

Hands & Voices

Annual Report
2020-2021



PERSEVERE

Leadership
PARENT-DRIVEN
UNBIASED SUPPORT

*"It always seems impossible
until it's done."*

— Nelson Mandela



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.



“...It is always inspiring, motivating and energizing. It reminds us that we are not alone and why we do what we do. And it is wonderful to collaborate with others.”

– Parent Leader at the 2020 H&V Virtual Leadership Conference

“Hands & Voices was right by my side...your support in IEP meetings has made me a stronger parent. I now have the knowledge and courage I need to ensure my child has the proper education that meets her specific needs. You never passed judgment on our mode of communication. Thank you, Hands & Voices, with all of my heart.”

– Mom from Indiana

“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**: 157,600 Twitter Impressions/reach
- Hands & Voices **Instagram**: 1,708 Instagram likes
- Hands & Voices **Facebook** page has over 13,494 likes (an increase of 8% over last year). Over 40,746 followers reported at the Chapter level
 - Hands & Voices D/HH Plus Facebook page has 856 followers
 - Hands & Voices Military Facebook page has 375 followers
 - Hands & Voices Spanish Facebook page has 284 followers
 - Hands & Voices Unilateral Facebook page has 1,400 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 6,500 unique visitors a month; Spanish resources on website.

H&V Programs

- H&V U.S./Canada **Chapter Count**: Authorized: 43; Provisional: 3
- H&V **Guide By Your Side** Programs: 25; promoting social-emotional well-being of families, systems navigation, and empowerment by trained Parent Guides and D/HH Guides. 3,629 families supported one-to-one: 168 trained parent guides
- H&V **ASTra Programs** (Educational Advocacy Support and Training) Programs: 12; 348 families served; 61 ASTra Advocates; ASTra Basic Total training conducted as of 2020 - 23 states and over 800 individuals
- **TA requests to HQ staff**; responded to almost 200 inquiries.
- **Chapters held 510 events for families** in the U.S. and Canada reaching approximately 12,000 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 - 15 new parent 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); 70% white, 11% Hispanic or Latino, 6% Black or African American, 7% non-white, 3% Asian. 17 Chapters did not report data about race/ethnicity.

What We've Done

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

- Virtual Hands & Voices **Leadership Conference** held in Sept. 2020 focusing on Diversity, with 217 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 NECAP Project; The University of Kentucky; CDC-hosted projects from the EHDI Parent to Parent Committee; NCHAM Parent Advisory; AAP EHDI Committee; NTID Family App project, Oberkottter Family Engagement projects, DHAA Alliance; NLCS, AUCD/LEND Program; AMCHP.
- Family Engagement in **Quality Improvement** efforts with NCHAM and the AAP.
- H&V App downloaded by over 400 individuals.
- Chapters served over 10,742 unduplicated families, 5,734 professionals and 1,086 D/HH individuals.
- Chapters report connections to over 40,746 Facebook friends
- 31 Chapters report non-English language experience in their Chapters
- 19 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

- 21 entries reaching 7,000 readers: Raising a Deaf or Hard of Hearing Child blog
- Developed the Guidelines for D/HH Mentor/Guide/Role Model Programs.
- Created the Checklist for Program Implementation of Unbiased Support for Families with D/HH Children.
- The **Hands & Voices Communicator** distributed to over 5,800 4 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

- Updated the 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: 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)
- **The Hands & Voices Family Leadership in Language and Learning Project (FL3) -Year Four**
 - **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, and 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 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) 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
- National Center for Hearing Assessment and Managements (NCHAM) - Hands & Voices is proud to partner with NCHAM, as a 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)
- Giving Tuesday
- Oberkottter Foundation
- University of CO Boulder ODDACE and RERC Grant
- Annual Conference/Program 2020 Sponsors/Supporters: *Med-el, National Technical Institute for the Deaf, The Online Itinerant, Akouos*

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.



Contact information:

Hands & Voices PO Box 3093,
Boulder CO 80307
Janet DesGeorges, Executive Director
Phone: 303-492-6283
Email: janet@handsandvoices.org