

OUR MISSION:

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 “

Top reasons you know you’re the parent of a deaf or hard of hearing child:

- 1) You don’t have to be quiet after your child has gone to sleep.
- 2) You can locate the ring of feedback from a hearing aid faster than google maps can locate your house.
- 3) When you can scold your child in the grocery store without anyone ever knowing.
- 4) When you know where Gallaudet University is located.
- 5) When you know Alexander Graham Bell did more than just invent the telephone.
- 6) When you wish you could personally enroll into “Intervention”.
- 7) When you struggle with read aloud books.
- 8) You have dismantled large pieces of furniture looking for a lost processor.
- 9) When you know I.D.E.A. has nothing to do with a random thought.
- 10) When you’ve duct taped your child’s hearing aid batteries in place, hoping that they will last while at school.
- 11) When your child “plugs his ears” by covering his eyes.
- 12) When you discover, while trying to translate into sign, that common nursery rhymes make absolutely no sense at all.
- 13) When you know the terms “cookie bite” and “speech banana” have nothing to do with food.

Top 10 commonly asked questions to parents of deaf or hard of hearing children:

- 1) Your house must be so quiet?
- 2) Does your child know Braille?
- 3) How long did it take your child to “do” sign language?
- 4) Can your baby lip-read?
- 5) My sister in laws, great aunt’s cousin is deaf.
- 6) Are you sure she can’t hear?
- 7) Are you going to have another baby?
- 8) Oh, that’s so sad, or I’m so sorry.
- 9) I’m sure they can find a way to *fix* it?
- 10) We taught our kid sign language too. She can say “please” and “cookie.”



Developed by the Oakland County, MI regional group of MI H&V.

Michigan H&V List-Serve for Members



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! Just go to - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/handsandvoices-mi>

Michigan Hands & Voices is partially funded by a grant through Michigan Department of Community Health and HRSA

Coming Soon



Early Hearing, Detection
and Intervention Program

Presents...

2008 EHDI Parent Support Conference

When: Saturday, March 15, 2008

Time: 9-4pm (Registration begins at 8am)

Where: Hotel Baronette, 27790 Novi Rd., Novi, MI, 48377

Featuring Leeanne Seaver & Janet DesGeorges
from the Executive Board of National Hands &
Voices

Register online at: www.mphi.eductrng.net

or call EHDI for more information:

EHDI program line: (517) 335-8955

EHDI video phone: (517) 335-8273



Michigan
**HANDS &
VOICES**

Presents...

Parent Advocacy Workshop

When: Friday, March 14, 2008

Time: 5-6pm Social Hour w/ Dinner, 6-8pm Presenta-
tion

Where: Northville City Hall, 215 W. Main Street,
Northville, MI, 48167

Featuring Janet DesGeorges from the Executive
Board of National Hands & Voices

Call or email Kristy Medes for more information:

PH: (517) 694-3079

VP: (517) 335-8273

Email: sharpk@michigan.gov

(See attached flyer for specific details)

MI H&V Executive Board Members

Director - Open position
Co-Director - Kylie Sharp
Co-Director - Kristy Medes
Treasurer - Kristy Medes
Secretary - Linda Wright

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED?

MI H&V is always looking to
expand our Board of Directors
and our Advisory Board. If
you would like more
information on how to apply
to become an active part of
MI H&V, please email:
info@mihandsandvoices.org .

A list of dates and times of
our Board Meetings in 2008
will be sent out on our list-
serve. Come see what we're
all about!

***Changes with Michigan H&V Membership* JOIN MICHIGAN HANDS & VOICES TODAY!**

For the past several years MI H&V has happily offered our membership for free. Unfortunately, we are no longer able to do so because of high mailing costs of our quarterly mailings for more than 400 members statewide as well as hosting our outreach events. **Beginning January 2008 we are requesting a yearly membership fee of \$10 for family and \$20 for professional/organization.** To give families and professionals time to adjust, membership fees are due on/by March 15th, 2008. We hope that you will continue to support our nonprofit organization and allow us to be a voice for all Michigan children with hearing loss and their families. The registration brochure is included in this mailing for your convenience. For more information on membership, please email Michigan Hands & Voices at: info@mihandsandvoices.org or call Kylie Sharp at: PH: 517-335-8273 / VP: 517-335-8273. We invite you to become a member of Michigan Hands & Voices (MI H&V). Your membership benefits include: quarterly publications along with the MI H&V Newsletter and the National H&V Newspaper, valuable resources, networking opportunities, local and national work-shops, web sites, professional contacts, list-serve, and more.

Interested in submitting an article? If so, please send it via email to:
info@mihandsandvoices.org . We would love to hear from you!



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