

CEOCFO Magazine

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Drum Echoes, Inc. is developing a revolutionary Biofeedback Wearable Device that reads Stress Levels in Real-Time and helps individuals with ADHD function better and succeed in their Homes, Communities, Schools and Careers

Matt Giordano Founder & CEO

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Interview conducted by: Lynn Fosse, Senior Editor CEOCFO Magazine

CEOCFO: Mr. Giordano, would you tell us about Drum Echoes?

Mr. Giordano: Drum Echoes is a company I started in 2003 to give back what music has given me. I provide drumming workshops, performances and presentations to help people in various ways. I grew up with many struggles from having Tourette syndrome and ADHD. I learned how music can be very helpful other than just the enjoyment of music.

CEOCFO: We came upon Drum Echoes from a recent press release on your bio-feedback therapeutic wearable device. Before you tell me about the device, how do drums help people and in what ways?

Mr. Giordano: For me personally, I have absolutely no symptoms of Tourette syndrome when I play the drums; they go away. It is very therapeutic for me and it can do a lot to help rewire the brain in multiple ways such as strengthening focus, sort through and express complex thoughts and emotions, increase motor control, hand/eye coordination, different kinds of social development, community awareness and team building. The drums and music can do many great things for people in multiple areas of life.

CEOCFO: Does the medical community recognize the affect or is it more grassroots?

Mr. Giordano: I'm not a music therapist but from my personal experiences, research and understanding is the medical community definitely recognizes it as a legitimate therapy. From my observation, many medical healthcare and treatment facilities around the country have been increasing the use of music therapy in the last decade. The growth of research and understanding of music therapy seems to be constantly increasing as well. Famous neurologist Dr. Oliver Sacks wrote a NY TIMES best seller book called Musicophilia. The entire book was about various ways music helps people with different medical conditions. I was mentioned in his book and I was later interviewed in a BBC and PBS Nova Documentary.

CEOCFO: Would you tell us the origin of device?

Mr. Giordano: I have worked with thousands of children and adults with ADHD all over the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and Australia. I have come to learn there are common struggles going on with these individuals as well as with their families and at their schools. I have also learned there are common solutions that can help them through their struggles. The last couple of years, I have done a lot of research and work to carefully select the most effective and common solutions to implement into this device. It's a biofeedback wearable that will read their stress levels in real-time to help the user to determine the root cause of what is triggering their stress and offer a list of effective therapies, action plans and social skills solutions. This will help them to function better and succeed in their community, schools, careers, have better relationships with family members and friends. This product will also help schools to have more productive inclusive classroom environments while saving money from expensive accommodations.

CEOCFO: What are the options?

Mr. Giordano: It will be a comfortable fitted sleeve with conductors for the biofeedback sensors, modules, software and other electronic components to communicate and function with each other. Every adult and child is unique and different. The therapies and techniques I'm implementing are typically beneficial for this overall population but each feature has to be customizable for the specific needs of each individual. There will be a variety of tactile hardware modules providing different therapeutic features for the user to interact with. These modules can be easily attached to the sleeve and easily swapped out to be replaced with another module. The functions of this product will be adaptable to the user's environmental situation so it does not disrupt them or others from their activities. It will be able to do that by having the biofeedback sensors detecting stress and discreetly alerting the user to offer them assistance. The user will be able to easily, quickly and discreetly inform the product which of their senses are currently being used. The product will then use their available senses for therapeutic use. For example, if the user is in a classroom setting and requires them to use their eyes and ears to watch and listen to their teacher for instructions, their hands are available to use for tactile therapeutic purposes. Other examples of their environments may require them to use different senses. This allows the user to receive the benefits of this product in almost every environment and daily living situation.

"There are 6.1 million children in the United States from the ages of 2 to 17 with ADHD, and there are an additional 8 million adults with ADHD. This product will benefit many other markets as well, although people with ADHD are the initial target market."- Matt Giordano

CEOCFO: Would a user need someone to train them on what to pick and choose or do people know for themselves the best course of action?

Mr. Giordano: The device will be simple enough for most users to operate it on their own. It will offer suggested therapeutic solutions as well as course of actions. For example, if the biofeedback sensor detects the user is overheated, it will suggest to get a drink of water or open a window, etc. Overtime, it will help the user to become more self-aware and identify what their triggers are and which techniques and solutions work best for them. This will result in the user functioning better and more independently throughout their life. However, its purpose is to also help strengthen community. It will provide ways to help the user to effectively and appropriately express and communicate their needs with others. As a result, this will help to increase inclusion, understanding, cooperation, and problem solving while reducing ignorance, hurtful and inappropriate behaviors from others within the users community.

CEOCFO: Have similar approaches been tried?

Mr. Giordano: Many of these individual approaches have been done before and proven to be effective but I have not come across another product that has multiple features functioning in this particular way. This is very unique to have these features working together in one cohesive unit but necessary for the most optimal results. It's like a modular multi-featured ecosystem.

CEOCFO: How do you get from where you are to where you need to be to have a viable product?

Mr. Giordano: I need an estimated \$280 thousand to pay for certified therapists to finish the specs for the therapeutic features and beta testing as well as a product design company. Manufacturing costs are unknown at this phase. I'm looking for investors and donations through gofundme. The link is on my website. I have a great team, a business plan and an investor presentation. I know the market very well, many of them personally. I have a very high reputation and many great contacts from my drumming work since 2003. I've also learned a lot about the market and gained even more contacts through my mom. She has been the education specialist for the Tourette Association of America for the past 16 years. When this product is ready to go to market, I'll be able to get it into the hands of many people very quickly.

CEOCFO: How many people could this potentially help? What is the market?

Mr. Giordano: There are 6.1 million children in the United States from the ages of 2 to 17 with ADHD, and there are an additional 8 million adults with ADHD. This product will benefit many other markets as well, although people with ADHD are the initial target market. The other potential markets include seniors and the disabled for independent living, education, medical/therapeutic monitoring and research, physical therapy, health and fitness, training simulations, NASA, gaming and many others.