

Michigan



HANDS & VOICES™

MI Communicator

Volume 3, Issue 2

Spring 2009

Michigan H&V Annual Picnic is May 30 this Year!

Please join us for some fun in the sun! Our picnic will be held on Saturday, May 30, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., at Rayner Park in Mason, Michigan. As always, our picnic is **FREE**, and food will be provided. The picnic promises to be fun for the whole family. There will be sports and games for all ages, and the park has a play structure as well. For more information and to sign up, contact:

info@mihandsandvoices.org or Kristy at: 517-882-8852. Rayner Park is located at 730 East Ash St., Mason, MI, 48854 (Ingham County). The web address for Rayner Park is: <http://ingham.org/pk/BUR/raynermain.htm>



- * ASL INTERPRETERS
- * Handicap Parking
- * Wheelchair accessible picnic structure and restrooms

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Advocacy Workshop Held in Kalamazoo

Michigan Hands & Voices hosted a Parent Advocacy Workshop at the Kalamazoo RESA Center on April 24th, 2009. Leanne Seaver, M.A., Executive Director of the national chapter of Hands & Voices, spoke on "Education Law:

How it applies to D/HH children." Attorney Sid Kraizeman, a special education law attorney, discussed applicable Michigan law. The workshop provided invaluable information to the parents in attendance. Thanks to all

those who participated. And thanks to Kristy and Becky for organizing this event!



Hands & Voices National Leadership Conference

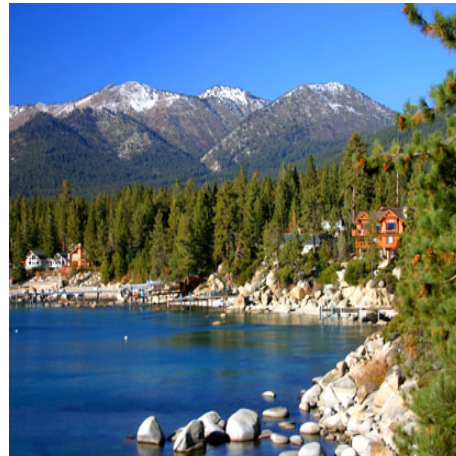
The 2009 Hands & Voices National Leadership Conference will be held on June 18-20, 2009, at the Northstar Resort in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. The national conference is designed for H&V chapter leaders, parents of children who are deaf or hard of Hearing, and the professionals who work with us!

Topics include: educational advocacy and special education law, talking to D/HH children about sex, parent-to parent mentoring, the Guide By Your Side program.

Resort accommodations and gorgeous

scenery will contribute to your quality of life while at the conference. See more information about the Northstar Resort at www.northstarattahoe.com.

Visit www.handsandvoices.org for registration & program information.



Deaf Celebration Day 2009

Come out and celebrate! Festivities will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2009, from 10:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m., at the Northland Center (new location) in Southfield, Michigan.

For information, contact DEAF C.A.N.! at 248 332 3323 tty or 248 332 3331 voice or 248 332 7334 fax or deafcan@deafcan.org.

You won't want to miss this FUN and EXCITING event— Attendance in 2007 was over 1,000 people!

We're Growing...

Our chapter is growing and looking to do more programs throughout the state. **Want To Help?** If you are looking for a way to become involved and to make a difference in the lives of deaf and hard of hearing children and their families, we would love to hear from you. We have an opening on our Board of Directors. Other possibilities include: event planning, regional outreach, and membership updates.

So, whether you have a lot of time or just little, whether you know how you would like to be involved or not, please contact Laura Scott at (517) 335-8131 or scottL5@michigan.gov.

yahoo.com. We

Quota Scrapbooking Event to Benefit MI H&V

By Becky Mucha

The first annual scrapbooking fundraiser held recently at the Kalamazoo KRESA was a huge success and fun for all. The event was organized by Quota International of Kalamazoo. Moms and professionals enjoyed chatting and cropping the day away. Funds raised will be used to fund future Michigan H&V events for D/HH families in Southwest Michigan. Our own Kristy won the raffle for the Cricut! There were also fabulous gift baskets raffled. We would like to thank Quota for organizing this terrific event. Also A BIG THANK YOU to Nancy G. for all of her

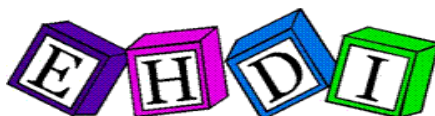
hard work. We appreciate everyone who attended and everyone who donated time and materials to this fun day.



It's Not Too Late...

Michigan EHDI Conference Available on Webcast!

The Michigan Department of Community Health, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program's fifth annual EHDI Conference for audiologists, interventionists and parents was held on March 19, 2009. The conference was held for families of young children with hearing loss and professionals who work with D/HH children. Speakers were Joy Peterson and Eileen Rall, Audiologists from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and Kathy Rheume, Counselor for the D/HH program in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Inspirational speakers Christian Young and Devin Haberling (students with hearing loss) were by many accounts the "highlights of the day and an inspiration to everyone there" (conference participant). Many were moved almost to tears by their strength individual success. Now you can see all sessions on webcast at: www.michigan.gov/ehdi.



Early Hearing, Detection
and Intervention Program

EHDI Conference 2010

Do you have ideas for the next EHDI conference? Plans are underway, and EHDI staff would like your input. If you have ideas for presenters and/or topics, please contact EHDI Manager Jeff Spitzley at spitzleyj2@michigan.gov or (517) 335-8131

YOU OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES!!!

EHDI is in the process of updating its parent notebook (a resource guide for parents). The notebook is given to parents whose child has just been diagnosed with hearing loss. The first section of the notebook has personal, inspirational stories and testimonies of other parents who have "been there." We are looking for more parent stories to go into the newest edition of the notebook. By sharing your personal celebrations of your child, you would inspire other parents by letting them know they are not alone. We

would also like to include a picture of your family. If you would like to add your story, please contact Laura Scott (Parent Consultant) at (517) 335-8273 or



scottL5@michigan.gov. If your story is featured in the current addition, we would love to include an update on your family for the next edition!!!!

***Deadline for submissions is June 15, 2009**

*Share your Story—
Make a difference*

Looking for Parents!

Michigan Hands & Voices, Guide By Your Side and EHDI are seeking Michigan parents of children who are D/HH to serve as Parent Guides in the Guide By Your Side Program. Parent Guides are paid a stipend for home visits, and are reimbursed for mileage.

Specifically, EHDI is looking for Guides in the thumb area (Saginaw), northern lower around Traverse City and Petoskey, central and southwest Michigan.

Spanish speakers and fathers are also needed. For more information, contact Laura Scott: ScottL5@michigan.gov

Calling all Artists!

The Michigan Deaf Association (MDA) and VOICE, Inc, are sponsoring a Deaf Art Competition in conjunction with the 2009 MDA Biennial Conference. The contest is open to any Deaf or Hard of Hearing individual living within the State of Michigan. Separate divisions are set up for youth and adults, and there will be categories for many different artistic media. All entries received will be displayed at the MDA 2009 Biennial Conference from August 26—30 in Bay City. Deadline for entries is June 15, 2009. Visit www.mideaf.org for details. Questions? Contact Molly Horwath at mhorwath@spsd.net or 989.399.6362 OR Sandra Casey at scasey@spsd.net or 989.399.6361.

Summer Camps

The following are lists of summer camps, programs and events for children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families. Michigan Hands & Voices (MI H&V) provides this list as information only, for the benefit of our members. MI H&V does not endorse or financially support these events.

Camp Chris Williams

Who: D/HH children, siblings and children of deaf adults, ages 8-14 years old.

Where: Lake Sherman YMCA

When: August 16 - 21

Ralph Lynman Leadership Institute

Who: D/HH students ages 16-19 (10th grade and up). This is a great camp to learn about transitioning skills to prepare students for college as well as the "real world."

Where: Lake Sherman YMCA

When: August 15 - 21

Contact: Michigan Association for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MADHH) (for both camps)

PH: (517) 487-0066 ext 16

VP: (517) 487-0202

Email: info@madhh.org

Web: www.MADHH.org

Scholarships are available.

Michigan AG Bell Camp

Who: Oral D/HH children entering grades 3-

wishing to learn sign language.

Where: 1124 Ventura Dr,
Brooklyn, MI, 49230

When: June, July, and August, 2009

Contact: (517) 592-8218

*The center offers multiple summer programs and art/drama workshops taught by deaf adults. *For a complete listing of all summer programs go to: www.desales.org

12 will be accepted into the program at YMCA STORER CAMPS. A counselor in training program is available for campers entering grades 11 & 12.

Where: Irish Hills, Michigan

When: July 5—17, 2009

Contact:

Mark Reeve: (313) 331-2378 or

<http://www.agbell.org/MI>

Holly Family Village/DeSales Center

Who: D/HH, children and adults



Lions Bear Lake Camp

Who: D/HH children and their families. Camps are for those who use spoken language as their primary mode of communication.

Where: 3409 N. Five Lakes Rd, Lapeer, MI 48446

When: Family session: June 26 -28; Youth session: July 5-11, 2009

*There will be a free open house on June 26 (10-12)

Contact: Ph: (810) 245-0726 or www.bearlakecamp.org/services/HI.htm



Sign Language Classes for Kids & Adults

Who: Children and adults (deaf, hard of hearing, & hearing)

When: Multiple 4-day sessions in June and July

Where: Oakland Schools, 2111 Pontiac Lake Rd, Waterford, MI 48328

Contact: www.oakland.k12.mi.us or Michelle Evert at (248) 209-2000

STEM CAMP

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS

July 16th & 17th, 2009

9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Eastern Michigan University

Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197



The Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Camp is a two-day non-residential Camp for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students who will complete the 8th, 9th, 10th or 11th grade by June 2009.

Upcoming Events

ASL Night @ the Lugnuts & Shock Games

On **Friday, June 19, 2009**, MADHH is sponsoring "American Sign Language Night" at the Shock basketball game. Then on **Thursday, July 16, 2009** MADHH will host a similar event at the Lugnuts baseball game. All persons with hearing loss, interpreters, friends and family are welcome! Deaf and hard of hearing high school students will sign the Pledge of Allegiance before the first pitch of the Lugnuts game! A portion of the proceeds will be used by MADHH to support future leadership activities for youth of the D/HH community. Tickets can be purchased directly from MADHH. **Contact:** MADHH at PH: (517) 487-0066 ext 16; VP: (517) 487-0202; Email: info@madhh.org

On **Saturday, June 6, 2009**, Midway Elementary School is hosting an all-day charity crop in Holt Michigan. The event is a fundraiser to raise money

Summer Shared Reading Program at MSD

Michigan School for the Deaf (MSD) is offering a 7-week Summer Shared Reading program beginning July 1, 2009 at the Learning Resource Center on the MSD campus. The program is open to D/HH children (ages birth to 10 years old) and their parents/caregivers. Parents and caregivers will learn to share popular children's stories using American Sign Language with their D/HH child and will be able to borrow Shared Reading Project Bookbags to use at home. The program is **free** of charge. For more information or to register, contact Becky Calaman at 810. 257. 1486 or calamanR@michigan.gov.

Do you want to meet local families and learn about upcoming events?

Join the Michigan Hands & Voices Yahoo listserv. It is a wonderful way to get connected directly to other families in the D/HH community both locally and nationally. 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! Just go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/handsandvoices-mi>

Calling All Scrapbookers & Stampers

for acoustical panels in the school's gymnasium. Lunch is included in ticket price (\$25.00 per person, ages 13 and up). There will be nine hours of scrapping and stamping. You can enter to win a free Cricut (raffle tickets are \$5 each). There will be scrapbook and stamping demos, and bargain bin shopping – all in a fun atmosphere while supporting a great charity! For more information, Contact Kristy at kmedes@hpsk12.net Space is limited; please register before May 22.

UPDATES!!

MI H&V continues to receive information about other camps and programs for the summer. Sign up for our Yahoo listserv to ensure prompt notification of all summer activities! If you are hosting a camp, event, or program, just email: HandsandVoices-MI@yahoogroups.com, and we will forward the information to our listserv!



We're on the WEB!

www.mihandsandvoices.org

OUR MISSION:

Michigan Hands & Voices is dedicated to non-biased support of families who have children who are deaf or hard of hearing. We are a parent-driven, non-profit organization providing families with the resources, networks, and information they need to improve communication access and educational outcomes for their children. Our outreach activities, parent/professional collaboration, and advocacy efforts are focused on enabling Deaf and Hard of Hearing children to reach their highest potential.

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. outcomes for their children.

We Need All of Your HANDS & VOICES!

If you or your child/student talks or signs...if you talk and sign, or cue, or care, we need you. If you are directly, indirectly or potentially involved with children who are Deaf /hard of hearing and their families, we need you. We need to be united by our hands and/or voices. We are parents, professionals, adult mentors, consumers and others who are connected to a cause and to each other through the Deaf/hard of hearing communities. We are Hands & Voices. We invite you to become a member of Michigan Hands & Voices. For more information on membership, please email us at info@mihandsandvoices.org or by calling Laura Scott at: 517-335-8273.

Contact Us:

Michigan Hands & Voices

P.O. Box _____

Lansing, Michigan

info@mihandsandvoices.org

MI H&V Executive Board Members

Director — Laura Scott

Co-Director — Becky Mucha

Treasurer — Kristy Medes

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Michigan Department of Community Health and HRSA*