



We are an organization dedicated to non-biased support to families who have children who are deaf or hard of hearing. We will provide activities and information statewide to parents and professionals that may include outreach events, educational seminars, advocacy, parent-to-parent networking, and newsletters. We believe that families will make the best choices for their child if they have access to good information and support. Our organization represents people who use varying approaches to communication and assistive technology—from American Sign Language to cochlear implants.

MH&V BOARD

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Exciting Changes for Michigan H&V

This past summer has been a busy time for the Michigan Hands and Voices chapter! First off we would like to announce some recent changes to the board of MI H&V. In July, the board voted on new executive positions. MI H&V felt it was time to change things up a little and bring some new energy to the group.

The four positions that were filled included; Director, Co-Director, Secretary and Treasurer. The former members that held these positions remain active on the board and contributing members to the group. The voting came easy and the decisions were unanimous.

We would like to introduce Sonya Adams as the new Director for MH&V. Sonya has two sons, one of whom has a hearing loss. Sonya has been an active member of MH&V for the past 2 years. She is also a Parent mentor in the Guide-By-Your-Side Program for the State of Michigan's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program. Sonya and her family live in Wayne County.

Taking over the Co-Director position is Kylie Sharp. Kylie is new to the group since June of 2006. She is the parent consultant for the MI EHDI program and coordinates the Guide-By-Your-Side program. She is actively involved in various D/HH advisories and committees through out the state. Kylie moved to the United States from Canada in 2000 and has two deaf children.

Linda Wright now has the official title of Secretary, although she has been fulfilling that role for a few years. Linda has been with MI H&V for the past four years and is actively involved with all their activities. She handles all membership issues, emails, and coordinates mailings of the newspaper/newsletter. Linda is an educational audiologist with a private practice in Dewitt. Linda lives with her husband and her young daughter in Clinton County.

Kristy Medes was appointed Treasurer after impressing the group with her many talents! She is a relatively new member of MI H&V but was received with open arms as her enthusiasm and drive were apparent upon meeting her. Kristy has three children and runs a private daycare at her home. Her oldest daughter has a hearing loss and inspired Kristy to get involved with MI H&V.

Welcome new Executive Board Members! MI H&V looks forward to the many unique skills each one of you brings to this group.

MI H&V would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Amy Lester and Melissa Alford, previous executive board members. Both of whom shaped this organization and lifted it off the ground. We are thrilled that they remain on the board and your expertise will sure to be called upon often. Thank you!

Michigan Hands and Voices Motto
*"What works for your Child is what
makes the choice right"*

INTERNET RESOURCES

Michigan Hands &
Voices
www.mihandsandvoices.org

National Hands &
Voices (Colorado)
www.handsandvoices.org

National Association of
the Deaf
www.nad.org

American Society for
Deaf Children
www.deafchildren.org

Gallaudet University
Press
gupress.gallaudet.edu

Listen-Up Resource
Website
www.listen-up.org

e-Michigan Deaf and
Hard of Hearing People
www.michdhh.org

Hearing Loss
Association of America
www.hearingloss.org

Alexander Graham Bell
Association for the Deaf
www.agbell.org

John Tracy Clinic
www.jtc.org

Laurent Clerc National
Deaf Education Center
clerccenter.gallaudet.edu