

Hands & Voices

Annual Report
2015-2016



FORWARD

Leadership

PARENT DRIVEN

UNBIASED SUPPORT

*"If everyone is moving forward together,
then success takes care of itself."*

- Henry Ford



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.



“thank you so much, I have been feeling like I am in a small boat in the middle of the ocean with no sight of land or vessel. You have thrown me a life preserver, not out of obligation, as you don’t even know me, but out of pure selflessness and kindness.

You are so appreciated.”

– a parent after a contact with H&V

“It is an uncommon feeling to be a room full of so many who share the common thread of the DHH world..... It’s a place to be free to learn and encouraged to continue to advocate, support and encourage others.

– H&V Leadership Conference parent leader attendee

The H&V Year at a Glance

Who We've Reached

Social Media/Website presence

- Hands & Voices on Twitter: 4215 followers, an increase of 10% from last year.
- Hands & Voices Facebook page has over 5442 'likes' and increase of 70% in one year.
- Hands & Voices Spanish Facebook page established and has over 95 members.
- H&V E-News published cutting edge news six times a year disseminated to up to 10,000 people per issue.
- www.handsandvoices.org has over 12,000 unique visitors a month; new Spanish resources on website

H&V Programs

- H&V U.S./Canada Chapter Count: Authorized: 42 Provisional: 5
- H&V Guide By Your Side Programs: 20; The GBYS Health Assessment and Annual Program Goals showed great growth and support to families.
- H&V ASTra Programs (Educational Advocacy Support and Training) Programs Count: 5
- Tech Support from HQ staff to chapters, programs and their leaders; responded to over 1500 inquiries
- Chapters held over 400 events for families in the U.S. and Canada reaching approximately 10,000 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

- Developed and Represented Family Engagement and Leadership in Educational and EHDI Systems
- 12th Annual Hands & Voices Leadership Conference held in Sept. 2015 in New Braunfels, Texas with 175 attendees.
- Continued Spanish Speaking Support Forum 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 basic courses for board and chapter development.
- Expanding Staff time to meet the needs of programs, chapters, and projects at the headquarter level

- 2015 Seaver Vision Award given to Susan Lane of British Columbia, Canada, and Andrea Marweh (IL)
- 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.
- Partnering/representing families 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, CLERC Center Advocacy App project, Oberkotter Family Engagement projects, DHAA Alliance.
- Family Engagement in Quality Improvement efforts with NCHAM and the AAP.

Dissemination of Information, Tools and Resources

- Six new blog entries at H&V Blog at <http://handsandvoices.org/deafhardofhearingchildren/>
- The Hands & Voices Communicator distributed to over 5,500 4 times a year.
- H&V Products Educational Advocacy Guidebook, Loss & Found video, Book of Choice in English and Spanish 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

- U.S./Russian Peer-to-Peer Dialogue Program expanded to two years with H&V information translated into Russian.
- 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, started Literacy project, developed strategic plan.
- International projects including: Family Centered Early Intervention Conference, China Mission, Kenya chapter support.

Looking Forward

- Stay Tuned for New Resources, Technical Assistance, and Initiatives including: Policy and Legislative Guidance, on-site chapter technical assistance workshops, Quality Improvement at chapter level; Public Awareness Campaigns for families.

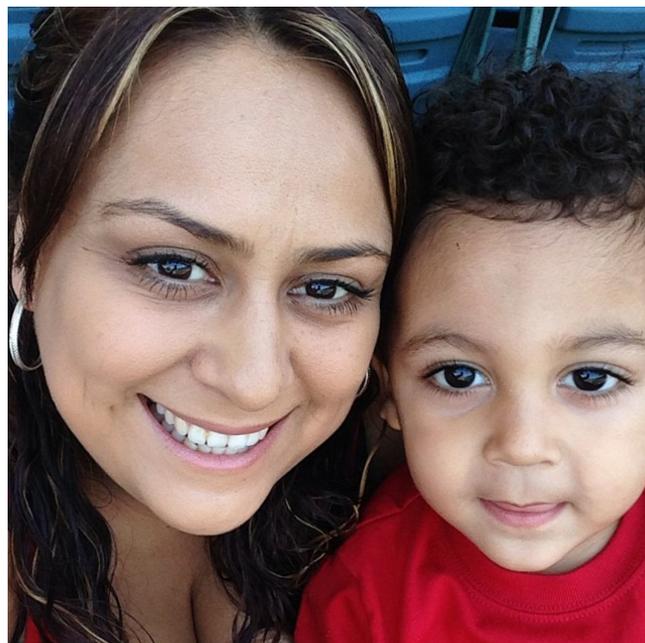
Financial Support

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

- **National Center for Hearing Assessment and Managements (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**
- **Colorado Hearing Foundation**
- **Deafed.net project**
- **Gallaudet University (RERC Grant)**
- **Giving Tuesday**
- **Hear the World Foundation**
- **Oberkotter Foundation**
- **University of CO Boulder NECAP and RERC Grant**
- **U.S. State Dept. (Russian 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.



“I wanted to thank you for your insightful post on the H&V blog that gave me hope for our little girl at a time when I really needed it.”

- A Mom From Paris, France

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