

Hands & Voices

Annual Report
2014-2015



PASSION

Leadership

PARENT DRIVEN

UNBIASED SUPPORT

“Follow your passion, be prepared to work hard and sacrifice, and, above all, don’t let anyone limit your dreams.”

- Donovan Bailey



HANDS &
VOICES™



ADVOCACY
SUPPORT &
TRAINING



GUIDE BY
YOUR SIDE™

www.handsandvoices.org

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MISSION STATEMENT

Hands & Voices is a parent driven organization that supports families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing without a bias around communication modes or methodology.

VISION STATEMENT

We envision a world where children who are deaf and hard of hearing have every opportunity to achieve their full potential.



“Our records show that at least 15 of our participants found out about our study directly from your website; others learned of it second hand, i.e. information from Hands & Voices was forwarded through an email or listserv. Thank you again support the research efforts of ours and others.”

– A researcher who utilized the H&V research section of the website

“Hands & Voices is clearly a pillar of the deaf and hard of hearing community and a significant part of my life. After learning that our youngest daughter was single-sided deaf, I faced the same emotions any parent would experience; fear, distress, and unfamiliarity. I cannot express how fortunate I feel that I was provided with a remarkable Guide-by-Your-Side. She put me at ease with her calm demeanor while explaining how her and her deaf son overcame many of the obstacles they encountered.”

– A Mom from Indiana

The H&V Year at a Glance

- H&V **Chapter Count:** Authorized: 42 Provisional: 1
- H&V **Guide By Your Side** Programs: 23; The GBYS Health Assessment and Annual Program Goals showed great growth and support to families.
- H&V **ASTra** (Advocacy Support and Training) Programs Count: 2
- **Tech Support** to chapters and their leaders; Updated Organizational Manual implemented.
- 12th Annual Hands & Voices **Leadership Conference** held in Sept. 2015 in New Braunfels, Texas.
- **2014 Seaver Vision Award** given to Susan Wiley M.D., and Karen Wisinski (MI GBYS).
- Continued **Spanish Speaking** Support Forum with increased leadership and materials on website.
- **Expanded Staff time** to meet the needs of programs, chapters, and projects at the headquarter level.
- H&V **Representation** on national/international boards and committees.
- H&V **D/HH Infusion Project** ensures meaningful involvement of adults who are D/HH; Increased number of chapter Boards with D/HH representation.
- The **Hands & Voices Communicator** distributed over 5,500 4 times a year.
- **Research section** of the website recruited many parents for research/survey studies.
- **U.S./Russian Peer-to-Peer Dialogue Program** with H&V information translated into Russian.
- H&V **Regional Coordinators** served 11 geographical regions of North America and Canada for H&V chapter interaction.
- H&V expanded **Deafed.net** website with 34,000 registered users, content areas for professionals in the education of children who are D/HH.
- The **O.U.R. Project** – Observing, Understanding, and responding to Child Abuse and Neglect for our children who are deaf/hard of hearing; Quilt Project, presented at national conferences.
- Partnering with **Research/National Projects:** The CU Boulder NECAP Project; CDC Projects from the Parent to Parent Committee; NCHAM Parent Advisory; AAP EHDI QI Committee; PEPNET Summit; Coalition for Global Hearing Health.
- Dissemination of **online, accessible webinar** basic courses for board and chapter development.
- Hands & Voices on **Twitter:** 3829 followers, and increase of almost 20% from last year.
- Hands & Voices **Facebook** page has over 3951 ‘likes,’ and increase of 30% in one year.
- Continued **H&V Blog** at <http://handsandvoices.org/deafhardofhearingchildren/>.
- H&V **E-News** published cutting edge news six times a year to up to 10,000 people.
- H&V **Products** Educational Advocacy Guidebook, Loss & Found video, Book of Choice in English and Spanish sales continued.
- **www.handsandvoices.org** has over 12,000 unique visitors a month; new Spanish resources on the website



Some of the H&V HQ Staff after the Leadership Conference

“To hear their journey as a parent of child with hearing loss adds a different dynamic to the process that we, as audiologists, do not always get to experience. What was most interesting to me was the different choices that each family made and how the factors that helped them come to those decisions.”

– An audiology student after hearing H&V parents discuss their stories in a graduate class.

Financial Support

Hands & Voices is grateful for the financial support it received in this fiscal year from the following:

- Caption Colorado
- Colorado Hearing Foundation
- Deafed.net project
- Gallaudet University (RERC Grant)
- Giving Tuesday
- Hear the World Foundation
- National Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM)
- “NSSHLA Loves” Campaign
- Oberkotter Foundation
- University of CO Boulder NECAP and RERC Grant
- U.S. State Dept. (Peer-to-Peer Dialogue Program)

And of course, Individual Donors like you!

We are very proud of the impact we have as an organization with limited funding, and utilize every dollar for the fulfillment of our mission to support families who have children who are deaf/hard of hearing.



“It was a wonderful conference! Sometimes, we just have to carry on through our storm without exact guidance. The support *through* the storm is what makes the difference. Your support, the support from everyone, was so overwhelming, that all of a sudden my storm doesn’t feel as strong as it was before. Nothing has changed except for the support. That’s why I whole heartedly believe and support H&V, and everything we all stand for! It’s a wonderful thing! Thank you!!!” - Kodi

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“What works for your child is what makes the choice right.”