



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.

Michigan Hands and Voices Motto

"What works for your Child is what makes the choice right"

Michigan H&V MoPix Movie Event

On November 11th, 2006 Michigan H&V hosted a silent auction and movie event in Lansing at Celebration Cinemas. The event was a huge success with over one hundred people in attendance. The morning was kicked off with a silent auction including eleven fantastic items! We would like to thank all the companies that generously donated their goods and/or services. These included: Children's Museum in Grand Rapids, Great Wolf Lodge, Palace of Auburn Hills, Signing OnLine, Style Masters Salon in Garden City, Clarkston Outback Steakhouse, Advanced Audiology, Medes Family, Just Jameen/Deborah Love-Peel, Lansing TGIF, and Applegate H&C. With the help and donations from these companies and individuals, Michigan H&V was able to raise money for our non profit organization and begin planning for our next family event.

Once the silent auction ended, families gathered in their seats to watch *The Santa Clause 3: The Great Escape*. For those who wished to watch the movie with closed captioning, Celebration Cinema provided personal MoPix captioning. What exactly is MoPix Captioning? Motion Picture Access Project shortened to MoPix, is an initiative of the Media Access Group at WGBH (an Educational Foundation in Boston, Massachusetts, whose purpose is to further the general education of the public by offering television, radio, and other telecommunication programs that inform, inspire, and entertain). MoPix was launched in 1992 to research and develop ways of making movies in theaters accessible to deaf, hard of hearing, blind, and visually impaired people through closed captions and descriptive narration.

The patented Rear Window System is an innovative technology that makes it possible for exhibitors to provide closed captions for those who need or desire them without displaying them to the entire audience, and without the need for special prints or separate screenings. The Rear Window Captioning System displays reversed captions on a light-emitting diode (LED) text display which is mounted in the rear of a theater. Patrons use transparent acrylic panels attached to their seats to reflect the captions so that they appear superimposed on or beneath the movie screen. The reflective panels are portable and adjustable, enabling the caption user to sit anywhere in the theater. (This information about MoPix was taken from <http://ncam.wgbh.org/mopix/faq.html>)

Currently in Michigan there are six theatres that offer MoPix captioning in the following cities: Sterling Heights, Livonia, Ypsilanti, Flint, Grand Rapids and Lansing. For a full lists of theatres including addresses please go to the following website - <http://ncam.wbgh.org/mopix/locations.html#mi>

Would you like more information on general captioning? The Captioned Media Program is now the Described and Captioned Media Program (DCMP). It's new home on the internet is - www.dcmp.org



Michigan H&V List-Serve

Do you want to meet local families and learn about upcoming events? Join the Michigan Hands & Voices Yahoo List-Serve. It is a wonderful way to get connected directly to other Michigan H&V members. You can send and receive emails that provide you with a wonderful opportunity to give or receive direct and quick support. Sign up today, it's quick, free and easy - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/handsandvoices-mi>



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News and Events

The Michigan Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program sponsored a Guide-By-Your-Side (GBYS) training seminar in Lansing on November 6th and 7th, 2006. Three presenters from the National Executive Board of Hands & Voices were brought in to facilitate the training sessions. Some of the topics that were presented included:

Mentoring & family Support, Hands & Voices /GBYS partnership, Supporting Families without Bias, Role of a Parent guide, The Art of Storytelling, and Audiology 101. Fourteen of the sixteen Michigan Guides attended the two day training. The Michigan Hands & Voices board members were invited to dinner on the night of November 6th to meet with the Guides in the program. Everyone left with a better understanding of how the Guide-By-Your-Side Program in conjunction with Hands & Voices can be a powerful force for support to families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. For more information on the Michigan Guide-By-Your-Side program please visit: www.michigan.gov/ehdi or contact Kylie Sharp/Parent Consultant at 517 335 8273.



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Coming Soon



4th Annual 2007 Michigan EHDI Conference Thursday, March 1st, 2007 Lansing Center, Lansing Michigan

This conference is designed for Parents, Audiologist and Interventionists.
To view the brochure and access online registration please go to: www.mphi.eductrng.net



Junior Miss Deaf Michigan, Yemaya Sharp, was honored to be a part of the Detroit Thanksgiving Day Parade 2006. Here's what she had to say, "I felt so lucky to ride the float. It was beautiful and there were so many people watching. It was a great event!" Yemaya will continue to appear and present at various events throughout the state including the 2007 Michigan EHDI Conference. If you would like to find out more about the Miss Deaf Michigan Pageant Association please visit their website www.mideaf.org/MissDeafMichigan

MICHIGAN H&V VALUES:

- * Non-Biased Communication Philosophy
- * Parent-to-Parent Support
- * Meaningful Participation
- * Effective Collaboration
- * Setting High Standards in Education
- * Accountability and Responsibility

JOIN MICHIGAN HANDS & VOICES TODAY!

We invite you to become a member of Michigan Hands & Voices. Current membership is free and benefits include: quarterly publications along with the Michigan Hands & Voices Newsletter and the National Hands & Voices Newspaper. You will also benefit from receiving information on valuable resources, including networking opportunities, local and national workshops, web sites, professional contacts, a resource library and more. For more information on membership, please email Michigan Hands & Voices at: info@mihandsandvoices.org or call Kylie Sharp at: 517-335-8273