

Hands & Voices

Annual Report
2017-2018



ENTHUSIASM

Leadership

PARENT DRIVEN

UNBIASED SUPPORT

“Enthusiasm is the greatest asset you can possess, for it can take you further than money, power or influence.”

- Dada Vaswani



HANDS &
VOICES™



ADVOCACY
SUPPORT &
TRAINING



GUIDE BY
YOUR SIDE™

www.handsandvoices.org

H&V Board of Directors 2017-2018

Djenne-amal Morris, President

Cheryl Johnson

*Susan Elliott

Rick Hauan

**Harold Johnson

Teresa Kazemir

Tony Ronco

Leeanne Seaver

Elizabeth Seeliger

**Christine Yoshinaga-Itano

Janet DesGeorges - Executive Director

New Members: Anita Dowd, Karen Hopkins, Nancy Hlibok Amann

**Departing board member **HQ Emeritas directors*

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.



“Change will never happen without the parent voice.”

- Cheryl Johnson,
Co-founder, Hands & Voices

The first time I attended the H&V leadership conference, I met other parents and listened to their stories, I felt complete, whole and at home. I wasn't alone anymore. I felt the warmth of home surrounded by parents like me, experiencing the same emotions and feeling some of the same pressures.”

- Rana Attallah, LA H&V

“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**: 4641 followers.
- Hands & Voices **Instagram** has 1088 followers.
- Hands & Voices **Facebook** page has over 8121 'likes' and increase of 13% in one year. (over 22,000 FB followers reported at the chapter level)
 - ◊ Hands & Voices D/HH Plus Facebook page has 381 members. (newly established)
 - ◊ Hands & Voices Military Facebook page has 178 members, a 50% increase.
 - ◊ Hands & Voices Spanish Facebook page has 139 members a 6% increase.
- H&V **E-News** published cutting edge news six times a year disseminated to up to 10,000 people per issue.
- Our **web site www.handsandvoices.org** has over 12,500 unique visitors a month; Spanish resources on website.

H&V Programs

- H&V U.S./Canada **Chapter Count**: Authorized: 45; Provisional: 2; Start-ups: 3.
 - ◊ New chapters in Montana and Alabama.
- H&V **Guide By Your Side** Programs: 25 (increase of 4); promoting social, emotional well-being of families, systems navigation, and empowerment by trained Parent Guides and D/HH Guides. 3,293 families supported one-to-one; 182 trained parent guides, an increase of 45 guides.
- H&V **ASTra Programs** (Educational Advocacy Support and Training) Programs Count: 7; 371 families served; 38 ASTra Advocates; ASTra Basic Training conducted in 11 states and 450 individuals.
- **Tech Support from HQ staff** to chapters, programs and their leaders; responded to over 3,540 inquiries/reaches.
- **Chapters held over 500 events for families** in the U.S. and Canada reaching approximately 11,500 individuals.
- Many Chapters with **expertise serving families including unique populations**: deaf/plus, unilateral, premature infants, Auditory Neuropathy, Deaf/Blind, Connexin 26, BAHAs 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
- 14th Annual Hands & Voices **Leadership Conference** held in Sept. 2017 in Galena, IL with 185 attendees.
- Continued **Spanish Speaking 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 and zoom classes** for board and chapter development.

- **Expanding Staff time** to meet the needs of programs, chapters, and projects at the headquarter level.
- **2017 Seaver Vision Award** given to Nancy Sager (CA).
- 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 hosted projects from the EHDI 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; NLCS; DCMP.
- Family Engagement in **Quality Improvement** efforts with NCHAM and the AAP.

Dissemination of Information, Tools and Resources

- Eight new blog entries at **H&V Blog** at <http://handsandvoices.org/deafhardofhearingchildren/>
- Developed the Family to Family Support Guidelines (FL3)
- Developed the Guidelines for D/HH Mentor/Guide/Role Model Programs.
- The **Hands & Voices Communicator** distributed to over 5,800 4 times a year.
- **H&V Products include**: the H&V Educational Advocacy Guidebook; The Book of Choice (in English and Spanish); We are Hands & Voices.
- **Social Media** presence (see 'who we've reached' above)
- **Research section** of the website recruited many parents for research/survey studies.

Additional Projects

- 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, started Literacy project, developed strategic plan.
- **International** projects including: Family Centered Early Intervention Conference, support to family-based organizations around the world.
- **In development**: the Hands & Voices Leadership to Leadership Program (L2L)

The Hands & Voices Family Leadership in Language and Learning Project (FL3)

- FL3 website <http://www.handsandvoices.org/fl3/index.html>
- Two advisory boards (Language and Literacy; Deaf/Hard of Hearing)
- 5 goal areas addressed in the areas of: parent leadership, increased partnerships in EHDI, language and literacy development, increased access to parent-to-parent support, increased access to D/HH mentors/role models/guides.

Financial Support

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 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 Management (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**
- **Deafed.net project**
- **Gallaudet University (RERC Grant)**
- **Giving Tuesday**
- **Oberkotter Foundation**
- **University of CO Boulder NECAP and RERC Grant**
- **HRSA FL3 Cooperative Agreement (HRSA Grant # UJ1MC30748-01-00)**
- **Center for Disease Control (CDC)**

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

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