

Michigan

MI Communicator



HANDS &
VOICES™

An Introduction!

By Denise Farrand, Director



Hello! As the new Director of Michigan Hands & Voices, I would like to take this time to introduce myself. My name is Denise Farrand. I am married and have three children. My second child was born with a profound bilateral sensorineural hearing loss. Her hearing loss was detected early through the newborn hearing screening. I am very happy for that, otherwise, we probably would not have detected it early! I have been a Parent Guide with the Guide By Your Side Program since it's inception in 2004. I love being a part of the program and having the ability to connect with families who are at the starting point of their journeys.....where I once was.

I am also the new Parent Consultant for Michigan's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program and the Coordinator for the state's Guide By Your Side Program. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Business with a specialty in Accounting from Wayne State University. I enjoy volunteering for many activities in my children's schools: including the PTO, Girl Scouts, and their extra-curricular activities. Staying involved in my children's lives is very important to me!

I am very excited to be a part of this wonderful organization!

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Playgroups

We Need You!!!!

Support

Hands & Voices is an excellent organization. I am committed to making us a stronger group, however, it cannot become stronger with only a few! If you would like to get involved, please contact me. One way to get yourself and other local parents more involved is to start a regional group. Regional groups are a great way to connect with other families of children with hearing loss who live near you. For more information on how to start a group in your area, contact Denise Farrand at (517) 241-7066 or FarrandD@michigan.gov.

Friendships

Hearing Loss Association of America

S.E. Michigan WALK 4 HEARING

Saturday, May 21, 2011



The Southeast Michigan WALK 4 HEARING will take place on Saturday, May 21, 2011. The event will be held at Kensington Metro Park in Milford, MI. Check-in begins at 9:00 a.m. with a 10:00 a.m. walk start time. It is a 5K (3.1 miles) or as long as each walker cares to walk.

The Walk 4 Hearing, produced by the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), is the largest walk of its kind in the country that raises awareness and helps to eradicate the stigma associated with hearing loss. The HLAA Walk 4 Hearing is held in multiple cities throughout the country. Money raised is shared between the National organization and local Walk sites.

Examples of Local Uses of Walk 4 Hearing Funds:

- Captioning and hearing assistive technology at chapter meetings to make them Accessible.
 - Scholarships for students with hearing loss towards college tuition.
 - Funding for hearing aids and devices for people who cannot afford them.
 - Installation of hearing assistive technology in public places.
 - Captioning of live theater productions.
 - Seminars on coping with hearing loss for families.

You can visit www.walk4hearing.org for more information and to register!



Did you know?

Did you know there is a Hearing Aid Loaner Program Available?

Has your child ever been without their hearing aids because of the need to be repaired or replaced? Do you know someone who is waiting on their child's first pair of hearing aids? The Michigan Chapter of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf (MI AGBell) offers a hearing aid loaner program. The loaner program is for Michigan children 18 years and under. The child is expected to already have a custom earmold or have a temporary one provided by their hearing care specialist or audiologist. MI AGBell works with schools or the child's audiologist to provide loaner behind-the-ear hearing aids to children who need them. MI AGBell charges a nominal fee of \$7.00 to ship and deliver the aid(s) for the child. MI AGBell will provide a list of gently used hearing aids currently available to the attending audiologist.

For more information contact Mark Reeve by email at reeve.mark@att.net.

Meet the “Guide” by Your Side



Hi! I am Cassi Barron. My husband, Josh, and I have two children. Our daughter Ellie was born in 2003 and our daughter Lila was born in 2005. My family is the primary focus of my life, but, in my spare time, I am a corporate attorney.

My daughter, Ellie, was born with profound bilateral sensorineural hearing loss – she did not pass her newborn hearing screening. During her first three months, she underwent a series of tests which confirmed the extent of her hearing loss and was fitted with hearing aids.

We were heartbroken for our daughter. We knew nothing about hearing loss, about what it would really mean for Ellie. We started gathering information, trying to figure out what we could do to help her overcome all the obstacles she would surely face.

We got involved with the Early On program, were enrolled in a special education program and were doing speech therapy at a local university.

Between the doctors, the audiologists, the speech therapists, the Early On administrators and the special education teachers, I was given a sea of information and I felt like I was drowning in it. I needed a life preserver – someone who had been down this path before. In 2008, I became a Guide with the hope that I could be that life preserver for someone who feels similarly.

We chose the auditory-verbal approach for Ellie, which focuses on learning to listen and talk. Ellie now has bilateral cochlear implants and, after intensive speech therapy, absolutely beautiful language skills. She has been in a mainstream classroom since beginning preschool and her teachers say she does not miss a beat.

The way that Ellie copes with her hearing loss is amazing. Throughout all the trials and tribulations – hearing aids, cochlear implants, endless programming sessions, constant speech therapy, etc. – she has had a smile on her face.

I have learned so much from this experience. I look forward to sharing my story and my expertise with you.

—Cassi is a Parent Guide in the *MI Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side Program*.

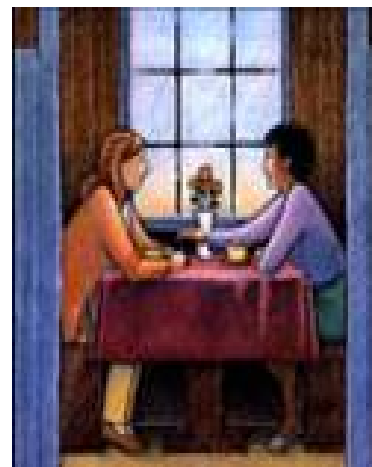


**GUIDE BY
YOUR SIDE™**

Would You Like to be a Parent Guide?

EHDI is seeking Michigan parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing to serve as Parent Guides in the GBYS program. Parent Guides are paid a stipend for home visits and are reimbursed for mileage. Specifically, EHDI is looking for Guides in the thumb area (Saginaw), northern lower peninsula around Traverse City and Petoskey, and southwest Michigan.

Spanish speakers, signers, fathers, and parents of children with additional disabilities are especially needed. For more information, contact Denise Farrand at (517) 241-7066 or FarrandD@michigan.gov.



Summer Camps

The next pages contain information about local summer camps and programs for children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families. Michigan Hands & Voices (MI H&V) provides this list as information only, for the benefit of our members. MI H&V does not endorse or financially support these events. If you are aware of camps that are not listed below, please contact us at (517) 241-7066.



Camp Chris Williams

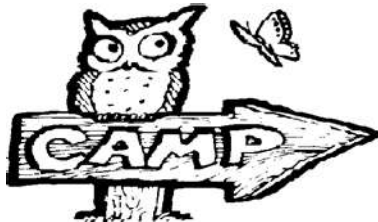
Who: D/HH children, siblings, and children of deaf adults, ages 8-14 years.

When: August 7-13, 2011

Where: Lions Bear Lake Camp:
3409 N. Five Lakes Road
Lapeer, MI 48446.

Contact: campchris@michdhh.org or
call (586) 778-4188.

Deadline to register is May 30.



Michigan AG Bell Camp

Who: Oral D/HH children entering grades 3-12 will be accepted into the program at YMCA Storer Camps.

When: Two week program:

Sunday, July 17– Friday July 29, 2011

One week program:

Sunday, July 17-Friday July 23, 2011

Where: YMCA Storer Camp

Irish Hills, Michigan.

Contact: Mark Reeve by email at
reeve.mark@att.net.

Holley Family Village/DeSales Center

Who: Signing D/HH children and adults.

When: June, July, and August with various themes.

Where: 1124 Ventura Dr., Brooklyn, MI 49230.

Contact: Kathryn Kinville at kathryn.kinville@stjohn.org or
(313) 343-4084.

* The center offers multiple summer programs and art/drama workshops taught by deaf adults. For a complete listing of all summer programs go to: www.desales.org.





Kids Kamp

Themes, Games, Learn ASL words, Arts & Crafts, Story Time, Make New Friends!

Who: Open to ANY child between the ages of 3 to 10.

When: July 12-22 on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m.—Noon.

Where: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, 4328 Kalamazoo Ave. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI.

Contact: 616-732-7358 or
info@deafhhs.org or www.deafhhs.org.

Summer Camps

Lions Bear Lake Camp

Who: Hard of Hearing children and their families. Camps are for those who use spoken language as their primary mode of communication.

When: Family session: July 1-3, 2011

Youth session: July 10-16, 2011

Open house: July 9, 2011

Where: 3409 N. Five Lakes Rd., Lapeer, MI 48446.

Contact: (810) 245-0726 or
www.bearlakecamp.org.

Techgirlz -Rochester Institute of Technology

Rochester, New York

Who: Deaf or Hard of Hearing Girls who are entering 7th, 8th, or 9th grade in the fall of 2011 who are interested in science, technology, engineering, and math.

When: July 30– August 5, 2011

Where: Rochester Institute of Technology,
Rochester, New York.

Contact: by email at TechGirlz@ntid.rit.edu or by phone at
(585)475-7695.



How is Michigan Doing??

The Michigan Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program works in collaboration with hospitals, clinics, parents, and audiologists to identify infants with hearing loss and follows them to enrollment in intervention services.

- Goal 1 - All infants are screened for hearing loss no later than 1 month of age, preferably before hospital discharge.

In 2009, out of the 114,240 infants who were screened, Michigan screened 96.9% no later than 1 month of age!

- Goal 2 - All infants who do not pass the screening will have a diagnostic audiologic evaluation no later than 3 months of age.

Of the 1518 newborns that did not pass their final hearing screen in 2009, 610 (40.2%) received a diagnostic evaluation and of those with an evaluation, 350 (57.3%) were diagnosed no later than 3 months of age.

- Goal 3 - All infants identified with a hearing loss receive appropriate early intervention services no later than 6 months of age.

In 2009, a total of 38 out of 120 babies with permanent hearing loss were enrolled in early intervention services. Of those enrolled in services, 60.5% of were receiving appropriate early intervention services no later than 6 months of age!

Loss to Follow Up

In 2009, 800 infants out of 1518 (52.7%) referring from the final screen were lost to follow-up (LTF). Babies are considered to be Loss to Follow Up when they did not have additional diagnostic hearing tests or documentation of testing has not been submitted to the EHDI program. The EHDI program is involved in many activities related to reducing the loss to follow-up (LTF) rate. The LTF rate in MI decreased from 79.4% in 2005 to 52.7% in 2009!

If you would like to be more involved in the EHDI program please contact Jeff Spitzley, EHDI Program Coordinator, at 517-335-8955 or



Michigan Early Hearing Detection
and Intervention Program

How is
Michigan
Doing?



Make A Difference! Volunteer Today!

Regional Outreach

Several persons are needed throughout the state to plan and host *at least one* local networking/social event per year in your area (examples include: movies, play dates, museum trips, scrapbooking events, etc. . .)



We need your input. We want to hear from you. Do you have an idea or an article for the newsletter? Do you have an idea for a get-together? We need YOU!



Would you like to help plan the MI Hands & Voices/

Guide By Your Side FAMILY PICNIC?

Contact Denise Farrand at (517) 241-7066 or
FarrandD@michigan.gov



WHO WE ARE



Michigan Hands & Voices is a chapter of the nationwide non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as the professionals who serve them. We are a parent-driven, parent/professional collaborative group that is unbiased towards communication modes and methods. We are parents, teachers, audiologists, and interpreters — just to name a few! Our diverse membership includes those who communicate orally, with signs, with cued speech, and/or combined methods.

OUR MISSION

Michigan Hands & Voices is dedicated to unbiased support of families who have children who are deaf or hard of hearing. We believe that families will make the best choices for their child if they have access to good information and support. Whether we're at work locally or nationally, Hands & Voices continues to be driven by the need to improve educational outcomes and the quality of life for children with hearing loss. We exist to help our children reach their highest potential!

Board Members

Director — Denise Farrand
Co-Director — Rebecca Calaman
Treasurer — Cassi Barron
Secretary — Deborah Love-Peel

Newsletter Editor

Denise Farrand

Michigan Hands & Voices

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***Please make note– this is a new phone number.**

Did you know that we have a Listserv?

Yahoo Listserv:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/handsandvoices-mi>



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

