

### The Safe Alternative

The LeBlanc family has had the pleasure of being one of Bob Baron's miracle patients. Our son, Josh, was born with one perfect ear and one small ear which folded over. From Josh's birth to his teen years we searched for doctors who might suggest a no-risk solution for improving his ear condition. In the meantime we met with parents of children with similar ear problems and observed their failing efforts in ear surgery. Plastic surgery was such a scary experience for some of the children we knew and heard about. They were forced to undergo numerous surgeries and also deal with permanent damage when mishaps occurred. No parent could ever desire such a disheartening and humiliating experience for his or her child. Needless to say, this understanding made us quite skeptical of the surgery procedure and gave us the patience to search out better methods. Initially, Josh was content with his ear situation; however, as he neared high school years, he worried, "Isn't there a doctor or operation that has perfected the ear yet?" Feeling hopeless, we continued to look for an answer but always met the same obstacle: *We cannot guarantee a satisfactory ear for your son.* We still wondered, "Who can?"

Our turning point arrived during Josh's high school senior year. It was at this point that Josh knew he was ready to undergo whatever it took to fix his folded ear. Once more we visited the plastic surgeons office, again we looked at lots of pictures, and again the surgeons warned us that there was no guarantee. They told us the ear would look satisfactory sometimes. We heard new horror stories about cases in which the skin used to construct the new ear began dying which resulted in many more operations. Once and for all we decided against plastic surgery due to the risk. Instead, we went the implant route which created the necessary posts in Josh's small ear to hold the prosthetic ear in place. Afterwards we had the difficult task of finding someone to construct Josh a realistic outer ear. One night while watching TV we saw Bob Barron in action. The show highlighted ears he had made both for a little girl and a burned victim. His work completely impressed us—the ears were perfect. We could hardly believe that such a promising alternative to plastic surgery existed. Shortly thereafter, we contacted Bob

Barron in Virginia and he agreed to make an ear for Josh. Not only did he share pictures of beautiful ears with us, but he *guaranteed* a perfect ear for Josh.

During the ear sculpting process, Bob Barron and his team took great pains to produce an ear made from silicone that matched Josh's normal ear. They took measurements galore and spent hours of their personal time to make Josh an ear that suits him perfectly. The results pleased the whole LeBlanc family. Josh's new ear appears the exact size, shape, and color from the front, back, and sideways. Amazingly, even when sunlight shines through Josh's ears they both look perfectly natural. I believe it is the method, the care, and the artistic nature of Bob Barron that makes his patients happy with each outcome. We are so grateful for the opportunity and results that prosthetic replacement gave us as opposed to the risks of plastic surgery.

Sincerely,

Lacy W LeBlanc