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Hi, my name is Lashawn Treadway, I'm a speech language pathologist by training and a SAHM of 4. I am the mother of Emerie Treadway. She is a deaf/blind 3 year old that enjoys tickles, singing, and listening to music. Emerie was born deaf/blind due to a partial chromosomal deletion on chromosome 14. She is also non-ambulatory, and a limited verbal speaking child. As a mother to three typical children becoming a special needs mom was a life changing experience and something that I am still learning about and navigating every day.

Beginning at 9 months of age, Emerie began receiving early intervention services for speech therapy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. But with my husband working and three other children I, as Emerie's primary caregiver was very overwhelmed and stressed by all of the medical appointments and activities that Emerie needed to attend in order to afford her a good quality of life. While continuing to provide a stable, supportive life for my family and self.

I heard about the Intervener pilot program through Family Voices Colorado in 2021 and immediately applied in hopes of getting someone to assist me in helping Emerie participate in community activities and attend her appointments. We

were matched with interveners that have been caring, compassionate, and motivated to see Emerie thrive. They have helped Emerie develop skills to improve her quality of life such as fostering nurturing relationships, building trust with unfamiliar others, and assisting with appointments to provide much needed breaks for me as a parent. Since starting the program, I have witnessed Emerie's social skills, and communication skills blossom. The intervener program has afforded my family the ability to entrust our very special daughter to someone that is trained to work with her unique needs while encouraging her to confidently navigate the community by participating in activities that enrich her life and foster trust and independence. We as parents are also able to be confident that Emerie is safe and her needs are being met which gives us the reassurance we need to be able to focus on our other children and things that require our attention. Being a part of the intervener program has given us a sense of community, normalcy and structure that did not exist for us 2 years ago. We are forever grateful to this organization and the people that have made it their mission to positively impact the lives of our deaf/blind child by allowing her to be a part of her community which may not have been possible if this program did not exist.