

# Hands & Voices

Annual Report  
2018-2019



# INFLUENCE

## Leadership

PARENT DRIVEN

UNBIASED SUPPORT

*“The key to successful leadership is influence, not authority”*

*- Kenneth H. Blanchard*



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# H&V Board of Directors 2018-2019

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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.



“... I realized I could become a leader, that I wanted to help families on the journey. That was my why. But helping families along the journey isn’t really enough of a why. What you really want is to help families discover and enjoy and thrive in their own journey. – Karen Putz, D/HH Infusion Director, H&V HQ

“My experience was beyond what I had imagined! I met a great group of people with the same passion and drive as me. I went to sessions that were thought provoking and motivating. I was pushed out of my comfort zone and grew so much because of it...I’m beyond thankful for my first Hands & Voices conference experience.”

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

# The H&V Year at a Glance

## Who We've Reached

### Social Media/Website presence

- Hands & Voices on Twitter: 60,823 reach
- Hands & Voices Instagram: 2,192 likes
- Hands & Voices Facebook page has over 8412 'likes' and increase of 18% in one year. (over 33,000 FB followers reported at the Chapter level)
  - Hands & Voices D/HH Plus Facebook page has 536 members.
  - Hands & Voices Military Facebook page has 214 members, a 30% increase.
  - Hands & Voices Spanish Facebook page has 130 members.
- H&V E-News published cutting edge news six times a year disseminated to up to 11,400 people per issue.
- www.handsandvoices.org has over 12,000 unique visitors a month; Spanish resources on website.

### H&V Programs

- H&V U.S./Canada Chapter Count: Authorized: 44; Provisional: 2; South Dakota, Utah.
  - New Chapters New Hampshire and Rhode Island.
- H&V **Guide By Your Side** Programs: 26 (increase of 1); promoting social, emotional well-being of families, systems navigation, and empowerment by trained Parent Guides and D/HH Guides. 3,475 families supported one-to-one; 217 trained parent guides, an increase of 35 guides.
- H&V **ASTra Programs** (Educational Advocacy Support and Training) Programs Count: 11; 529 families served; 45 ASTra Advocates; ASTra Basic Training conducted in 17 states and over 1,000 individuals.
- **Tech Support from HQ staff** to chapters, programs and their leaders; responded to over 4,248 inquiries/reaches.
- **Chapters held 467 events for families** in the U.S. and Canada reaching approximately 12,000 individuals.
- Many Chapters with **expertise serving families including unique populations:** deaf/plus, unilateral, premature infants, Auditory Neuropathy, Deaf/Blind, Connexin 26, BAHA implants, families in low resourced communities, Deaf/Autism, Microtia, Atresia, Deaf/Mental Health, Deaf/Down Syndrome, Foster children, LVAS, Chinese speaking, Hmong Speaking

## What We've Done

- 15th Annual Hands & Voices **Leadership Conference** held in Sept. 2018 in Cheyenne, WY with over 225 participants
- Continued **Spanish Speaking Support Council** with increased leadership and materials on website.
- H&V **Regional Coordinators** served 11 geographical regions of North America and Canada for H&V Chapter interaction.
- Dissemination of **online, accessible webinar and zoom classes** for board and Chapter development.
- **Expanding Staff time** to meet the needs of programs, Chapters, and projects at the headquarter level

- **2018 Seaver Vision Award** given to Lisa Crawford (TX)
- **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 and increasing family opportunities for Deaf/HH mentors and role models.
- Partnering/representing families with **Research/National Projects:** The CU Boulder NECAP Project; CDC hosted projects from the EHDI Parent to Parent Committee; NCHAM Parent Advisory; AAP EHDI Committee; CLERC Center Advocacy App project and FL3, Oberkottor Family Engagement projects, DHAA Alliance; NLCS; DCMP
- Family Engagement in **Quality Improvement** efforts with NCHAM and the AAP.

### Dissemination of Information, Tools and Resources

- Eight new blog entries at **H&V Blog** at <https://handsandvoices.org/deafhardofhearingchildren/>
- Developed the **Parent Event Guide** (CNMI)
- Developed the Guide for Parent/Professional Partnerships in Hearing Healthcare (Phonak)
- The **Hands & Voices Communicator** distributed to over 5,800 four times a year.
- **H&V Products** Educational Advocacy Guidebook, *Book of Choice* in English and Spanish, *We are Hands & Voices – Stories of Families* dissemination continued.
- **Social Media** presence (see 'who we've reached' above)
- **Research section** of the website recruited many parents for research/survey studies.

### Additional Projects

- H&V **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, started Literacy project, created Safety Toolkit for families.
- **International** projects including: Family Centered Early Intervention Conference, support to family-based organizations around the world, board member for Coalition for Global Hearing Health and Global Parents of Deaf/HH Kids (GPODHH)
- **Leadership:** Piloted Hands & Voices **Leadership to Leadership Program (L2L)** resulting in 12 graduates in year one.
- **The Hands & Voices Family Leadership in Language and Learning Project (FL3)**
- **FL3 website** <https://www.handsandvoices.org/fl3/index.html>
- Two advisory boards (language and literacy; Deaf/Hard of Hearing)
- 5 goal areas addressed in the areas of: parent leadership, increased partnerships in EHDI, language and literacy development, increased access to parent-to-parent support, increased access to D/HH mentors/role models/guides.

# Financial Support

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS). HRSA supports the Family Leadership in Language and Learning project activities. This new program's goal is ensuring that families of children who are D/HH are leaders within their states EHDl system. The H&V FL3 is supported under grant number UJ1MC30748-01-00 for Family Leadership In Language and Learning for \$1,500,000.00. (three years)



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

- **National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM).** *Hands & Voices is proud to partner with NCHAM, as a primary funder to Hands & Voices and collaborative partner for the efforts of family engagement.*
- **Caption Colorado**
- **Deafed.net project**
- **Gallaudet University (RERC Grant)**
- **Clerc Center at Gallaudet (FL3 partner)**
- **Annual Conference Sponsors:**
  - *Med-el*
  - *National Technical Institute for the Deaf*
  - *National Deaf Center*
  - *Oticon*
  - *Akouos*
- **Giving Tuesday**
- **Oberkötter Foundation**
- **University of CO Boulder NECAP and RERC Grant**
- **HRSA FL3 Cooperative Agreement (HRSA Grant # UJ1MC30748-01-00)**
- **Centers for Disease Control (CDC)**

***And of course, individual donors like you!***

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



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