

# Hands & Voices

Annual Report  
2016-2017



# IMPACT

Leadership  
PARENT DRIVEN  
UNBIASED SUPPORT

*“Somewhere inside all of us is the power to change the world.”*

*- Roald Dahl*



HANDS &  
VOICES™



ADVOCACY  
SUPPORT &  
TRAINING



GUIDE BY  
YOUR SIDE™

[www.handsandvoices.org](http://www.handsandvoices.org)

# H&V Board of Directors 2016-2017

Djenne-amal Morris, President  
Candace Lindow Davies, Past President  
Cheryl Johnson  
Susan Elliott  
Rick Hauan  
Harold Johnson

Teresa Kazemir  
Tony Ronco  
Leeanne Seaver  
Elizabeth Seeliger  
Christine Yoshinaga-Itano  
Janet DesGeorges - Executive Director

## 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.



“Hands & Voices is a unifying force in the sometimes divided world of parenting deaf and hard-of-hearing children.”

– parent of a deaf child

“Hands & Voices was like a family and I felt that I belonged, regardless of our son’s hearing levels, what form of communication we used or what country we came from.”

– Teresa Kazemir,  
British Columbia

“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: 4438 followers, an increase of 10% from last year.
- Hands & Voices Instagram has 948 followers.
- Hands & Voices Facebook page has over 6680 'likes' an increase of 12% in one year.
- Hands & Voices Military Facebook page has 81 members.
- Hands & Voices Spanish Facebook page has over 96 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: 43 Provisional: 3
- Provided a regional on-site training to 6 state chapters in the northeast.
- H&V **Guide By Your Side** Programs: 21; promoting social, emotional well-being of families, systems navigation, and empowerment by trained Parent Guides and DHH Guides. 2,097 families supported one-to-one; 137 trained parent guides.
- H&V **ASTra Programs** (Educational Advocacy Support and Training) Programs Count: 6
- **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

- 13th Annual Hands & Voices **Leadership Conference** held in Sept. 2016 in Estes Park Colorado 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
- **2016 Seaver Vision Award** given to Cindy Roller (NV H&V) and Christine Griffin (WA H&V)
- **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; CDC Projects from the Parent to Parent Committee; NCHAM Parent Advisory; AAP EHDI Committee; National Deaf Center; CLERC Center Advocacy App project and FL3, Oberkotter Family Engagement projects, DHAA Alliance; NLCSO; DCMP
- 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

**Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS) 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 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)



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**
- **Oberkötter 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.



Contact information:

**Hands & Voices**

PO Box 3093, Boulder CO 80307

Toll free: 1-866-422-0422

Janet DesGeorges,  
Executive Director

Phone: 303-492-6283

[janet@handsandvoices.org](mailto:janet@handsandvoices.org)