Families who have attended Minnesota Hands & Voices (MNH&V) Family Events know their value first-hand. MNH&V Family Events offer fun activities, informative topics, networking opportunities, resource information, and a welcoming community. All events are FREE for families with a child who is deaf or hard of hearing (dhh).

“We define ‘Family’ as anyone who is an integral part of the child’s universe,” said Anne Barlow, MNH&V Events Coordinator, “While it includes a traditional definition of family, it can also mean extended family.”

There are two kinds of Family Events; Educational and Social. Educational events focus on a topic relevant to parents raising a child who is dhh, presented by a specialist. Social events focus on family fun activities with broad appeal to families of all ages. Educational and Social Events are advertised as such, and families can expect consistency from year to year.

Expected at MNH&V Family Events

Relevant Topics
Topics are selected with both new parents and parents further along in their journey in mind. Please note that titles for events cannot always capture the full content of information that will be presented. Parents learn something new at every event, whether it’s from the presenter about the topic or from a conversation with a fellow parent or staff.

Creative Activities
Children enjoy a variety of activities that include the interests, ability of different age groups, and communication styles.

Safe Staff and Volunteers
All MNH&V staff and volunteers who work with children have had current background checks and are fully vetted, no exceptions.

One or More DHH Guides
On staff DHH Guides (young adult who is dhh) lead children in age-appropriate activities. They bring the fun!

One or More Parent Guides
On staff Parent Guides (also a parent raising a child who is dhh) provide hands-on assistance for children during activities, snacks, and assurance as needed.

Accessibility
Please request two weeks in advance if you or your child will need an ASL Interpreter, Cued English Transliterater, and/or any other accommodations. To request accommodations contact Anne Barlow, MNH&V Events Coordinator, by email at AnneB@lifetrack-mn.org.

“During educational presentations, kids are busy playing in a supported and supervised space,” added Anne, “Most often directly adjacent to where the parents are, so they can easily check in.”

The enduring value of MNH&V Family Events happens when parents, caregivers, children, mentors, role models, and staff are gathered together in an unbiased supportive environment. Meaningful connections, observations, and friendships are made.

“AND THEN... We went to a family event, and found our herd,” exclaimed a mom as she described attending her first MNH&V Family Event. “We exponentially expanded our support network, learned from others, and gained strength and confidence from our new herd.”
Our common connection to a loved one who is dhh makes events uniquely supportive and inspiring. The people you meet, the interactions you see, and the experiences you share at MNH&V Family Events are carried with you long after the event is over.

“**My 3 year old was excited to see other kids with hearing aids!**”

Wrote a mother with a daughter who is dhh in a feedback form.

Enduring values of attending a MNH&V Family Event

- Fellowship and belonging
- Improved self advocacy skills
- Building stronger self identity
- Empathy for others
- Meeting others who are dhh
- Sibling to sibling support
- Gain confidence in your child’s potential
- New perspective from watching other families and siblings interact
- Helpful tips from others who “get it”
- Improved social emotional skills and making friends
- Safe environment to ask questions
- Peace of mind for the future
- Support and confidence to keep doing what you’re doing
- Support and flexibility to try something new
- Greater understanding of the wide variety of choices
- Opportunity to experience other communication modes in action

It can be a challenge to convince busy families who have never attended a MNH&V Family Event to give it a try, but we encourage you to do so!

“Make sure everyone wears play clothes—we might be making slime, painting, playing outside … every event is different,” said Anne adding. “We’re waiting for you!”

Enduring Value of MNH&V Events continued from page 1

Slime at a metro area MNH&V Family Event

**MNH&V EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**MNH&V Parent Guide for Southeast Asian Communities**

The MNH&V Southeast Asian Communities Parent Guide position offers 10 hours a week, some evenings and weekends, and a family-friendly work environment.

MNH&V Parent Guides receive specific training and team support. Parent Guides are responsible for the initial and follow-up connections critical to families who have a newly identified child who is dhh. They work closely with the MNH&V team and learn the best way to support our MNH&V families. They organize and lead family events, represent MNH&V in the community, and participate in family support activities. Your personal experience of the challenges and joys of parenting a child who is deaf or hard of hearing (dhh) helps support other parents who are just starting their journey.

To find out more or to apply and send a resume, please visit Lifetrack at https://recruiting.paylocity.com/Recruiting/Jobs/Details/83733
**MNH&V Events**

ALL MNH&V Family Events are open to ALL Minnesota families who have a child who is dhh. Siblings are always welcome!

**Sunday, February 23**
Let’s Roll! Roller Skating Family Event
5:00 to 7:00 pm
Roller Garden, St. Louis Park, MN

**Sunday, March 8**
MNH&V Family Bowling Event
1:00 to 4:00 pm
Pierz, MN

**Friday, March 21**
Fergus Falls: Educational Advocacy Day Presented the Hands & Voices Way
9:30 am to 1:00 pm
Fergus Falls, MN

**Friday, March 21**
Willmar: Educational Advocacy Day Presented The Hands & Voices Way
3:00 to 6:30 pm
Willmar, MN

**Saturday, March 28**
Winter Waterpark Getaway
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
 Thief River Falls, MN

**Saturday, April 4**
Central MN: Educational Advocacy Day Presented the Hands & Voices Way
9:30 am to 1:00 pm 
Avon, MN

**Saturday, April 18**
Metro: Educational Advocacy Day Presented the Hands & Voices Way
9:30 am-1:00 pm
Saint Paul, MN

**Saturday, May 9**
Duluth: Educational Advocacy Day Presented the Hands & Voices Way
9:30 am-1:00 pm
Duluth, MN

**Saturday, May 9**
Chisholm: Educational Advocacy Day Presented The Hands & Voices Way
3:00 to 6:30 pm
Chisholm, MN

**Saturday, May 16**
Desarrollando Lectores: MNH&V Evento Familiar
10:00 am to 12:30 pm
Saint Paul, MN

**Saturday, June 13**
Warroad: Educational Advocacy Day Presented the Hands & Voices Way
9:30 am to 1:00 pm
Warroad, MN

**Saturday, July 18**
Mankato: Educational Advocacy Day Presented The Hands & Voices Way
9:30 am to 1:00 pm
Mankato, MN

**Thursday, June 25**
MNH&V Northfield Family Picnic
6:00 to 8:00 pm
Northfield, MN

**Saturday, July 25**
MNH&V’s Central Region Family Fun Day at Lake George (St Cloud)
11:00 am to 3:00 pm
St Cloud, MN

**Thursday, August 6 ★**
MNH&V Annual Family Picnic Metro
5:00 to 8:30 pm
Saint Paul, MN

**Saturday, August 8**
MNH&V SW Region Annual Family Event
2:00 to 4:30 pm
Mankato, MN

**Saturday, August 15**
MNH&V: Defensa Educativa a la manera de Manos & Voces
9:30 am to 1:00 pm
Saint Paul, MN

**Saturday, September 19**
Reading On The Farm
10:00 am to 12:30 pm
Hampton, MN

Please check for updates or additions at mnhandsandvoices.org/news-events

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**MNH&V Employment Opportunity**

**MNH&V Parent Guide for the Northeast African Communities**

The MNH&V NE African Communities Parent Guide position offers 10 flexible hours a week, some evenings and weekends, and a family-friendly work environment.

MNH&V Parent Guides receive specific training and team support. Parent Guides are responsible for the initial and follow-up connections critical to families who have a newly identified child who is deaf or hard of hearing (dhh). They work closely with the MNH&V team and learn the best way to support our MNH&V families. They organize and lead family events, represent MNH&V in the community, and participate in family support activities. Your personal experience of the challenges and joys of parenting a child who is dhh helps support other parents who are just starting their journey. Candidate for this position must be fluent in Somali.

To find out more or to apply and send a resume, please visit Lifetrack at https://recruiting.paylocity.com/Recruiting/Jobs/Details/117452

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**FUTURE EVENTS**

Saturday, October 3
Desarrollando Lectores: MNH&V Evento Familiar
10:00 am to 12:30 pm
Saint Paul, MN

Saturday, November 7
MNH&V Central Region Family Fun Day
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Saint Cloud, MN

Saturday, December 5
MNH&V Annual Family Picnic Metro
6:00 to 8:30 pm
Saint Paul, MN
The High Five Award is an opportunity for parents to publicly thank those who do more than expected on behalf of children who are DHH. Parents are invited to nominate another parent, teacher, interpreter, medical provider, community advocate, role model, or anyone who inspires your family!

Now through July 1st, MNH&V is accepting one nomination per family from parents.

Email your nomination, subject line “High Five Award”, to mnhv@lifetrack-mn.org

Winners will be announced at the MNH&V Metro Family Picnic on Thursday, August 1st. Recognition for winners will also take place at the picnic or, for greater Minnesota recipients, in a community convenient for them and the nominating family.
MNH&V Introduces Janie Barlow, DHH Guide

“MNH&V is an amazing organization that I wish my family had known about when I was growing up,” said Janie Barlow. “To me, MNH&V means families of all kinds, with children who have a wide variety of hearing differences, can receive a vast knowledge of what’s available out there.”

Janie Barlow, who was born and raised in Minnesota, has been working at MNH&V as a DHH Guide since last fall. As an infant she contracted spinal meningitis and as a result she is hard of hearing in both ears. Janie, who identifies as deaf, uses hearing aids, and is fluent in both ASL and English.

“In this role as DHH Guide, I will be able to meet with families to share my personal experiences,” said Janie. “I will also provide support and resources, plus, meet families at MNH&V events or during home visits if they want. I look forward to meeting you all!”

Janie and her husband, who is deaf, have two small children with typical hearing. She can relate to MNH&V parents from the perspective of hearing differently than her children, which adds an interesting layer to conversations with parents.

Hands & Voices of Minnesota is a program of Lifetrack

Thanks for your contribution!
We rely on your generous support to build better lives for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.
Make a tax-deductible donation today.

DONATE

An exchange student who is dhh visited with Maya, a MNH&V DHH Guide. The student was very excited to receive her own copy of a book she loves, El Deafo, as a gift from the DHH Guide Program.
FREE Lifetime Access Pass to National Parks & Federal Recreational Lands for Individuals of All Ages with Disabilities and Their Families

A free lifetime Access Pass, providing admittance to more than 2,000 recreation sites managed by five Federal agencies, is available to all U.S. citizens or permanent residents of all ages who have a medically determined permanent disability.

What does having an Access Pass mean for families? It means huge savings on your next family road trip to a National Park! The Access Pass offers free admission per-vehicle for the pass owner and all passengers, and free admission per-person for the pass owner and 3 accompanying adults where there is a per-person fee charged. At many sites the Access Pass provides the pass owner a discount on expanded amenity fees such as camping, swimming, and guided tours.

Get an Access Pass in person at a Federal Recreation site or through the mail using an online application. For more information visit https://store.usgs.gov/access-pass

Charles Thompson Memorial Hall Fundraiser

Saturday, May 2, 2020
Save Thompson Hall Project Fundraiser
Wayzata Country Club
200 Wayzata Blvd. W.
Wayzata, MN 55391

Charles Thompson Memorial Hall and Deaf Equity is hosting a fundraiser for the Save Thompson Hall Project. This fundraiser will help to preserve and renovate the building as well as add an elevator to make it accessible for patrons and community members.

Charles Thompson Memorial Hall, built in 1916, is designed as a historical national landmark. It is one of the oldest deaf clubhouses in the world and to this day is an important social and cultural meeting place for the community.

Since July 2017, a team from Thompson Hall Board of Trustees, Deaf Equity Board, and members of the community have been working together to Save the Deaf Club fundraiser. The renovation will expand the building’s use to other organizations and schools, as well as greatly improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

The MN Deaf Club Renovation & Elevator Project Account is set up at Hiawatha National Bank in Hudson, Wisconsin, which is owned by an individual who is deaf. All donations will be exclusive to this project. Both Board of Trustees at Thompson Hall and Deaf Equity Board will provide fiscal oversight of the account.

Find a slide show of the new floor plans and ways to donate at their website: https://charlesthompsonhall.org/saveth/s-donations/

Deaf Awareness Day

Saturday, April 18, 2020
10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Deaf Awareness Day is free and open to the public. Organized by the Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens to give individuals and families an opportunity to learn more about the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Concessions will be sold all day. Find games, prizes, information, and exhibitors selling crafts. Representatives from different organizations and schools will be on site to provide information. Attendees can learn basic sign language.

“There is a huge deaf community in Twin Cities,” said Mark Zangara, event coordinator. “Everyone should experience what this rich culture has to offer. This event is a fun way to learn about American Sign Language and deaf culture.”

White Bear Lake High School
South Campus
3551 McKnight Rd N
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Email questions to dad@minndeaf.org

View of the Charles Thompson Memorial Hall building on November 11, 1916.
The building was designed by the architect Olof Hanson, who was deaf.
2020 Summer Camps

**Minnesota Hands & Voices FOCUS Newsletter February 2020**

**Camp Sertoma**
July 5-10, gr 3-8
East Gull Lake, MN
www.campsertoma.com

**Sertoma Deaf Camp**
July 12-17, ages 7-14
Easton, MO
Sertomadeafcamp.org

**Camp Loud & Clear**
July 24-26, ages 8-13
Appomattox, VA
https://www.holidaylake4h.com/camp-loud-clear.html

**North Camp Ross Relles**
August 2-8, ages 7-15
Nevada City, CA

**South Camp Teresita Pines**
July 12-18, ages 7-15
Wrightwood, CA
lionswildcamp.org/schedule/

**NAD Youth Leadership Camp**
July 17-Aug 11, gr 7-12
Camp Talodi, Oregon
www.nad.org/youth/youth-leadership-camp/

**Wisconsin Lions Camp**
July 19-24, ages 6-17
July 26-31, ages 6-17
Rosholt, WI
wiscblindsouthcamp.com

**Camp Pacifica Week 1 & 2**
July 19-25, July 26-Aug 1, ages 7-15
Sierra Nevada foothills, CA
camppacifica.org/camp

**E.X.I.T.E. Camp**
July 23, 27, 31 and Aug 4, 6, girls gr 6-9, 9 am-4 pm
Bloomington, MN
pacer.org/ctc/exite/Camp.asp

**Camp Grizzly DHH & KODA**
July 28-Aug 3, ages 7-15
Wileyville, CA
www.campgrizzly.org

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**Camps located in MN & WI are highlighted in red.**

This list is not comprehensive and new camps may be added after printing. For more camp listings by state, go to www3.gallaudet.edu/clerc-center/info-to-go/national-resources-and-directories/summer-camps.html

**PLEASE NOTE:** Listed are camps for children who are dhh and their families. However, any camp that is open to the public and charges a fee is responsible to provide language access under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Parents should give camps advance notice that their child who is dhh will be attending and their accommodations needs.

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**Spring Camp Cheeroio**
May 15-17, family
Glade Valley, NC
springcampcheerio.org

**MRID Camp ASL**
May 29-31
Annandale, MN
mrid.org/event-368350

**AHIIA Hockey Camp**
June 13-20, DHH all ages
Bensenville, IL
usaheadhockey.org

**Oklahoma School for the Deaf Summer Camp**
June 7-12, gr 7-12
June 7-10, gr K-6
Sulphur, OK
osd.k12.ok.us/dhac/info.html

**FREE DHH Soccer Camp**
June 17-20, gr 1-6
1:00-3:30 pm
St. Paul, MN
thesannehfoundation.org

**CNI Cochlear Kids Camp**
June 18-21, ages 3-18
July 30-Aug 2, ages 3-18
Estes Park, CO
listenfoundation.org/cicamp/

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**Discover Your Future**
June 20-27, gr 10-12
**Immerse into ASL!**
June 20-27, gr 10-12
**Bison Brainiacs**
June 20-27, gr 9-12
**Deaf Youth Pride Camp**
June 28-July 5, LGBTQIA+
**Got Skills? Sports Camps**
June 29-July 5, gr 7-9
**Camp Catch Them Young**
July 12-25, gr 9-12
**FREE DHH Soccer Camp**
June 28-July 5, gr 7-9 girls
TechGirlz
July 25-30, gr 7-9 girls
TechBoyz
July 25-30, gr 7-9 boys

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**ASL & Deaf Culture Immersion Week**
June 14-20, ages 18+
**CM7 Family Week**
June 21-27, parents/ages 3+
**KODA Children’s Camp**
June 28-July 4, ages 6-10
**KODA Youth Camp**
July 5-July 17, ages 11-13
**KODA Teen Camp**
July 19-July 31, ages 14-16
**Deaf Film Camp**
Aug 2-14, ages 13-16
**Deaf STEM Camp**
Aug 16-28, ages 8-14
**ASL Family Week**
June 21-27, family ages 3 & up
Old Forge, NY
www.campmark7.org

**Deaf Children’s Camp**
June 14-19, ages 4-17
Warsaw, IN
indeafcamps.org/camp/

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**Listening & Spoken Language Camp**
June 14-19, ages 8-18
Nashville, IN
heardinamerica.org/

**Camp Wonder Hands**
June 21-26, ages 7-15
Batesburg-Leesville, SC
palmettohealthchildrens.org/programs/camp-wonder-hands

**Camp Isola Bella**
June 28-July 11, ages 8-12
July 19-Aug 1, ages 13-17
Taconic, CT
asd-1817.org/programs/camp-isola-bella

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**Camp Taloali, Session 1 & 2**
June 28-July 4, July 5-11, ages 6-15
**Camp Taloali Day Camp**
7:30 am-5:30 pm
June 23-July 3, July 6-10, ages 6-15
Stayton, OR
taloali.org

**MN DHH Family & Friends Camp**
June 22-26, family
Onamia, MN
www.campomonia.org/

**Explore Your Future, Sessions 1 & 2**
July 11-16, July 18-23, gr 10-11
TechGirlz
July 25-30, gr 7-9 girls
TechBoyz
July 25-30, gr 7-9 boys
Health Care Careers Exploration Camp
July 25-30, gr 10-12
NTID, Rochester, NY
www.rit.edu/ntid/outreach/

**Clarke’s Summer Camp**
July 5-17, ages 9-17
Easthampton, MA
https://www.clarkeschools.org/summeradventure

**3 Green Mountain Lions Camp**
July 5-July 18, ages 13+
July 19-25, ages 8-12
Cabot, VT
https://greenmtnlionscamp.wixsite.com/gmlcamp

**Camp Lions DHH & LV/Blind**
July 5-11, ages 7-17
East Bay Camp, Hudson, IL
**DHH Youth Week**
July 12-18, ages 7-17
East Bay Camp, Hudson, IL
**Camps Lions LV/Blind Week**
July 19-25, ages 7-17
East Bay Camp, Hudson, IL
**DHH & LV/Blind Youth Week**
July 26-Aug 1, ages 7-17
**High Adventure Camp DHH/Deafblind**
Aug 2-8, ages 13-17
Makanda, IL
Camp Manitowa, Benton, IL
www.campgrizzly.org
Calling all the Superheroes in the MNH&V Community!
Dust off your superhero costume or come as you are to join our Hands & Voices’ League of Heroes!

Free for Families:
* Dinner
* Fun Games
* Entertainment
* Face Painting
* Door Prizes!

Find more details online at www.mnhandsandvoices.org/news-events/current-news-events.aspx