



## GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE™

Illinois Guide By Your Side (GBYS)  
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### Illinois Hands & Voices (H&V)

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www.ilhandsandvoices.org

# Illinois E.A.R.S

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

## Turning Into a Therapy Momzilla

Since the months following our son's cochlear implants surgery, we are furiously trying to bombard him with language. We receive lots of professional advice like: "keep talking;" "auditory sandwich;" "sign hand-over-hand;" and "some frustration is good." Sound familiar?

Perhaps it is the perfectionist in me, but I'm starting to eat, sleep and breathe the professional advice and techniques, which is notoriously turning me into the Therapy Momzilla.

A perfect example of my transformation: we will be driving along when my son sees a bus and will sign "bus" and say "muh-muh" to which I'll replay: "bus? Did you see a bus? Buh-buh? Bus? Can you say buh-buh? No, not muh-muh. Buh-buh. Again. Not muh; buh. OK, good."

And as I am getting ready to pull over and tap his knee to the rhythm of buh-buh, I notice it: my skin is turning green and I see myself for the monster I am becoming.

So, I'm taking a breath; shutting my mouth and reminding myself that my son is 2 years old! Yes, I want him to communicate. Yes, I want him to understand. Yes, I want him to be a rocket scientist, chef, rockstar, pro basketball player, but today he can play with his cars and say: "ma-ma" instead of "beep-beep" because he is trying and every day is filled with new skills and accomplishments. Just because I am overlooking those accomplishments isn't fair to my little boy because he needs me to be his mom first before any other job. My new mantra is: these kids are working so hard. Sometimes they just need a chance to be a kid. Not every minute needs to be focused on language acquisition.

Written by Madeleine, IL H&V Board Member

## Above and Beyond

Every year IL Hands & Voices, Guide By Your Side awards a nominated parent of a child with hearing loss with the annual Parent Achievement award. The premise of the award is to recognize a parent that goes above and beyond serving, guiding and informing other parents and within the field of hearing loss. The three parents nominated this year include Eva Savickas, Crystal Casiano and Jaclyn Urbanski. This year's recipient was nominated by Christen Nolfi. Christen shared "Jaclyn has been a parent guide for over 6 years. She is also on the IL H&V Board. Jaclyn is also involved with several committees and subcommittees within the state and nationwide." With over 500 total votes coming in for the nominees the award was given to Jaclyn Urbanski during our annual Mom's Night Inn retreat on March 5th. Parents can be nominated by anyone and then after the nominating period is over the process moves to online voting.



# Illinois Hands & Voices, Guide By Your Side Silent Auction and Charity Dinner

Saturday April 22, 2017 ~ 6:00 pm

\$75 per person  
\$650 table of ten

Hilton Lisle ~ 3003 Corporate West Drive, Lisle

Register today at : [ilhandsandvoices.org/auction-2017](http://ilhandsandvoices.org/auction-2017)

Contact us: 630-697-3544 [ilhandsandvoices@gmail.com](mailto:ilhandsandvoices@gmail.com)



Illinois Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side is hosting their 2nd biennial Silent Auction and Charity Dinner. Please join us at the Hilton in Lisle for dinner, cocktails, games and auction items as well as entertainment by DJ Demers!!



Winners do not need to be present to win! Please leave your information on your tickets so we can contact you after April 22nd if you win!

If you cannot attend but would like to participate in our 50/50 raffle please contact us: [ilhandsandvoices@gmail.com](mailto:ilhandsandvoices@gmail.com) or [mlj7211@gmail.com](mailto:mlj7211@gmail.com)

Good Luck!!!!

## Board Movement

We say fairwell to 3 board members this year. Pauline Brannigan and Jill Kelly both served for 7 years and Tina Childress served for 2 years and has been on the board in the past as well. We will miss these ladies who worked with us. Good luck ladies, we will see you all soon.

We welcome 5 new board members since Fall of 2016. Jaclyn Urbanski, Christen Nolfi, Kim McAuliffe, Madeleine Daley and Fai Amoroso. Fai brings a deaf education background to our board, the others are parents of children and young adults who are deaf and hard of hearing. Welcome ladies!



## Bridge to Early Hearing

The Pediatric Hearing Loss and Cochlear Implant Program, headed



by Dr. Dana Suskind, is immensely indebted to the Grant Committee from the University of Chicago Women's Board for their generous support.

We are thrilled to announce a grant that allows us to establish the Pediatric Hearing Loss Bridge Fund. This fund will enable our program to provide loaner hearing aids to pediatric patients who need immediate access to hearing technology.

In addition, as the Grant Committee from the Women's Board had a small additional amount of funding at their discretion, the Committee also granted us additional funding which will allow us to purchase I-Pads for the audiology suites.

This is quite an accomplishment, as the Women's Board has never granted more than has

been requested in their 66-year history.

The University of Chicago Medicine is deeply committed to timely assistance to all of our patients and we are beholden to the Women's Board for helping our young patients with hearing loss gain immediate access to appropriate amplification.

### SAVE THE DATE

## Hands & Voices Leadership Conference

September 15-17th 2017



A charming city on the Galena River, Galena delights visitors with its 19th century history and architecture, trolley rides, eclectic shops, great food, and local wines. Make sure to mark your calendar so you don't miss this important Leadership Training Event and experience the hospitality of our host chapter Illinois Hands & Voices.

# DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE A HEARING LOSS?



*"This week was great, helpful and educational in so many ways. It was wonderful that this week is available!"*

Do you have questions about communication options, language development, amplification, social-emotional development and school programs?

**All of your questions can be answered in one place!**

**INSTITUTE FOR PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING**

**JUNE 11-16, 2017**



## **What is the Institute?**

The Institute is a one-week program (Sunday - Friday) for parents of children (through age five) who have a significant hearing loss.

The Institute is held in June on the campus of the Illinois School for the Deaf in Jacksonville, Illinois. Parents learn about hearing loss and about their child's individual strengths and needs. Parents will meet other parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

## **Mission Statement**

Institute provides information and support to families, so they can make informed decisions on behalf of their child who is deaf or hard of hearing. The Institute was summarized by one parent as: "An incredibly useful week to...prepare my child for a life of learning."

*"Very well worth our time. Like others I wasn't sure what to expect but I can tell you it exceeded my expectations. All parents of deaf or hard of hearing children should attend."*

## Who Sponsors the Institute?

The Institute receives support from:

- Department of Human Services (DHS)  
Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)  
Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD)
- University of Illinois at Chicago,  
Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC)
- Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)
- Department of Public Health (DPH)
- Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
- University of Chicago
- University of Illinois

*"This was a wonderful and absolutely overwhelming experience. I have learned so much about deafness while here at ISD..."*

## How Do I Get More Information About the Institute?

Contact Division of Specialized Care for Children by calling us at (800) 322-3722 or Email at [Institute@exchange.dsc.ue.edu](mailto:Institute@exchange.dsc.ue.edu)

Visit our website:  
[dsc.ue.edu](http://dsc.ue.edu)



State of Illinois  
Bruce Rauner, Governor  
Illinois Department of Human Services  
James T. Dimas, Secretary

## More About Institute

**What do children do?** Each morning the children go to classrooms overseen by experienced teachers of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Children are given hearing, vision, psychological, speech, language and educational evaluations. Children will also have the chance to play with other children who have a hearing loss.

**What do parents do?** Parents attend daily lectures by experts in the field to learn about raising a child with hearing loss. They also meet in small groups to discuss specific concerns and connect with other caregivers. Parents meet with professional staff to review the evaluations for their child. They are also provided with the opportunity to learn about various communication modes used with deaf or hard of hearing individuals.

Lecture topics include:

- Child Development
- Types of Hearing Loss
- Communication Choices
- Hearing Aids, Cochlear Implants
- Language Development
- Parent Rights
- School Programming
- Deaf Culture

**What about siblings?** Brothers and sisters, through age eight, can come to Institute. They participate in activities for their age group at the Nursery School on the ISD campus. Siblings also stay with their families in the dorms and go to recreational activities.

**What does it cost?** There is no cost for families who come to Institute. Meals and housing are provided at no charge on the campus of the Illinois School for the Deaf. This week is free!

**Who works at the Institute?** Professionals from all over Illinois come to the Institute. They come from hospitals, schools, colleges, private centers, ISD, DSCC and DPH.

**Where is the Institute?** The Institute is held at the Illinois School for the Deaf in Jacksonville, Illinois. Jacksonville is 30 miles west of Springfield on Interstate 72.

DSCC and DHS/DRS do not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, their programs and activities in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Directors are responsible for compliance. DSCC (217) 558-2350 and DHS/ISD (217) 479-4200 (voice/TTY) or <http://illinoisdeaf.org>

# HEAR to LEARN



BUILDING SUCCESS ONE STEP AT A TIME  
Hearing - Language - Literacy



<http://heartolearn.org>

This user friendly learning resource is for parents and professionals to support spoken language learning for young children who are deaf or hard of hearing.



This website includes:

- Video tutorials
- Downloadable intervention materials
- Current research
- Communities

The website will continue to offer new learning resources, materials, and research - visit often!





# 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!



**BONUS! BISON GAMES | SIX FLAGS | WASHINGTON D.C.**



Youth Programs

800 Florida Avenue, NE  
 Washington, DC 20002

800-995-0550 (voice)

202-618-6799 (videophone)

[youthprograms@gallaudet.edu](mailto:youthprograms@gallaudet.edu)

[youthprograms.gallaudet.edu](http://youthprograms.gallaudet.edu)



## Resources for Spanish speaking families and their children

At Illinois Hands & Voices, we strive to support parents and families of children with hearing loss. The main way to support these families is by educating the parents on different topics related to hearing loss. After the initial diagnosis and through-out the years,

parents will need to make informed decisions when it comes to their child's hearing options, hearing devices, communication modes, schooling, etc. Parents are initially overwhelmed with the diagnosis, and this is when we need to support them the most. In the next days, weeks, months, and years, they will make the most important choices that will help their child reach his/her maximum potential in his/her future. To make these important decisions parents need to be well informed, and this is our main goal. We want to help them become experts in the field. So, when they attend clinical appointments they understand the terminology, what the test results mean, and the recommendations. They can ask questions to clear out their doubts, and help them feel confident with the decisions they are about to make. We want to empower parents with knowledge so they can decide what is best for their child and their family.

**But how can we provide this support to Spanish speaking families that might experience language barriers?** The same way we support our English-speaking families. We provide them with educational materials, answer questions, connect them with other parents, professionals and centers around the state. We do all of this in Spanish. We have a Spanish committee dedicated to support these families. We have Spanish speaking trained parent guides, and professionals on the board who are native Spanish speakers. In the recent years, we have gone step beyond. We have connected with different Spanish speaking professionals across the country who are interested in sharing their knowledge with our families, and we have created a video library of short lectures and mini seminars in Spanish. We are very excited to share with our families a list of topics they can learn more about.

- Diagnosis of a hearing loss
- Pediatric hearing tests
- Hearing devices
- Cochlear implants
- Psychological effects
- Auditory verbal therapy
- Auditory brain development

We record these lectures and thanks to Illinois Sounds Beginnings the videos and presentations are uploaded to a YOU-TUBE channel. Parents can then watch these courses on YOU-TUBE while they commute to their jobs, take a break at work, or after everyone has gone to sleep. Most important of all, the courses are provided by Spanish speaking professionals in fluent Spanish so we overcome the language barrier.

We hope that parents can rely on our lectures to learn about hearing loss, audiology, speech and language development, communication modes, etc. Parents have their child's future in their hands and knowledge is a powerful tool to help them shape their child's potential for the best.

Please help us spread the word, and share our contact details with Spanish speaking families. We will be delighted to connect with them through our parent guides, invite them to our Family events, share with them new information on different topics as well as our latest videos/lectures. The links to our videos can be found on our website: <https://ilhandsandvoices.wordpress.com/espanol/>

Alejandra Ullauri, Au.D.  
Chair Spanish Committee  
Illinois Hands and Voices



# In the Spotlight

## We Are Not Meant to Live in our Comfort Zone

As a parent we seem to always be looking ahead and trying to prepare for the bumps in the road, surprised by the things that weren't as difficult as we anticipated them to be and stretched thin when that curve ball comes our way. This is what life is like as a parent with and without the hearing loss piece. Our son, Jack, is 16 years old. He has his driving permit and will soon be getting his license. He is a Junior at Grayslake North HS and participates in various activities like bowling, JR. NAD (National Association of the Deaf) and the HS Special Olympics team. Jack has been working almost every weekend at a Children's indoor play area, The Chicago Treehouse, since he was 14 years old. He was born profoundly deaf and it's been quite a journey, but I feel blessed and thankful for this journey.

Recently Jack participated in a schoolwide pep rally. The overall message at the pep rally was diversity. His Special Olympics basketball team played against another Special Olympics team and it had all the bells and whistles of a pep rally. Honestly the pep rally couldn't have come at a better time because Jack and some of his classmates had a rough week experiencing some bullying. Jack is a big kid, he's over 6' tall but, bullying however does not have to be physical and in his case it was primarily verbal abuse from a peer who also had hearing loss (so you can stop thinking he's being picked on because he's deaf). I share this because we should talk about the challenges so we can grow from them. Listen to your children and make sure you know that there are resources such as the O.U.R (Observe, Understand and Respond) program through Hands & Voices Headquarters for situations



like these.

In the end, all our kids still have hearing loss no matter what type of educational placement, amplification or communication mode they use. There will be times where they hit a bump in the road and you may need to think creatively or step outside of the comfort zone to move ahead. You may need to change your initial plan and try something different and that's okay too.

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*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](mailto:GBYS@choicesforparents.org).*

## Latest Promotion on our Team

# Movin' On



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Hands & Voices Headquarters implemented a leveled Recognition Program for all Guide By Your Side (GBYS) programs. This program ensures that all

GBYS programs provide the same basic training which is labeled the Guide Level. There are two additional levels, Lead & Senior, that guides can achieve based on completing basic competency tasks and additional activity points.

Don't hesitate to congratulate Christen Nolfi on her recent promotion the next time you speak with her.



# Up!



**Ladies Night Out**  
*For those with a hearing loss...  
 and/or a child with a hearing loss.*

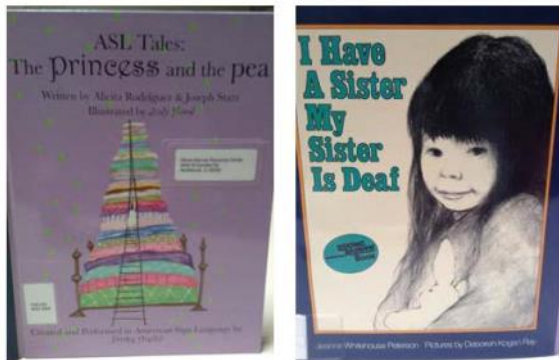
**When:** Monday April 10<sup>th</sup>  
**Where:** District 23 Mercantile & Foundry Boutique Shop  
**Website:** <http://district23.com/>  
**Time:** 6:00-7:30p.m.  
**Address:** 1413 S MacArthur Blvd. Springfield, IL 62704

Pizza & Wine will be served...



**ISRC Library Mails Items With Return Postage**

The Illinois Service Resource Center offers a free lending library that mails items to parents with return postage included. Items are available in a wide range of topics including sign language, sibling issues, stories, videos, games, and more. To view the catalogue visit [www.isrc.us](http://www.isrc.us) and select the Library tab.



**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](http://www.sendoutcards.com/illinoishandsandvoices)

**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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto:GBYS@choicesforparents.org).

## Statewide Conferences offer Connections & Education

Dozens of families came together on a Saturday to learn more about various topics related to hearing loss. Held at the AG Bell Montessori School in Wheeling, IL, speakers at the NOE (North of Eighty) conference presented on "Assistive Technology", "Implementing Positive Behavior



Supports at Home", and "Literacy and the Fourth Grade Decline" and "Growing Up With Deaf Siblings". A representative from the Illinois Assistive Technology Program shared devices that their office loans out to schools and families. Items such as FM systems, bed shakers, and captioned phones were available for parents to see. The Illinois Service Resource Center offered behavioral strategies that can be easily implemented into daily routines. A teacher from the Illinois School for the Deaf presented data related to the decline in literacy skills for deaf and hard of hearing students and gave suggestions on how to keep this from occurring. During lunch, participants took part in a guided Bingo game to share resources while enjoying a tasty meal. The day ended with a panel of siblings of kids who are deaf or hard of hearing who shared their stories of what it was like to grow up with a sister or brother with hearing loss. In addition to learning this valuable information, families had the opportunity to network with each other and share their own stories and ideas. Illinois School for the Deaf offers these FREE parent conferences in three locations each year. These conferences offer not only educational information, but invaluable parent/family connections that can last a lifetime.

## NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

6-WEEK SUMMER CAMP FOR CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS

**June 27 - August 1, 2017**

The Pediatric Clinical Faculty at Northwestern Center for Audiology, Speech, Language, and Learning are excited to announce a new summer aural rehabilitation camp for children who have hearing loss and communicate using listening and spoken language. Camps are facilitated by a pediatric audiologist and speech language pathologist.

| Listen, Play, and Talk Group<br>3-6 year olds  | Listening, Gadgets, and Games Group<br>7-12 year olds   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Tuesdays and Thursdays</b><br/>9 - 11 a.m.<br/>Cost per child: \$1025</p> <p>A play based listening and language enrichment group focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play-based activities with peers to enhance listening and social communication skills.</li> <li>Games targeting listening in various environments using our virtual sound room.</li> <li>Opportunities to learn new vocabulary and communication repair strategies with peers.</li> <li>Age-appropriate STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) activities to introduce hearing technology.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Tuesdays and Thursdays</b><br/>3 - 5 p.m.<br/>Cost per child: \$1025</p> <p>A social-based listening and language enrichment group facilitated by a focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities to enhance listening and communication skills.</li> <li>Games targeting listening in various environments using our virtual sound room.</li> <li>Development and practice self-advocacy skills.</li> <li>STEM(Science, technology, engineering and math) activities to understand hearing devices and technology.</li> </ul> |

Each child will receive individualized client-clinician support throughout the group. Email [NUCASLL@northwestern.edu](mailto:NUCASLL@northwestern.edu) if you are interested and you will be sent an online application. Applications will be accepted from February 10 - June 1, 2017.

Please note, we are not able to bill insurance for the group sessions.

Northwestern University Center for Audiology, Speech, Language and Learning  
2315 Campus Dr., Evanston, IL  
**847-491-3165**

Northwestern

SAVE THE DATE:

April 29 / 29 de Abril

Mother's Day Event  
Reunion Día de la Madre  
Chicago

Participa, relájate,  
comparte y aprende como  
puedes ayudar a tu hijo/a

Inscríbete por email: [ihandsandvoices@gmail.com](mailto:ihandsandvoices@gmail.com)

This event will be in Spanish / Este evento será en Español

Auspiciado por IL H&V and Guide: By Your Side



# 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:**

**[dsc.c.uic.edu](https://dsc.c.uic.edu)**

**See Other Side for More Information**



# CHILD'S VOICE

You'll be hearing from us!



Tuesday, June 6, 2017  
 Cantigny Golf Club  
 27w270 Mack Road  
 Wheaton, IL 60189

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

- The perfect combination - Spend the day on the green and change the life of a child!
- For over 20 years, Child's Voice has helped children with hearing loss learn to listen, to speak and to sing!
- Graduates move back to their mainstream, neighborhood schools ready to learn and succeed in their education and communities!
- Your support of the annual Golf Tournament allows even more children to receive these critical tools for a lifetime of learning!

### "Tee Times" for the Day

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 10:30 a.m. | Registration & Check-In<br>Driving Range & Putting Green Open<br>Lunch Served |
| Noon       | Shotgun Start (Scramble Format)   |
| 4:30 p.m.  | Reception   |
| 5:30 p.m.  | Dinner & Program  |

*On course contests including hole-in-one, closest to the pin, longest drive and "Challenge the Child's Voice Graduate"!*

Sponsorship Opportunities Available.  
 No Rain Date.

[www.childsvoice.org/golf-tournament](http://www.childsvoice.org/golf-tournament)



For more information:

call 630-595-8200 • email [events@childsvoice.org](mailto:events@childsvoice.org) • visit [www.childsvoice.org](http://www.childsvoice.org)

### Golf Tournament Committee

**Matt Bowersox**  
**Renee Jones**  
 Co-Chairs

**Angela Chaudhari, M.D.**  
**Darrin Edgecombe**  
**Paul Fahey**  
**Adam Gurtz**  
**Dan McMahon, '99**  
**Tim O'Hara**  
**Katie Schroeder**  
**Dan Stratis**  
**Kim Tasharski**

### Registration Fees

Early Bird (ends May 1st)  
 Individual Golf \$275  
 Foursome \$1,000  
 After May 1st - prices increase 20%  
 Includes course fees, cart, lunch, reception & dinner



## Winter Event Fun

A family social was held in February within the Springfield area at a library. There were

games, crafts, snacks, and children's story readings in both English and



signed in ASL. There were approximately

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## amazon.com 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.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).

USE: <https://smile.amazon.com/>  
 EVERYTIME you shop

### THREE EASY STEPS:

1. CLICK LINK BELOW (or type into your browser window)  
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-1724201>
2. Enter your Amazon Account user name/password
3. SHOP



## Save the Dates:

- Silent Auction/Dinner....April 22
- Leadership conference...Sept. 15-17
- Parent Institute....June 11-16
- Ladies Night Out...April 10
- Day camp for kids....June 27-Aug. 1
- ASL classes....April-May (pg. 15)
- DHH Parent Night...May 4th



(Continued from page 14)

a half a dozen families that attended. Moms gathered to ask one another questions and share stories about their children. Each family was sent home a goodie bag that included hand shaped cookies in the ASL sign for love.



(Continued from page 9)

Recently Jack was asked what advice he would give to a parent of a child with hearing loss and he said, "Do what works best for your family, I like my implant, I like using my voice and signing but you need to do what is right for you." I was so happy to hear this come from him because it's so true. That is why there are choices to begin with and if it turns out that you need to tweak them along the way that's okay.



Jack's team won the game in overtime during the pep rally and it ended with the whole student body including both basketball teams gathering on the gym floor in one big dance party truly celebrating diversity!

a comfort zone  
is a beautiful place,  
but **nothing**  
ever grows there.

- Unknown



## SWCCCASE Parent/Adult Sign Language Class

- **Wednesdays: April 5- May 17**
- **4:00-5:00 p.m.**
- **Oakwood School in the LRC**  
1130 Kim Place, Lemont, IL 60439
- **Free babysitting available onsite**
- **Parents, family members age 13 and up, teachers**
- **Cost to attend- Free**
- **Register by calling 630-257-2286, ext. 1309, no later than Tuesday April 4th at noon**

Brenda Schmidt, SWCCCASE  
DHH Programs Supervisor  
708-342-5387  
bschmidt@swcccase.org

## DHH PARENT NIGHT

**5:30-7:30pm**

**SPEED S.E.J.A. #802**  
1125 Division Street  
Chicago Heights, IL 60411

**May 4th, 2017**

**Ms. Andrea Marwah Presents**  
"A Little Hearing Loss is a Big Thing"  
6:15-7:15pm

**Agencies Attending:**

- ⇒ University of Chicago
- ⇒ Hands and Voices
- ⇒ Guide By Your Side
- ⇒ Lurie Children's Hospital
- ⇒ ISRC
- ⇒ Illinois School for the Deaf
- ⇒ and more...

Come meet other DHH parents, see what resources are available to you and your child.  
⇒ Door prizes, raffles and much more!  
(Light supper will be provided)

**Register by April 10th, 2017**

To register, please visit our Featured Events for May 4th at [www.speed802.org](http://www.speed802.org) and follow the link.

Questions? contact  
Karen Pfeiffer at  
[kpfeiffer@speed802.org](mailto:kpfeiffer@speed802.org)

\*\*\*Adult function\*\*\*  
\*\*\*Childcare will not be provided\*\*\*

# Free Camp in IL for kids ages 7-17

## Camp Lions is for fun...

The Lions of Illinois Foundation is proud to sponsor Camp Lions summer camp experience for youth ages 7-17 who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or who have a moderate to severe vision loss.

Camp Lions provides youth a safe place to make new friends, and have FUN! Campers enrich their personal independence and self-confidence through exciting group activities.

**Camp Lions is Free!** Accepted Campers Attend at No Charge! Camp Lions operates on funds which have been donated by

Lion, Lioness, & Leo Club members plus friends of the Lions of Illinois Foundation & Camp Lions of Illinois.

### Don't bring a penny!

We ask every person applying to send in a check or money order for \$15 to use as their personal spending money. This way no cash is lost.

This deposit is the only money you invest for an entire week of fun with peers and



For applications to attend Camp Lions please call 1-800-955-5466 V or 1-815-756-5633 V/TTY relay;

E-mail: [lmk@LIFnd.org](mailto:lmk@LIFnd.org) or write to:

**CAMP LIONS OF ILLINOIS**  
Lions of Illinois Foundation  
2254 Oakland Drive;  
Visit Us on the Web at

[lionsofillinoisfoundation.org](http://lionsofillinoisfoundation.org) &

[Facebook.com/CampLionsofIllinois](https://www.facebook.com/CampLionsofIllinois)

Scan the box to connect to the LIF



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## Camp Lions Story...

Nearly 20,000 youth have attended Camp Lions since 1957.

### Camp Lions began as a dream project.

Back in the 1950's people with disabilities were often not welcome at summer camps. The public thought children who were blind or deaf could not handle the activities of camp. It was the dream of Chicago area Lions (in what is called District 1-A) to offer blind and/or deaf children a chance to experience summer camp, just like their hearing and sighted friends.



### That dream became Camp Lions of Illinois for Blind & Deaf Youth.

Camp Lions of Illinois was opened in 1957 at the YMCA campsite in Ravenswood, Illinois. In the 1970's the camp moved to southern Illinois to an area called "Little Grassy". Camp Lions had grown to serve around 400 campers over a summer. In 1993 the demand for more "localized" sites caused Camp Lions to move to three sites- Dixon, Hudson, and DuBois providing a Camp Lions location in the north, central, and southern regions of Illinois. In 2011 the southern site moved to Camp Manitowa in Benton, Illinois. The final site change in 2012 moved our northern site to Camp Henry Horner in Ingleside, Illinois.

One thing has never changed at Camp Lions- the idea of providing a safe, positive place for blind and/or deaf youth to enjoy summer camp with their peers. This philosophy has given thousands of campers a chance to grow self-confidence in a fun, sports & nature program.



2017

**June 25—July 1**  
Deaf/HOH & Blind/Low Vision youth  
Camp Henry Horner  
Ingleside, Illinois



**July 9—July 15**  
DEAF WEEK  
Deaf/HOH youth  
East Bay Camp  
Hudson, Illinois



**July 16—July 22**  
VISION WEEK  
Blind/Low Vision youth  
East Bay Camp  
Hudson, Illinois



**July 31—Aug 6**  
Deaf/HOH & Blind/Low Vision youth  
Camp Manitowa  
Benton, Illinois

Deadline to apply: June 1, 2017

## Who Can Attend?

Come join us at Camp Lions & discover for yourself that the dream lives on ...

Eligible campers must be between the ages of 7-17 years old, and must have either a vision loss of 20/70 after best correction and/or a hearing loss which requires daily use of communication alternatives such as sign language or lip reading and/or use of a hearing aid, cochlear implant, or similar auditory device.

Camp Lions is not based on income.

Camp Lions promotes self-confidence through positive peer interactions & encouraging independent skills.



All campers must be able to do all personal care and hygiene. Counselors do not provide one to one care such as bathing or toileting, & dressing. Campers should also be independently ambulatory to maneuver the campgrounds & able to understand & follow Counselor directions in all camp activities.



## Location, Location, Location

The Lions of Illinois Foundation hosts three youth camp locations, one each in Southern, Central, & Northern Illinois. Eligible campers are assigned to the site closest to their home for their

convenience, if no preference is requested. All three camps provide modern cabin-style housing with bunk beds.



Each site offers: swimming, horseback riding, archery, canoeing, boat rides, fishing, nature walks/hikes, team sports, challenge



courses, board & card games, arts & crafts, cook-outs, campfire circles, Open House celebrations, a dance, & talent shows by campers & staff.



## Camp Lions Counselors



Camp Lions Counselors are positive role models as many are visually or hearing impaired themselves. They know what it means to be treated differently based on their disability, not who they are.

Counselors will encourage every camper to reach for new goals strengthening their total abilities & self-esteem.

The majority of Camp Lions Counselors are fluent in American Sign Language. All Counselors are 18 years old or older & are trained in CPR & First Aid. A Camp Nurse is present at each session. Camp Lions Counselor to camper ratio is four campers to each Counselor.



Camp Lions is the place to make lasting friends & memories.



## 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](http://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](http://www.choicesforparents.org)  
[info@choicesforparents.org](mailto:info@choicesforparents.org)



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).

## Fun for the Family

Are you looking for fun family events? Would you like an opportunity to meet other families who have children with hearing loss? On a Sunday morning in February, several families who have children with hearing loss met at KidsTown play place in Wheaton. Children ranging from 18 months old to 8 years old had the opportunity to meet and play with other children just like them. From driving Little Tikes cars to engaging in dramatic play, all of the kids had fun just being kids! While they were busy playing, the parents had the chance to talk and share stories about their journey navigating through the deaf/hard of hearing world with their children. Family, Education and Outreach (FEO) Days are the perfect opportunity to chat and learn from each other. All children with hearing loss and their families are welcome to attend these events. Make sure you like our Facebook page so that you can stay informed of all of our upcoming events!



Looking for a special gift? Take a look at this special selection of personalized jewelry made by a fellow mom with a child who has hearing loss!



Visit the shop at [www.kennebugboutique.com](http://www.kennebugboutique.com)

## All About the Moms

Mom's Night Inn was held at the Hilton Lisle/Naperville on the weekend of March 4th - 5th. The moms/female caregivers in attendance all have a built in connection from raising their children that are deaf or hard of hearing. This is always and was a great time for us all to connect, laugh, cry and bond. Mom's share their families and their own struggles, successes and provide each other with great support and resources. Saturday was filled with games, candy, information and bonding followed by a nice sit down dinner. Participants also got to hear about two journeys shared from Dad's perspective. Saturday evening the Moms were pampered with massages and manicures. During this time the participant's also got to show off their craft skills by using their favorite family photos to make flower pots. They all turned out great and everyone enjoyed seeing each other's family photos. Sunday everyone enjoyed a nice breakfast and sleeping in a little in the quietness of their



rooms. Breakfast was followed by a panel of deaf teens and young adults. Hearing from the panel and being able to ask them questions is a favorite for the attendees. Everyone enjoyed catching up with old friends and making new ones at this event and of course a little special Mom time.