

Illinois E.A.R.S

E.A.R.S = Events And Resources Statewide



GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE™

Illinois Guide By Your Side (GBYS)
Carrie Balian, Program Coordinator
Phone: (224) 343-1873
Email: ilhvgbys@gmail.com
Web: www.ilhandsandvoices.org/GBYS

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Illinois Hands & Voices (H&V)

Chairperson Contact:
Andrea Marwah
Phone: (877) 350-4556
Email:
ilhandsandvoices@gmail.com
Web:
www.ilhandsandvoices.org

Have You Heard of The OUR Children Project?

The OUR Children Project works to Observe, Understand and Respond to child abuse and neglect. Since children who have special needs are significantly more at risk for abuse, this project strives to keep all children safe with an emphasis on those who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. We meet monthly to share information



regarding the safety of our children and have many programs to help share information about OUR Children. One of the newest programs is a Virtual Book Club or "Vook Club". Chresta Brinkman, from Colorado Hands & Voices, started this program combining her passions for literacy and child safety. Monthly phone calls are designed to discuss literacy materials that are helpful to utilize with children who have experienced a traumatic event. In addition to compiling a list of book resources, activities to accompany the books are also included in the discussion. The calls are open to everyone and we encourage you to call in and help us in our efforts to keep kids safe! For more information about the OUR Children Project Vook Club, please contact Chresta Brinkman at chresta.brinkman@gmail.com or Christen Nolfi at cnolfi29@gmail.com.

The next "Vook Club" call will be on February 6, 2017 at 1:00 MST. We will be reviewing the following children's books: "Alex and the Scary Things", "I Said 'No'", "An Exceptional Children's Guide to Touch", "Your Body Belongs to You" and "Some Parts Are Not For Sharing". It is not necessary to purchase these books. We encourage you to check them out at your local library in the hopes that they have these important resources available to everyone.

You can find additional information about The OUR Children Project at <http://www.handsandvoices.org/resources/OUR/> and our new facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Hands-Voices-Our-Children-1612822025678688/>.

We Would Love For You To Join Us!

The 2017 Hands & Voices Leadership Conference is coming up and in 2017 it will be held in Galena, Illinois starting September 15th! The Leadership Conference is for H&V Chapter Leaders, H&V GBYS and ASTra Programs, Parents of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, and the Professionals who work with us!

More information will be coming in the following months but if you want an exceptional opportunity to network, learn and share this is one you DON'T want to miss!

Make sure you are part of the IL Hands & Voices listserv so you won't miss out on the announcements. Are you a parent looking for funding opportunities to attend this event? Consider contacting UIC-SCC and speaking with a Care Coordinator about utilizing gift funds to participate in this conference. More information about UIC-SCC is on pages 11 and 12 of this newsletter.



Conferences for Parents of Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Interactive Registration flyer. Move mouse around flyer to be redirected to important links and pages on the web.



Conference Topics:

- Literacy
- Technology
- Behavior
- Sibling Panel



Parents:

Financial assistance may be available to help with travel, lodging and/or childcare costs. See page 2 for more information.

Professionals:

PD and EI credits are available.

Illinois Hands & Voices is recruiting new board members to join our team.



If you are passionate about helping support families in Illinois who have children who are deaf and hard of hearing, this is your opportunity.

Click below for board member application and information.

Questions?? Contact Andrea

ilhandsandvoices@gmail.com - 630.697.3544 v/text



IL Hands & Voices,

Guide By Your Side

Free statewide calls for families with children who have a hearing loss. Professionals are welcome to join the calls too!

Jan 23rd - 8:30pm CST

Topic: Positive Discipline Strategies Handling challenges and special needs

Guest Speaker: Gaby Gurtz

Call toll free (888) 494-4032 enter guest code: 4231446909#

To view the online presentation live go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/jzkjdjr>

Mar 27th - 8:30pm CST

Topic: Music for kids with Hearing Loss

Guest Speaker: Alex Kubler

Call toll free (888) 494-4032 enter guest code: 4231446909#

To view the online presentation live go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/jg97akm>

Calls for All

Feb 20th - 8:30pm CST

Topic: FREE retreat for IL Families What is Parent Institute?

Guest Speaker: UIC-SCC

Call toll free (888) 494-4032 enter guest code: 4231446909#

To view the online presentation live go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/gqvvt7p>

The "Calls for All" are organized by the Illinois Hands & Voices, Guide By Your Side program.

"This project is supported by the Health Resources and services Administration (HRSA) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number H61MC04498, Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention. This information or content and conclusions are those of the presenter and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, not should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government."

Questions? Contact us today!
Phone: 224-343-1873
E-mail: ilhvgbys@gmail.com



Toll-free line is graciously made available by the IL DSCC /EHDI program.



GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE™



Manos y Voces IL,

Llamadas estatales gratuitas para familias con niños con pérdida auditiva.
Profesionales también son bienvenidos!

Martes Enero 31 - 8:30pm CST

Tema: Tecnología de Implante Coclear
Charlas brindadas por representantes-especialistas de los tres implantes aprobados por la FDA: Medel, AB, y Cochlear

Solo tienes que llamar al: (888) 494-4032
Ingresa el codigo: 4231446909#

Para ver la presentación en línea en vivo:

<http://tinyurl.com/z68k4sj>



Martes Marzo 28 - 8:30pm CST

Tema: Tecnología de Implante Coclear
Charlas brindadas por representantes-especialistas de los tres implantes aprobados por la FDA: Medel, AB, y Cochlear

Solo tienes que llamar al: (888) 494-4032
Ingresa el codigo: 4231446909#

Para ver la presentación en línea en vivo:

<http://tinyurl.com/jvbwsgq>

Las "Llamadas para Todos" son organizadas por Manos Y Voces de IL, Guía A Su Lado

"Este Proyecto es apoyado por Health Resources and services Administration (HRSA) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) numero de beca H61MC04498, Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention. Esta información o contenido y las conclusiones son las de la presentadora y no deben interpretarse como la posición oficial o la política de, no se debe inferir ningún respaldo por HRSA, HHS o el gobierno de los Estados Unidos."



Guía A Su Lado

Llamadas

★ Para ★

Todos ★

en español ★

Martes Feb 21 - 8:30pm CST

Tema: Tecnología de Implante Coclear
Charlas brindadas por representantes-especialistas de los tres implantes aprobados por la FDA: Medel, AB, y Cochlear

Solo tienes que llamar al: (888) 494-4032
Ingresa el codigo: 4231446909#

Para ver la presentación en línea en vivo:

<http://tinyurl.com/jc8hw96>

Preguntas? Comuníquese con nosotros hoy!
Teléfono: 224-343-1873
Correo electrónico: ilhvgbys@gmail.com



Línea telefónica gratuita está cordialmente a su disposición por el programa IL DSCC /EHDI.

GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE™

Illinois Deaf



Latino Association hosts

You are INVITED to Día de los Tres Reyes Magos

Gaspar



Melchor



Baltazar



The Day of Three Wise King

Saturday, January 14, 2017
Sábado, 14 de Enero de 2017

2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

MUST RSVP

by January 6, 2017
Por favor haga reservación
antes del 5 de Enero

St. Francis Borgia Center
8025 West Addison, Chicago 60634

Family up to 4 - \$10
Add family member - \$2

First name, last name

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Latin Food



ASL story



Crafts
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Raffle prizes And MORE
Gifts for children
Regalos para niño under 12

Sponsored by:



More info, contact: IDLA.response@gmail.com



Got Skills?

MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AND SPORTS CAMP
JUNE 24–JULY 2, 2017

DESIGN YOUR OWN
CAMP!

Choose between
 different **programs**
 during your stay:

- Volleyball/Football
- Soccer
- Basketball



- Leadership
- Academic Bowl
- DC Tour!



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Youth Programs

800 Florida Avenue, NE
 Washington, DC 20002

800-995-0550 (voice)

202-618-6799 (videophone)

youthprograms@gallaudet.edu

youthprograms.gallaudet.edu

This newsletter was produced by Illinois Hands & Voices, Guide By Your Side in collaboration with:



From Project Reach: Illinois Deaf-Blind Services:



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND, THE OPEN HANDS, OPEN ACCESS (OHOA) DEAF-BLIND LEARNING MODULES! MORE MODULES TO CHOOSE FROM!

Want to learn about Deafblindness, Deaf-blind Intervention, AND earn FREE teacher Professional Development hours? Consider taking the OHOA Deaf-blind Intervener Modules!

The OHOA Deaf-Blind Intervener Learning Modules are a national resource designed to increase awareness, knowledge, and skills related to intervention for students who are deaf-blind and are being served in educational settings (ages 3 through 21). The module content was created by a diverse group of experts in the field of deaf-blindness. Each includes a variety of accessible videos, photographs, slide presentations, and some assignments (written assignments, discussion boards, quizzes, videos, readings, etc.). To receive professional development, all required activities must be completed and submitted into the module platform, called Moodle. There is an additional module called Welcome, which will teach you how to use Moodle! To see a list of all available modules and their descriptions, go to <http://www.philiprocenter.org/what-s-new>

CAN ONLY TEACHERS TAKE THE MODULES? The modules are for anybody who wants to better understand an individual with deafblindness. All are welcome!

WHAT ARE THE DETAILS?

-You can work at your own pace, at any time you like (no scheduled time of day or night). The modules vary greatly (from about 4 hours to over 13 hours) in the time it takes to complete them.

-A staff person from Project Reach will be assigned to help you. This host can answer technical questions, or content questions about deafblindness, sensory loss, and special education.

- You may take any module(s) you wish, but the modules were designed to build in knowledge. You may wish to take an earlier module of similar content knowledge before taking more advanced modules unless you already have background knowledge in that area. To see possible topic groupings of modules, please look into the <http://www.philiprocenter.org/what-s-new> web page.

- The modules will remain open until September 1, 2017

To sign up to take the modules, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6ZDWKDL>

Any questions? Contact your Deaf-Blind Specialist (find out whose yours is at <http://www.philiprocenter.org/project-reach/deaf-blind-specialists> , or email Michelle Clyne at mclyne@philiprocenter.org or call her at 630-790-2474. Happy learning!

In the Spotlight

Active Access

Being born deaf doesn't slow this guy down! Noah, who turned 4 in December, loves to be active and participate in all sorts of recreational activities. Since being implanted at 10 months old, Noah has taken swimming lessons while using his cochlear implants. He has loved the water since he was a tiny baby and we wanted to ensure that he was able to enjoy it while still being able to hear and interact with his instructor and peers. Luckily, he has waterproof implants that allow him to do this just like any other kid! His swimming instructors have been wonderful about his implants and have always been willing to assist him in the water if one of the implants falls off. When Noah turned three, he added karate and skiing to his list of extra-curricular activities. Again, he is able to wear his implants and participate like everyone else. We always let his instructors know about his hearing loss and implants, and they have always been so accommodating. For example, his swim teacher helps him put on his goggles so they don't get stuck in his implant cables and his karate teacher demonstrates with his body/hands when he is explaining what he wants the kids to do. It helps all of the kids follow along, but especially Noah! When Noah skis, we use a sweatband to keep Noah's headpieces in place underneath his helmet. While there may be a little more planning and thought involved when we encounter new experiences, Noah's hearing loss doesn't stop him from enjoying life!

Written by Christen, Noah's Mom



Inspired and Growing from her Journey

My name is Deb and I live in the Springfield, Illinois area. I grew up in the Chicago suburbs but ended up in central Illinois after meeting my husband of almost 23 years at Eastern Illinois University. My education and career background fell within the field of social services. I wanted to share how my journey in going from my career...to my child...to my current new education endeavor has evolved within the area of American Sign Language (ASL) and the deaf & hard of hearing community.

In one of my positions years ago I participated in an ASL (American Sign Language) 6 week course at the Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD). I admit being young and inexperienced I wasn't real happy about the idea of having to go through with it but turned out I really enjoyed it. I didn't think I would need it for my current or future career positions, and embraced that I concluded my small bout with ISD, but turns out I would be relying heavily on both after my son was born.

Our son Joshua, now ten years old, has Down Syndrome and moderate hearing loss in both ears. Because of my career background experience working with babies and young children with special needs, I was fully aware of the possibility that he would not be able to communicate verbally so we started exposing him to sign language early on. Turns out I was correct in my speculation in that he is indeed non-verbal. Because he is so visual and social, using sign language as his primary mode of communication has worked well at the home environment and school settings. We've been blessed where family members, school staff, and church friends and volunteers have taken the initiative to learn some sign language in order to connect with him and assist him in navigating through these activities.

As he was transitioning into first grade his home school district offered to send him to attend school at ISD so we embraced the idea. We hired tutors to work with both he and us parents during the summer months before his entrance into ISD that upcoming Fall. When he started school there I eventually began participating in school functions (advisory council, PTSO, etc.) and recognized the need to advance into a more involved use of sign language because of the nature of these activities which included interaction and exposure with the deaf culture at ISD (students, staff, and parents). I also realized how strongly I felt about wanting so much to under-

Do you or your child have something to share? A new adventure or an accomplishment? They can be a part of our next newsletter! Stories can be submitted to GBYS@choicesforparents.org.



(Continued on page 17)

The 53rd Annual Illinois Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Conference will be held in Naperville, March 3-4, 2017



Grant and Scholarship applications are now available! To find more information and to download application forms go to www.ithi.org. Deadlines are January 27, 2017 for all awards.

Looking for a great way to help IL Hands & Voices?

No time to run to the store for cards?

No time to do a scrapbook of your kids?

Looking for a unique iPhone cover?

Illinois Hands & Voices has a solution: SendOutCards! Not only do we use this service for our non-profit organization, we are offering it to our members and families. For every subscription, IL Hands & Voices receives a percentage.

With SendOutCards, you can create customized greeting cards that can also include gift cards, books and gifts as well. The company prints and sends out the cards through US mail. You can upload your handwriting font and signature too!

SendOutCards can also help you create:

- Custom photo mugs
- Canvas prints
- iPhone and iPad covers
- Metal prints
- Scrap book and photo books
- Postcards
- Posters
- And much, much more



"Changing Lives... One Card at a Time"

www.sendoutcards.com/illinoishandsandvoices

UIC Specialized Care for Children Website Redesigned with families in mind

We're here to help.

University of Illinois at Chicago's Division of Specialized Care for Children provides FREE care coordination for families of children with special health care needs.



- » learn How We Help
- » discover News & Events
- » read Family Stories
- » browse Resources

 "like" us

dsc.c.uic.edu

Check it out!

Illinois Hands & Voices and Guide By Your Side participate in various fundraisers to support and enhance these organizations. If you are interested in making a tax deductible donation contact Andrea Marwah at (877) 350-4556 or email her at ilhansandvoies@gmail.com.

Gift Cards for sale!

Do you buy gift cards? Why not buy gift cards through us and allow us to earn a percentage from your purchase? Here is how it works:

1. Go to www.shopwithscrip.com and set up a family account.
2. Enter **ED2CCL6419145** so that your purchase will come back to IL Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side.
3. Select and pay for your gift cards using presto pay.
4. We finalize all orders the 22nd of the month.
5. You will receive your order in the mail approx. 5-7 days after we finalize the orders.
6. We receive the donation from your purchase directly from Shop With Scrip!

Lots of gift card choices - check them out at www.shopwithscrip.com. There are even reloadable and Scrip Now cards which allow you to print the gift certificate out from your home printer! Questions? Contact Carrie 866.655.4588 or email her at GBYS@choicesforparents.org.

SPECIALIZED CARE FOR CHILDREN

How We Help

The University of Illinois at Chicago - Division of Specialized Care for Children offers free care coordination for families of children with special health care needs in Illinois.

Care Coordinators tailor services to each family's needs.

Our support may include:

- » assistance accessing free diagnostic testing;
- » finding specialized medical care;
- » help utilizing insurance;
- » finding resources and information;
- » developing a plan of care;
- » communicating with doctors, specialists, and schools; and
- » preparing for transition.



Free care coordination is available if your child has, or is suspected of having, a treatable chronic condition in one of the following categories:

- » Cardiac Impairments
- » Cystic Fibrosis
- » Eye Impairments (Cataract, Glaucoma, Strabismus)
- » External Body Impairments (Cleft Lip and Palate, Craniofacial Anomalies)
- » Hearing Impairments
- » Hemophilia
- » Inborn Errors of Metabolism (Phenylketonuria [PKU])
- » Nervous System Impairments (Seizures, Nerve, Brain, Spinal Cord)
- » Orthopedic Impairments
- » Speech Impairments (Dysarthria, Vocal Cord Paralysis)
- » Urinary System Impairments

You may also qualify for financial assistance for the health care needs of your child.

Call us at (800) 322-3722 to see if we can help.

We work as quickly as we can to determine if and how we can help.

See Other Side for More Information



SPECIALIZED CARE FOR CHILDREN

WHO WE ARE

Since 1937, we've been helping families of children with special health care needs in Illinois.

Today, thousands of families throughout Illinois receive some form of help from the University of Illinois at Chicago - Division of Specialized Care for Children each year. Services are coordinated by a network of professional staff, working out of regional offices across the state. We consistently draw on the relationships and knowledge we've built over the decades.



Care Coordination Teams

Staff work in care coordination teams throughout the state to help families in their community. Teams are formed based on each family's needs and may include:

- » Nurses
- » Social Workers
- » Audiologists
- » Speech-Language Pathologists

Physicians/Providers

It can be hard to find a provider who's an expert in specific health issues, who also has openings, is close to home, and works within a family's insurance coverage.

We've spent more than 75 years building relationships with the best doctors and providers for children with special needs. Not only do we fully understand the different conditions that require specialized care, we've worked first-hand with an impressive pool of specialists in and around Illinois.

Visit our website to learn more:

dsccl.uic.edu

See Other Side for More Information



Shopping for a Cause

The energy and enthusiasm of Michelle Tjelmeland and her team has overflowed once again by creating a second District 23—this one in Rochester, Illinois. Michelle owns a web design and development in Rochester and saw a need for a women’s boutique just off of Route 29 within the Silo Center. It is an incredible location for those traveling from the communities of Taylorville, Pana, and Edinburg in to Springfield. Like most of Michelle’s dreams, the shop went from concept to opening within a month. She used her old office space, removing a wall to utilize an adjoining suite next door to boast over 2000 square feet of store, which is double the square footage of Springfield. Lighting was changed to sparkling glass, new flooring installed, a kitchenette and a bathroom were added, along with beautifully appointed dressing rooms.



Computer systems were linked between D23 Springfield and D23 Rochester so both stores can easily communicate with one another regarding inventory. The clothing lines sold in Rochester are different than that of Springfield so it is worth visiting both stores. Candles, gifts, and accessories will remain similar.



Parties and events can be scheduled in Rochester as well. In October, the Rochester’s Women’s Club held a meeting at the shop and Michelle spoke beforehand about the efforts of CIAF. Once the meeting concluded, the ladies enjoyed a private shopping experience. To top it all off, we are now the proud owner of a cargo van, which Michelle drives from Springfield to Rochester. Be sure to keep an eye out for her! We are excited about this new undertaking to support CIAF and hope to see you at this newest addition to the District 23 family.

Do you live outside of Springfield or Rochester but want to purchase something from a District 23 shop? We can help! A large selection of our inventory is posted on our Facebook page complete with a photo, description, sizing, and price. If you see something you like, simply call us with your credit card number and order at (217) 679-4643 for the Springfield shop or (217) 498-1369 for Rochester. You can also message us through Facebook, however a phone call is much quicker and more efficient. We ship to anywhere in the United States.

As of December 12th, D23—Rochester became the only non-profit store in the world to be a retailer of Brighton women’s accessories. It is thrilling to have this distinction and be able to offer Brighton’s beautiful pieces to our customers.

Many of our customers ask, “Why don’t you have a web site to shop from?” We certainly have the resources to create one as Michelle owns and runs a web design and development company called e-websmart! However, the inventory changes so rapidly at both stores, that it would be extremely difficult to keep the web site up to date. Be sure to check in with us often on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/DistrictTwentyThree/ to see what’s new!



The atmosphere at District 23 Mercantile and Foundry is warm and welcoming. The dedicated and incredible staff ensures every customer who walks through the door feels like a part of the CIAF family! We invite you visit us at our two locations:

D23 Springfield

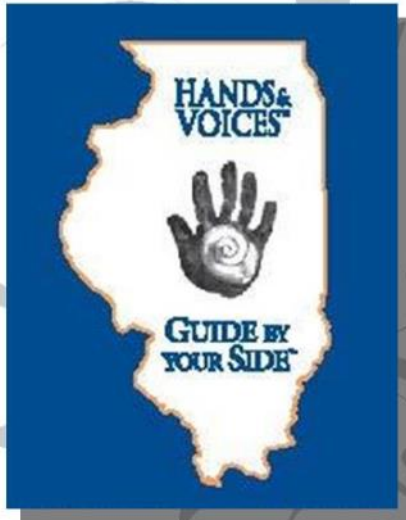
1413 South MacArthur Blvd.
Springfield, Illinois 62704
(217) 679-4643
Hours: Monday – Friday 10am – 6pm
Saturday 10am - 6pm

D23 Rochester

130 S. John Street
Rochester, Illinois 62563
(217) 498-1369
Hours: Monday – Friday 10am – 6pm
Saturday 10am – 4pm
Sunday 12pm – 4pm



Save The Date



Illinois Hands & Voices, Guide By Your Side

2nd Biennial Silent Auction

When: Saturday—April 22nd, 2017

Where: Naperville/Lisle Hilton

For more information visit us at:

<http://ilhandsandvoices.org>

ilhandsandvoices@gmail.com

630-697-3544



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Smile

- Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to **Illinois Families For Hands & Voices** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.
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Save the Dates:

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IL Hands & Voices/Guide By Your Side
 PO Box 9366, Naperville, IL 60567
 630-697-3544
www.ilhandsandvoices.org
<mailto:ilhandsandvoices@gmail.com>

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES & OPTIONS

For our Dinner/Auction held April 22nd, 2017 - at the Naperville/Lisle Hilton

Sponsor Packages	GOLD \$2,500	SILVER \$1,000	BRONZE \$500	SPONSOR \$100
Name or logo on Program Cover	✋			
Direct link of organization on IL Hands & Voices Website for 1 year	✋			
Full page color ad/logo in Program	✋	✋		
Half page black and white ad/logo in Program			✋	
Name listed in Event Sponsors section of Program	✋	✋	✋	✋
Logo on Sponsor's Banner hung at Event	✋	✋	✋	
Table of 10 Guests for your organization at Event included	✋			
Logo shown on website from sponsorship day through June 2017	✋	✋	✋	✋
2 free event tickets		✋	✋	

*All ads/logos must be submitted with BOTH a .pdf and .jpg (high resolution, print ready) format by March 1st, 2017.

Make checks payable to: IL Hands & Voices
 For your tax purposes, our tax-exempt number is 06-1724201.

Mail check and form to address above. Email ad or logo to <mailto:ilhandsandvoices@gmail.com>.

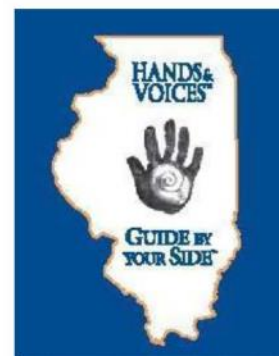
Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Package(s) Desired: _____



Illinois Hands & Voices Mom's Night Inn 2017



What is Mom's Night Inn?

Mom's Night Inn is an overnight retreat for moms or female caregivers who are raising children of ALL ages who are deaf or hard of hearing. It is an amazing way to meet and share experiences with other moms who share similar experiences. Woven into these moments are the connections you make- the experience of sharing your personal journey with another mom and hearing about their journey.

This event includes:

- Overnight accommodations
- Dinner and breakfast
- Time to relax
- Massages and manicures
- Crafts
- Lots of sweet treats to eat!
- Panel discussion Sunday morning
- Keynote speaker
- Downtime to bond with others

Regardless of where you are on your journey, the choices you have made or the choices you are exploring- there is the common bond of raising kids who are deaf or hard of hearing. It is a wonderful feeling to share our journeys together and our retreat makes this possible.

MNI 2017

Registration begins @ 12:30 pm
Sat. March 4, 1:00 pm
~ **Sun. March 5, noon**

Hilton Lisle/Naperville
3003 Corporate West Drive
Lisle, IL 60532
630.505.0900

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Roommate Request: _____

Age(s) of child(ren) with hearing loss: _____

Any Dietary Restrictions? _____

Registration Cost (make check to IL Hands & Voices):

Check one: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shared	Private
Member Cost	\$95 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$145 <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Member Cost	\$115 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$165 <input type="checkbox"/>

Optional Donation Amount: \$ _____

Online Registration
Available now:
ilhandsandvoices.org/mni

Or mail to:
IL Hands & Voices
P.O. Box 9366
Naperville, IL 60567

Partial scholarships may be available via application to offset costs for Moms Night Inn attendees.
FOR MORE INFORMATION: CONTACT US AT 630.697.3544 OR AT ILHANDSANDVOICES@GMAIL.COM

CHICAGO CHILDREN'S THEATER PRESENTS THE SMASH HIT **THE HUNDRED DRESSES** IS BACK FOR A NEW GENERATION OF KIDS; FUN, FUNKY MUSICAL WITH ANTI-BULLYING THEME RUNS JAN. 17- FEB. 12, 2017.

THE RUTH PAGE Center for the Arts, 1016 N. Dearborn St., Chicago.



Show times are Tuesdays through Friday at 10 a.m., Saturdays at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Access Weekend for The Hundred Dresses is Saturday and Sunday, February 4 and 5, with services for persons with disabilities integrated into public performances. These include:

Live open captioning for guests who are deaf or hard of hearing:

Saturday, February 4 at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Sunday, November 13 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Sensory friendly performance with quiet room for children on the autism spectrum or with Down Syndrome: Saturday, February 25 at 11 a.m.

For more information visit chicagochildrenstheatre.org, or call (773) 227-0180.



Save the Dates!

Annual Family Reunion TENTATIVE DATE, Saturday, April 16, 2017. Child's Voice Golf Tournament –please save the date for June 12, 2017. Child's Voice Autumn Gala on Saturday, November 11, 2017 at the Morton Arboretum.

Child's Voice is a listening and spoken language program for children with hearing loss. We are located in Wood Dale and Chicago. Founded by a group of dedicated and determined parents, Child's Voice provides children with hearing loss the opportunity to learn to listen and talk.



CHICAGO HEARING CARE

Why not start 2017 knowing your son or daughter is hearing well!

In January 2017 we will demonstrate some accessories for your child/teen.

They are great resources for noisy situations, one-to-one activities, trips to the grocery store, long drives, etc.

- Com Pilots and Remote Mics (Phonak Hearing Aids and AB cochlear Implants).
- Quatro, loop system to connect Medel devices to music, phones, etc.
- Cochlear Remote Mic and Phone Clips.

If you decide to purchase any of these items, you can do it through us at the same price as the manufacturer's online catalog price and we will pair it for you!

Call us and book your appointment 312-643-0717.

(Continued from page 9)

stand what was being communicated through sign language as well as interaction with those who rely on it for communication. I then resolved myself to enroll in an ASL college program where I could learn the language and perhaps apply my skills to a career down the line and or in other areas of community needs such as our local bible study, church services, etc..

This past 6 months in my sign language learning journey, I've learned a lot about what I wasn't prepared for, and a lot of what very little I knew about. In addition to attending classes I attended a couple weekend camping excursions with the deaf community hoping to gain more exposure and skill building. One involved mainly people deaf or hard of hearing (Illinois Deaf Campers) which was a social experience that extended family came to participate in. And the other involved interpreting college students and the deaf community (Silent Weekend) which is designed to assist parents of children with hearing loss and college students enrolled in the interpreting programs to help expedite the learning process of sign language (ASL). What I walked away from these experiences with was a sense of humbleness. I learned that I had to rely on them heavily to get my needs met and that perhaps, ultimately, they don't need us, we need them when it comes to communicating through the use of sign language. I've also attended some community meetings with the deaf and hard of hearing community in order to gain an understanding for their passion on the respect and support for the use of sign language as well as how they advocate for their rights and needs. I finished 3

classes this semester and will be taking another 3 this upcoming spring semester. I'm looking forward to advancing forward through the sign language interpreter program which is at the community college in Decatur. I hope others after reading this will feel inspired to consider learning some basic sign language (ASL) whether as parents, family members, friends, or community stakeholders.

READ Kits Program Fostering a Love of Books



Literacy

Literacy is defined as the ability to read and write. Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind children struggle with incidental learning, which is what occurs from overhearing the world around us. Incidental learning is a big component of language development, which supports literacy.

A key goal of CHOICES for Parents is to support parents in the early stages of literacy development with their deaf or hard of hearing child and foster a love of books. With this in mind, we developed the READ Kits Program targeting children ages 0-3.

The READ Kits include a book, materials to go with the book, an activity sheet and access to the Reading Strategy Videos, which are available below for you to view. Check out is free and done through US mail, postage free.

As a parent/caregiver of a child who is deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind, you can check out a READ Kit and use the kit to support reading with your child. Also available are YouTube videos that discuss the following strategies to use, regardless of communication mode....

- Introduction
- Strategy #1: Creating a Reading Environment
- Strategy #2: Positioning Your Child
- Strategy #3: Engaging Your Child
- Strategy #4: Making it Language Rich

For more information and the YouTube links, go to www.choicesforparents.org/literacy

The READ Kits Program is made possible by a grant from the Oberkotter Foundation and is managed by CHOICES for Parents.

Available READ Kits:

Mealttime/Eating the Rainbow
Where's Spot?
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What
Do You See?
Transportation
More coming soon....

CHOICES for Parents
PO Box 806045, Chicago, IL 60680-4121
www.choicesforparents.org
info@choicesforparents.org



SAVE THE DATE!

**Ohio School for the Deaf Proudly Hosts
Mr./Miss Deaf Teen America (DTA) Pageant 2017**



March 16-19, 2017

Teams of Male and Female Contestants-

9th to 12th graders from
mainstreamed programs or/and Deaf schools

**College Scholarships will be awarded
from Gallaudet University and
National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID)**

If interested, please contact

Jeannette Dreher at Dreher@osdb.oh.gov or 614-678-5448

Guide By Your Side is the result of a collaborative effort between the following: IL Hands & Voices and the IL Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI).

2017 ITDHH Spelling Bee

The Illinois Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ITDHH) is pleased to present the 2017 Illinois Fingerspelling Bee. Competitors must have a hearing loss and be enrolled in a school in Illinois. We invite competitors from any type of educational setting, including, but not limited to, residential, mainstreamed, public, or private school. For example, competitors can be mainstreamed or in self contained classrooms, with a full-time teacher, with an interpreter, or an itinerant teacher.



Much gratitude is extended to the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission for the extensive materials developed during past successful bees, as well as the assistance provided to our organization this year. To view the packet and forms go to the www.ithi.org. All forms must be completed and submitted by March 11, 2017. Forms may be mailed or emailed.

ISRC Tips for Surviving the Holidays

The Illinois Service Resource Center provides free behavior support for students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

The holidays can be a time of joy, but they can also be a time of stress for both parents and students. Students who are home for winter break may struggle with uncertainty about expectations, feeling isolated from friends, and changes in routine.

Parents can help by providing a sense of predictability. Share information about who will be at holiday celebrations, including names and relationships. Pictures of each individual can be helpful, if available. Explain the holiday, why it is celebrated, and any special family traditions.

Children feel a sense of pride when they are given a special responsibility. Some examples include an opportunity to cook something for the meal, set up holiday decorations, create centerpiece or placemats, set the table, wrap/ pass out gifts, create / pass out party favors, be the photographer, or participate in a community service project.

Visual strategies can be helpful during the holiday break. Use calendars to show how many days until celebrations and how many days until school starts again. Role play and practice can also be helpful with greetings and responses to frequently asked questions. For example, it may be helpful to role play how to respond when receiving an undesired gift. Reading a holiday story together can help your child understand the holiday, and provide special time together. For children who communicate in sign language, some families have hired an interpreter to facilitate communication at parties. For information



TIPS "TO GO"

"AHA" Moments Shared by Parents & Professionals

- * Be prepared for anything. Attach hearing aids/ cochlear implants to a shirt clip and clip them to the back of your child's clothes. You want to be sure they don't get lost. Make a kit that includes extra batteries, cables, or any other replacement parts that you can take with you whenever you leave the house.
- * Interested in learning about topics related to hearing loss? You can view our archives of webinars at <http://www.illinoisoundbeginnings.org/page.aspx?item=61>. You can find a wealth of informational topics that are available in both English and Spanish! These webinars are also helpful for friends and family members that want to learn more about your child's hearing loss, modes of communication, and ways they can support your family. The best part is, you can view them any time!

on behavioral/social-emotional support for students who are deaf and hard of hearing contact ISRC at 847-559-8195 or visit the Parent Page at www.isrc.us