Hands & Voices
ANNUAL Report
2023
Thank You! to our Collaborators
handsandvoices.com
Our Mission

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.

Our Vision

We envision a world where children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing have every opportunity to achieve their full potential.
Our values

- We envision an organization united by our mission in which each chapter exemplifies the Hands & Voices philosophy in its vision and culture. We all have a stake in each other’s success. Hands & Voices will prosper only if each part is committed to the success of the other parts, and to the impact of our organization as a whole. We are a shared venture with vested ownership.
- Organization is viewed as providing unbiased support for families & professionals through dissemination of information, outreach events, educational seminars, advocacy, lobbying efforts, & parent to parent networking.
- Organization impacts professionals and systems.
- Organization is financially viable.
- Organization that supports informed family choices for their children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing.
Meet our Board of Directors
At Hands & Voices Headquarters

Emeritas Directors
Christine Yoshinaga-Itano
Harold Johnson
Rick Hauan
Tony Ronco

More information about our Board [here](#)

Janet DesGeorges, Executive Director
Karen Hopkins, Board President
Cheryl Deconde Johnson
Leeanne Seaver

Rana Ottallah
Tammy Breard
Rashaun Davis
Anita Dowd
Our Chapters

Our Parent leaders are the heart and soul of our organization.

The success of our programs for Guide By Your Side and ASTra (for families needing Advocacy Support and Training) would not have been possible without the support and leadership that H&V provides to us as a local Chapter.

Jennifer Racine, President, Nebraska Hands & Voices

As a DHH Guide I believe I spread joy to parents. When they see that a hearing loss is not the end of the world for them - it’s just a beginning of a new world - I see the joy in their face. Their eyes crinkle and their smiles are genuine. I’m helping my families to choose joy.

Melinda Ray, Texas Hands & Voices/Fostering Joy group
Chapter Support

Programs:
- L2L
- GBYS
- ASTRa

Projects:
- Latino Council
- Fostering Joy
- O.U.R. Project
- Military Project

FL3 Center

Innovation

Click on these images to get more details!
Highlights of 2023

What We’ve Done

• Hands & Voices Leadership Conference held October 2023 with 240 participants and increased diverse participation.
• Latino Support Council has increased leadership, forums, 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 webinars, Latino Forums, L2L mentorship, and Zoom Classes for Board/Chapter development with Office Hours and continued support to other family-based organizations.
• H&V Representation on national/international boards and committees.
• Expanded the Advocacy Support and Training (ASTra) Program with new webinars open to all.

Who We’ve Reached

Social Media/Website presence:
• Facebook: 19,000 followers over three pages and three private groups with 49,245 followers reported at the Chapter level.
• Hands & Voices also disseminates information on Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok.
• www.handsandvoices.org had over 180,000 page views
• H&V E-News published cutting edge news six times a year disseminated to up to 11,500 people per issue.
• H&V provided technical assistance to families, family-based organizations, professionals and system stakeholders 45 times each month on average.

New Resources

• Revised Educational Advocacy Guidebook in English and Spanish.
• Educational Advocacy video series for families who speak Spanish.
• 8 Reasons to Say Yes to Early Intervention and 5 Reasons to Say Yes to Assessment infographics in English and Spanish.
• The Hands & Voices Communicator distributed to over 5,500 four times a year and the new H&V Library was designed to archive past articles.
• Fostering Joy Journal for Kids
• The Research section of the website connected many parents to research studies and surveys.

“Hands & Voices...has demonstrated expertise in providing essential technical assistance to the family-based organizations (FBO) our membership partners with and has proven effective in helping parents within these FBOs develop the skills required to provide non-biased, exceptional support to families with deaf/hard of hearing (D/HH) children. Hands & Voices’ tireless and comprehensive support to FBOs over the past several years has been instrumental in promoting positive change in EHDI systems of care.”

Excerpted from a letter from Bradley Bakken Hartman, Wyoming EHDI and DSHP Shwa
Acknowledgement of Support

Hands & Voices would like to thank our funding partners, donors, and organizational partnerships that ensure the sustainability of our work of supporting families who have children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing.

**Funded Partnerships**
- University of Colorado
- University of Kentucky
- Western University
- National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM)
- ABE Partnership Grant

**Sponsorships**
- Regeneron
- Med-El
- Akouos
- Gallaudet University
- National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID)/Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)

**Federal Cooperative Agreement**
The Family Leadership in Language and Learning funded from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

**Individual Donors**
Thank you to all of our individual donors who faithfully support the organization.