

Michigan



HANDS & VOICES™

MI Communicator

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New Leadership, New Direction

—By Laura Scott, Director

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As the Director of MI H&V, I am excited about taking our organization to a higher level! We are headed in a new direction — one where we reach more families, have more events, and provide more information on hearing loss to our families and professionals.

As you know, this past year we have had a lot of transition in our leadership. Kristy Medes served her term as treasurer and decided to step down from the Board of Directors. I would like to thank her for her unyielding dedication to our organization and for keeping things going through the many changes.

I would like to welcome our newest members of the Executive Board: Rebecca Calaman, MA, NCC, LPC, and Lindsay Shields, BA. Becky is our new Co-Director, and Lindsay is our new Treasurer. Both joined the Board of Directors as Advisory Members this year. They agreed to step into these positions to ensure that our Board of Directors maintains continuity in strong, committed leadership.

Becky is the mother of three, one of whom is Deaf. She is also the Outreach Director at Michigan School for the Deaf (MSD) and the former Director of the Families in Transition Program at Deaf Community Advocacy Network (DEAF C.A.N.!). Becky has a degree in Sign Language Studies. She has served on various non-profit boards and is a

member of state and national organizations dedicated to the needs of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families.

Lindsay has a bachelor's degree in speech pathology and audiology from Western Michigan University. She also has studied American Sign Language, having completed four levels of sign language studies.

As our new leaders settle in and we begin to plan events for the next year, we would like to hear your suggestions. What events/programs would you like to see? What topics interest you? In what area of the state would you like to see MI H&V host an event? Would you be interested in online training?

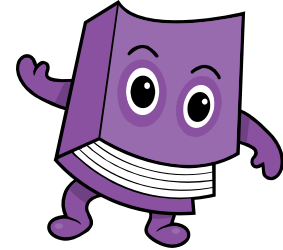
Over the next year, we need to increase our member participation and volunteer network. We are a volunteer organization, and WE NEED YOU! Whether you have a lot of time or a little, your time and talents are needed so that we can continue to sponsor programs and events throughout the year. *See page 4 for a complete list of volunteer opportunities.*

National H&V Unveils New Communication Choices Book

Hands &Voices has a wonderful new book called “The Book of Choice.” The resource book was edited by National H&V’s Executive Director, Leeanne Seaver and has received rave reviews. It has been described as “an amazing resource that captures that unique quality, and opens our minds to broader, more holistic views of parenting a child with hearing loss. It’s just the kind of thing you’d expect from Hands & Voices.”

- Christine Yoshinaga-Itano, PhD

The book is perfect for Early Intervention home visits, patients, and more. Books can be purchased through the national website: www.HandsandVoices.org (“follow the products” link).



Deaf Celebration Day 2009

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

Michigan Hands & Voices will be exhibiting at Deaf Celebration Day. Come out and celebrate with us 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.

New Website for Parents and Educators — Hands & Voices is Partner

The Center for Education Research Partnerships at RIT/NTID, in partnership with National Hands & Voices, recently launched a new website. The website is a source of information for parents, teachers, and others interested in raising and educating deaf and hard-of-hearing children. It has no philosophical orientation or agenda beyond being able to offer evidence-based answers to questions aimed at improving opportunities and outcomes for deaf and hard-of-hearing children. Experts are lined up to answer questions, and a calendar of upcoming events is featured that may be

of interest to parents and educators.

Check it out!

www.educatingdeafchildren.org

Spotlight on...Guide By Your Side

Did you know that Guide By Your Side (GBYS) is a Michigan Hands & Voices program that is funded and coordinated by the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program? Guide By Your Side began here in 2005, and is an exciting service that provides an opportunity for a family who has just learned of their child's hearing loss to meet with another parent of a deaf or hard-of-hearing child (Parent Guide). Parent Guides understand what the family may be experiencing and can answer their questions. The program is free to all Michigan families and is designed for families of children up to six years of

age (families of older children are encouraged to call as well). The Parent Guides are members of Michigan Hands & Voices and they understand the unique needs of infants and young children who are deaf or heard of hearing. Families who sign up for the program also receive a free copy of the Babies and Hearing Loss notebook. The interactive notebook contains a wealth of resources and information and is designed to help parents and/or caregivers keep track of their child's appointments, progress and other valuable information. If you, or a family



you know, could benefit from the GBYS program, enrolling is confidential and easy. For more information, contact Laura

Scott at (517) 335-8273 or
scottL5@michigan.gov.
ttL5@michigan.gov.

EHDI is Hiring

EHDI is seeking Michigan parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing to serve as Parent Guides in MI H&V's 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 peninsula around Traverse City and Petoskey, central and

southwest Michigan.

Spanish speakers and fathers are also needed. For more information, contact Laura Scott at (517) 335-8273 or scottL5@michigan.gov.

SAVE THE DATE!

The 2010 Michigan EHDI conference will be held on Friday, February 26, 2010, at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing, Michigan.

Also, MI Hands & Voices will host a pre-conference dinner for parents on Thursday, February 25th. Mark your calendars!



SHARE YOUR STORY

EHDI is in the process of updating the Babies and Hearing Loss 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 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 will inspire other parents by letting them know they are not alone. We would also like to include a picture of your family. If your story is featured in the current addition, we would love to include an update on your family for the next edition!!!! If you

would like to add your story or have any questions, please contact Laura Scott at (517) 335-8273 or scottL5@michigan.gov. *Sample stories and editing help are available!*

Volunteer Opportunities

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, MI H&V needs you. Whether you have a lot of time or just a 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.

- **Board of Directors — Secretary**

- Record minutes at the Board of Director meetings (every other month)
- Maintain membership information
- Serve as the Chair of at least one committee
- Occasionally draft correspondence

***Each year, MI H&V pays for one member of the Board of Directors to attend the National Hands & Voices National Conference.

- **Regional Representatives** (several needed throughout the state to plan and host one networking/social event per year in your area (examples include: movies, museums, scrapbooking events, etc. . .)

- **Event Committees** --We need chairpersons and volunteers for the following events:

- Advocacy Training (will be held in the Oakland County area next year)
- Annual Summer Picnic
- Pre-Conference Parent Dinner (new event to be held at the EHDI Conference)
- Mom's Night Inn (new event--hotel stay, spa treatment, and workshops for Moms)
- Dad's Outing (new event) (men, we need you to plan an outing just for Dads!)
- Holiday Party/Dinner (new event)

- **Other Committees:**

- Newsletter (soliciting articles and researching article ideas)
- Website updates (current events and information)
- Website design (ad hoc committee that will work over upcoming months with a professional web designer to redesign our website)

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>

August Summer Camps

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

Camp Destination '09

Who: D/HH children ages 8 - 18

Where: Camp Innisfree

2005 W. Schafer Road

Howell, MI 48843

When: August 9th-14th, 2009

Contact: DRAGAN JAKSIC

Email: DJAKSIC@CACDHH.org

VP: (209) 124-3563

Annual week-long fun-filled activities by the lake in the woods!

Scholarships Available!!!

Holley Family Village/DeSales Center

Who: D/HH, children and adults wishing to learn sign language.

Where: 1124 Ventura Dr,

Brooklyn, MI, 49230

When: June, July, and August, 2009

Contact: (517) 592-8218

www.desales.org

*The center offers multiple summer programs and art/drama workshops taught by deaf adults.

Full Scholarships Available!!**

Camp Chris Williams

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

Where: Lake Sherman YMCA, Augusta, MI

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, Augusta, MI

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

****Full-ride scholarships available for students/campers in the St. Clair County area!** Scholarships can be used for either **Leadership or Camp Chris** subject to eligibility requirements.

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@yahoo.com, and we will forward the information to our listserv!



**HANDS &
VOICES™**

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.

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 10038

Lansing, Michigan 48913

info@mihandsandvoices.org

MI H&V Executive Board Members

Director — Laura Scott

Co-Director — Rebecca Calaman

Treasurer — Lindsay Shields

Secretary — Vacant

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