

Hands & Voices

Annual Report
2021-2022



STRENGTH

Leadership

PARENT-DRIVEN UNBIASED SUPPORT

"We don't even know how strong we are until we are forced to bring that hidden strength forward."

— Isabel Allende



HANDS &
VOICES™



ADVOCACY
SUPPORT &
TRAINING



GUIDE BY
YOUR SIDE™

www.handsandvoices.org

H&V Board of Directors 2021 - 2022

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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.

"This conference felt like a warm hug. It felt like the conference was developed keeping in mind not just the content, but the experience of the attendees."

– Attendee at the 2022 H&V Leadership Conference



"I really thank H&V, because through the years I kept turning to H&V resources for help on how to stay calm and think strategically about dealing with my deaf daughter's school. H&V resources also helped me in coaching her in self-advocacy... H&V helped us develop the plans and skills we both needed to get there. I've shared H&V info with many other families, and I hope it's helped them as well."

– Maria

"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:** 4,988 followers
- **Hands & Voices Instagram:** 2,282 reach
- **Hands & Voices Facebook page has over 44,255 followers reported at the chapter level**
 - **Hands & Voices D/HH Plus Facebook page has 1,054 followers**
 - **Hands & Voices Military Facebook page has 405 followers**
 - **Hands & Voices Spanish Facebook page has 322 followers**
 - **Hands & Voices Unilateral Facebook page has 1,447 followers**
- 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 13,000 unique visitors a month; Spanish resources on website increased.

H&V Programs

- H&V U.S./Canada **Chapter Count: Authorized: 42; Provisional: 3**
- H&V **Guide By Your Side Programs: 22;** promoting social-emotional well-being of families, systems navigation, and empowerment by trained Parent Guides and DHH Guides. **6,743 families supported one-to-one: 200 trained parent and D/HH guides**
- H&V **ASTra Programs** (Educational Advocacy Support and Training) Programs: **13; 391 families served; 56 ASTra Advocates; ASTra Basic Total training conducted as of 2021 - 25 states and over 1200 individuals**
- **TA requests to HQ staff;** responded to almost 200 inquiries.
- **Chapters held 538 events for families** in the U.S. and Canada reaching 15,189 individuals.
- Many Chapters with **expertise serving families including unique populations:** CMV, unilateral, premature infants, auditory neuropathy, connexin 26, specialty hearing device users (conductive devices and cochlear implants, etc.) families in low-resourced communities, microtia/atresia, foster children, LVAS, Chinese-speaking, Hmong-speaking, Deaf/HH Plus, Deafblind, Deaf/autism, Deaf/Down syndrome, Deaf/Mental Health
- H&V **Leadership to Leadership Program:** Year 3 - 12 new leaders trained in year three.
- When asked to estimate the % race/ethnicity of parents/families their Chapter serves, the breakdown is as follows (as reported by 26 Chapters); 75% white, 13% Hispanic or Latino, 5% Black or African American, 3% non-white, 2% Asian, 2% American Indian/Alaska Native. 18 Chapters did not report data about race/ethnicity.

What We've Done

Developed and Represented Family Engagement and Leadership in Educational and EHDI Systems

- Hands & Voices **Leadership Conference** held in Sept. 2021 focusing on diversity, with **225 participants**.
- Continued **Latino** 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, Office Hours, and Zoom Classes** for Board and Chapter development, with continued support to other family-based organizations.
- 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 ODDACE Project; CDC hosted projects from the EHDI Parent to Parent Committee; NCHAM Parent Advisory; AAP EHDI Committee; NTID Family App project, Oberkottler Family Engagement projects, DHAA Alliance; AUCD/LEND Program; AMCHP.
- Family Engagement in **Quality Improvement** efforts with NCHAM and the AAP.
- H&V App downloaded by over 431 individuals.
- Chapters served over 11,555 unduplicated families, 2,569 professionals and 1,065 D/HH individuals.
- 32 Chapters report non-English language experience in their Chapters
- 29 Chapters report they have fathers/father figures that are willing to talk with families about specific cultural experiences with raising D/HH children

Dissemination of Information, Tools and Resources from H&V HQ and the FL3 Project

- 18 H&V blog entries reaching over 7,000 readers
- Developed the H&V Advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility Guidelines
- Created the Casual Conversations Video series in partnership with NTID.
- The **Hands & Voices Communicator** distributed to over 5,800 4 times a year.
- H&V **Products** Educational Advocacy Guidebook, Fostering Joy journal in English/Spanish; *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, continued Literacy project, disseminated the Safety Toolkit for families.
- **International** projects including: Support to family-based organizations around the world, coalition member Global Parents of Deaf/HH Kids (GPODHH)
- **The Hands & Voices Family Leadership in Language and Learning Project (FL3) - Year Six**
 - **FL3 website** <http://www.handsandvoices.org/fl3/index.html>
 - Two advisory Boards (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, FL3 Advisory Board)
 - FL3 E-news sent 6 times/year to over 800 recipients.
 - Goal areas addressed in the areas of parent leadership, increased parent leadership from under-represented communities, increased technical assistance, increased communication and dissemination efforts, national partnerships.

Financial Support

2017-2020 and 2021-2025 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 program's goal is ensuring that families of children who are D/HH are leaders within their states EHDI 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) 2021-2025 grant number 6UJ1MC30748-05-02 (four years)



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

- Association of Maternal Child Health Programs (AMCHP) – COVID supports for Families
- Deafed.net project
- Gallaudet University (RERC Grant)
- Clerc Center at Gallaudet (FL3 partner)
- Giving Tuesday
- Oberkotter Foundation
- University of CO Boulder ODDACE and RERC Grant
- Annual Conference/Program 2021 Sponsors/Supporters: Med-el, National Technical Institute for the Deaf, The Online Itinerant, Akouos, Online Academy-American School for the Deaf; T-Mobile Accessibility

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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