly making a huge impact on Give Kids The World. By leveraging her expertise and state-of-the-art analytical tools, she has helped to create a peaceful, relaxing ambience for critically ill children and their families during magical stays at the Village.

Lisa's connection to the Village began in 1987 when, as an engineering student at Georgia Tech, she was awarded a three-year scholarship by the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (then Mercury 7 Foundation.) Created by the six surviving Mercury 7 astronauts along with Give Kids The World Founder Henri Landwirth, the Foundation's goal is to support the country's top STEM students while commemorating the legacy of America's pioneering astronauts. The scholarship was invaluable to Lisa, who was working hard to meet the high cost of education; it enabled her to continue her studies, leading her to discover a passion for acoustical engineering. The discovery had a very personal meaning to Lisa, whose father is deaf and whose mother is a musician.

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As part of the scholarship program, Lisa was invited to attend a Mercury 7 Foundation Board meeting which was attended by Henri and the Mercury 7 astronauts. While the astronauts were fascinating to a young engineer, it was Henri who had the most profound impact on Lisa. "Henri and the Mercury 7 astronauts had all reached the highest levels of achievement in their professional lives, but they did not cease working

hard to make the world a better place. Henri, especially, kept creating positive change through his numerous ideas and ventures. I wanted to follow in his footsteps," says Lisa.

Henri's devotion to the Village and the families it serves proved infectious, and Lisa began repaying the Foundation's generosity by volunteering at the Village as often

as possible. It was during one of these volunteer shifts that Henri became aware of Lisa's specialty in acoustical engineering, and asked if she could help out with a few projects around the Village. Lisa was overjoyed by the opportunity to lend her talent and expertise in creating quiet, peaceful places to provide wish families with the most relaxing, unforgettable experience possible.

"It is well-known that a good acoustical environment is crucial to healing – lowering the stress level of patients and improving health outcomes," says Lisa. "Meeting Henri and having the opportunity to give back to such an outstanding organization transformed my life, putting me and my husband, George, on a lifelong path to philanthropy. I can never repay the enormous debt of gratitude we owe Give Kids The World and its amazing mission."

Since then, Lisa has donated her time and talents in countless ways to improve the acoustical environment throughout the Village, beginning with the House of Hearts and the Cupcake Room of the former Gingerbread House – both of which echoed when crowded. After analyzing sound decay times and reverberation, Lisa recommended the addition of acoustically absorptive materials to improve the acoustics without changing the whimsical aesthetics of the spaces. She then set about improving the acoustics of the wish family duplex villas by reducing the noise coming through common walls and connecting doors.

When the Village began to expand, adding the multi-family Banyan Park building, Lisa was involved from the beginning – working with the design team to incorporate extensive noise control into the walls, floors, ceiling assemblies and roof to ensure a quiet, relaxing ambience. Similar improvements were also developed to reduce noise and enhance the environment within Towne Hall and the Memory Maker building, and Lisa also provided pro bono services during the design of Henri's Starlite Scoops, to ensure that every aspect of the building was sonically pleasing and relaxing for wish families.

Lisa and George's above-and-beyond efforts also include Quietly Making Noise's adoption of two family villas. With a large crew of friends and family, QMN provides maintenance, deep cleaning, landscaping



and other services throughout the year to keep them in top condition for visiting families; and decorates these villas and other buildings at the Village during the holidays. And in 2014, Lisa and George served on the Steering Committee for Extreme Village Makeover, a massive undertaking to renovate all of the villas with the latest interior design finishes and state-of-the-art appliances and fixtures.

"I cannot say enough about Lisa's personal and professional contributions to Give Kids The World," says Give Kids The World President and CEO Pam Landwirth. "We are appreciative beyond words for the innumerable things she has done to ensure our wish families enjoy a relaxing, truly unforgettable stay at the Village."

Among her many accomplishments in the field of acoustical engineering, Lisa, a member of the National Council of Acoustical Consultants, is making it easier for people worldwide to enjoy a peaceful, restful sleep – thanks again to her connection to Henri! Lisa solved a personal noise issue for Henri by inventing her now-patented Shut-Eye™ Acoustical Shutters and installing the prototype in his condominium to block out traffic noise at night.

For more information about Quietly Making Noise, please visit www.quietlymakingnoise.com.

