



MINNESOTA
HANDS &
VOICES™

FOCUS

supporting families with children who are deaf and hard of hearing

MNH&V: The Role of the Adult Role Model

Positive adult role models are instrumental to the growth and development of a child. For a child who is deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) a powerful role model can be someone who is also DHH. With the importance of role models in mind MNH&V has arranged for adult role models to attend family events in the metro area. The adult role models involved in this effort reflect the diversity of our MNH&V families, for example; diverse educational backgrounds (i.e. mainstreamed, residential school, college, grad school, etc.), diverse family backgrounds (i.e. hearing family, Deaf family, etc.), diverse employment background (i.e. teachers, professionals, students, etc.), diverse hearing status (i.e. unilateral, bilateral, moderate, severe, profound, etc.), diverse communication methods (i.e. ASL, spoken language, cued speech, etc.), and diverse use of amplification devices (i.e. hearing aids, cochlear implant, etc.). The adult role models understand the importance of being a positive role model in the lives of children who are DHH and to be of support to their families.

When asked to comment about MNH&V adult role model effort, Becky Rosenthal who is the Program Director for ASLblend, commented, "Meeting an Adult Role Model at a MNH&V event would be a benefit because the child who is DHH will meet

others like them, and not feel alone." To illustrate the importance of adult role models who are DHH she added, "In the past Deaf adults grew up thinking they would become 'hearing' because their adult role models were hearing family members or hearing teachers or hearing speech pathologists." Meeting an adult who is DHH gives children who are DHH a sense of a larger community of people who share their life experiences.



Adult Role Model training presenter, Emily Burke, Parent Education Guide

For parents of a child who is DHH the adult role models reassure them of their child's future potential. "I've had hearing parents tell me getting to know *me* made them feel that their child who is DHH will be all right in the future. Growing up Deaf myself, meeting adults was really powerful, so I want to help bridge more families with amazing adults in our community," wrote Emily Burke, Parent Education Guide and the one spearheading our DHH adult infusion efforts.

Continued on page 2, The Role of the Adult Role Model

FAMILY PICNIC

Our 2014 Annual Minnesota Hands & Voices Family Picnic is right around the corner! Come join in the fun on August 7th from 5:00 to 8:30 pm. Free for families with children who are deaf and hard of hearing includes dinner, entertainment, games, prizes, and more! RSVP before Monday, July 28th at www.mnhandsandvoices.org.

Just a few highlights of the variety of activities and entertainment include:

5:00 to 7:00 pm, Face Painting

Two artists from Simply Jane & ArtAble, a non-profit art center, will do face painting. www.simplyjanestudio.com

7:00 pm, Comedy Juggling Act

Comedy Juggler Extraordinaire, Alan Johnson, will perform his amazingly funny show of unique juggling tricks. www.alan-johnson.com

Meet a Mermaid, a Gnome and a Fairy

Three costumed characters from a local festival will join in the festivities! Children are encouraged to dress in a costume of their choice for fun photo opportunities.

Continued from page 1, *The Role of the Adult Role Model*

The 2007 position statement of the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH) states, "Optimally, adults who are DHH should play an integral part in the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program." The position statement then lists several benefits, for example, "providing families with a full range of information about communication options, assistive technology, and resources that are available in the community." Lifetrack's Deaf Mentor Family Program is a program that stands out for bringing hearing parents together with adults who are DHH. In 2000, the program was part of the Minnesota Department of Health and Human Services before it was awarded to Lifetrack in 2012. "Our Minnesota Deaf Mentor Family Program focuses on the communication needs of families with children who are DHH from birth to age 6," said Danelle Gournaris, who is the Program Coordinator. She added, "by interacting with deaf adults, the families feel more confident in raising their DHH child to grow into a successful individual."

Over the past two years the Deaf Mentor Family Program has grown to employ 18 deaf mentors and has enrolled

approximately 45 families. When asked about the future plans of the program, Nicole Brown from the MN Department of Health commented, "We are excited that the funding provided by the legislature allows us to expand the number of families served by Deaf Mentors, providing sign language instruction and support for those families who choose ASL. We're also excited in the future the funding will provide the opportunity for families of all children who are DHH (no matter which communication opportunities they choose) the opportunity to have access to support, mentorship and guidance from individuals who are DHH. Individuals who are DHH often provide families with a unique perspective that others cannot." Lifetrack's Deaf Mentor Family Program is an in-depth two-year program that continues to be a success for many families with young children who are DHH with future plans to include more families.

Having MNH&V adult role models at events is a relaxed way for families to connect with adults who are DHH and benefit from the wealth of information and insight they have to share. "I felt like having a deaf mentor opened up another world for our family. A world that I didn't really know existed, and

definitely have never been exposed to," said a MNH&V mom when asked about her experience in the Deaf Mentor Family Program and her thoughts about meeting more adult role models at MNH&V events. All the adult role models have received special training by MNH&V staff. The training included an overview of the MNH&V mission, guidelines, role-play, and some practical ways to introduce themselves to families. They are prepared to answer questions about the day-to-day realities of being DHH, their career paths, educational experiences, and provide hope for parents that their child can live a full and successful life as individuals who are DHH. In addition, every adult role model signs an agreement to maintain the highest level of service, integrity, and safety for all participants along with having a background check. "The adult role model is a stepping stone for action bringing together families of children who are DHH within the diversity of the Deaf community. Parents want to feel confident that their children will be all right," adds Emily Burke.

Information about MNH&V events:
www.mnhandsandvoices.org/news-events/current-news-events.aspx



MNH&V Adult Role Model training, Wednesday, June 28, 2014

Safe and Supportive Minnesota Schools Act

Governor Mark Dayton signed the Safe and Supportive Minnesota Schools Act into law on April 9, 2014. Now, collaboration between students, parents, educators, and administrators can begin to develop safe learning environments for every child.

“Bullying has negatively impacted too many students for too long,” said Julie Hertzog, Director of PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center. “Now that this law is in place, educators will have resources to address the behavior and students and families will know that they have the right to be safe at school.”

The Act includes the following elements:

Clear definitions: The act defines what behaviors and patterns of behavior are considered bullying, including behaviors that occur online.

Local policies: Districts can tailor bullying prevention policies to fit the unique needs of their communities.

Designated advocates: Each school will have a designated staff member for reports of bullying behavior.

Support for students: Schools will provide resources for those who are being bullied, implement restorative and responsive practices for those who engage in bullying, and educate all students on how to prevent and address bullying behavior.

Students with disabilities: Parents and teachers can work together to address bullying issues in the child’s Individualized Education Plan or 504 Plan.

Additional support for schools: School districts will receive policy development and implementation from the School Safety Technical Assistance Center at the Minnesota Department of Education.

Full story found at www.pacer.org/about/releases/2014/nr20140424-02.asp

MNH&V Families Enjoy CTC Shrek the Musical



Photography by Dan Norman Photography and through our collaboration with Children's Theatre Company.



Unitron For Supporting MNH&V Family Events and Programs

Unitron, one of the fastest growing hearing instrument companies, is a generous sponsor of the MNH&V Family Picnic by providing the entertainment for the evening. Also, Unitron is sponsoring our upcoming MNH&V Rollerskating Event. Plus, the company has donated 50 fleece blankets to be given to families with a child who was recently identified as deaf and hard of hearing during our in-person visits. Thanks, Unitron for supporting our mission at MNH&V.



Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying!

Mark Your Calendars and register for the Friends of PACER 5th Annual Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying on Saturday, September 20, 2014. The event will take place at Mt. Normandale Lake in Bloomington, MN (494 & Hwy 100).

Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying is a family-friendly event held by schools, businesses and communities to show support in keeping all children safe.

Entry fee is free for children 6 and under, \$10.00 for children 7-16 years old, and \$20.00 for all other participants. Additional donations are welcomed; find a pledge form online at PACER.org/bullying.

Additional information can be found at www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm/runwalkroll/

Videos for Interpreting in Healthcare Settings

Interpreting in the Healthcare Setting has created a series of online videos titled: *What Brings You Here Today?* The series shows a variety of people who are deaf answering that question as if a doctor has just asked. The series includes ASL responses on a variety of ailments from a wide age range, such as: chronic headaches, baseball camp injury, persistent cough, bike accident, sore shoulder, throat problem, foot issues, etc.

Find the videos online at: [healthcareinterpreting.org/for-interpreters/video-resources/what-brings-you-here/?](http://healthcareinterpreting.org/for-interpreters/video-resources/what-brings-you-here/)

MNH&V Playdates

Tuesday, July 8th, 6:00-7:30 pm

Rum River Library,
4201 6th Ave., Anoka

Free social event for **ALL families with a child who is DHH**. Guest expert, Deb Chatelle, former Teacher of the DHH and Speech-Language Pathologist. Kid's activities provided.

Monday July 21st, 6:00-8:00 pm

Cherokee Regional Park,
700 Cherokee Heights Blvd., St. Paul

Free social event for families with children who have **unilateral** hearing loss. Guest expert, Carissa Coons, Clinical Audiologist.

Thursday, August 14, 6:30-8:00 pm

Roseville Library
Community Program Room
2180 N Hamline Ave., Roseville

Free educational event for families with children who are DHH with **Craniofacial diagnosis' and medically fragile**. Guest expert, Deanne Curran from PACER.

For more details on current events www.mnhandsandvoices.org

Professional Education

Take advantage of the conferences available through Boys Town National Research Hospital, Center for Childhood Deafness, located in Omaha, Nebraska

July 14-16, 2014

Auditory Learning Collaborative

Sessions are designed for professionals with beginning to intermediate knowledge of working with students who are DHH.

August 1, 2014

Pediatric Audiology Conference

Topics covered will address early identification of hearing loss in children, speech and language considerations and pediatric case management.

July 28-30, 2014

EIPA Summer Intensive Skills Training

Participants will be guided through a variety of hands-on activities to demonstrate their interpreting skills. Video conference is available.

For more information go to: http://www.boystownhospital.org/htmlmail/Pages/CCD_Eblast-SummerWorkshop.aspx

Congratulations MSAD Boys Track & Field

The Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf boys track and field team was recently selected as the National Deaf Interscholastic Athletic Association/USA Deaf Track and Field Prep Team of the Year for the first time in program history.

It marks the third time the award has been given to one of the MSAD track and field teams. The girls track and field team won it in 2011 and 2013. This season, the girls track and field team placed third.

"Out of the 40 deaf track and field teams, it is a huge honor to win the national deaf prep boys track and field team championship this year," MSAD boys coach Steven Fuerst said.



The View from Greater Minnesota

Grill N' Chill Family Day

Join MNH&V for a Grill N' Chill Family Day held at Lake Bronson State Park, located upper northwest Minnesota, on Sunday, August 3, 2014, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. This event is FREE for families with children who are deaf and hard of hearing. [Special entrance instructions: there is a \$5 fee required to enter the park. Tell the Park Ranger that you are with the MNH&V group. Then the \$5.00 fee will be waived.] Find the MNH&V group near the Shelter by the Swim Beach and the Visitors Center.

The MNH&V Grill N' Chill event coincides on the same weekend as the International Woodcarving & Arts Festival, also located at Lake Bronson State Park so families can take advantage of both events.

Call Leslie Carnegie-Hilde, MNH&V Upper NW Parent Guide, at 1-866-587-4189 to RSVP and to request interpreters or other special accommodations no later than noon on Monday, July 28th.

For additional information go to www.mnhandsandvoices.org/news-events/current-news-events/2014-grill-n-chill-upper-nw-mn.aspx



Group photo with actors from the Deaf Duckling Event held April 4th, 2014 in East Grand Forks.

Thanks for your contribution!

We rely on your generous support to build better lives for children who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Make a tax-deductible donation today.



MNH&V East Grand Forks at Liberty Lanes Bowling

Cued English Classes

Summer classes for Cued American English, sponsored by Cued Speech Association of Minnesota (CSAM), will be two-day classes on Monday and Tuesday, August 11th and 12th, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Three different levels of classes are offered; Beginning Cue Class, Cued Speech Skills Class, and Transliterator Cue Class. All instructors are professionals who work with individuals who use Cued English and are certified to teach Cued English. Classes will be held at Gideon Pond Elementary School in Burnsville, MN, 630 E. 130th Street.

Cost for the two-day, any level Cued English classes is \$60 for CSAM members and \$75 for non-members, lunch is on your own. Questions or to request accommodations contact Sarah Druley at info@cuedspeechminnesota.org or 763-502-6737. To register for classes go to www.cuedspeechminnesota.org.

Understanding Deafblindness and the Intervener

This interactive workshop will explain the impact of deafblindness on cognition, learning, communication, and social/emotional development. The role of the intervener will be outlined and discussed.

**Wednesday, August 20, 2014
9:00 am to 3:30 pm**

Holiday Inn

8511 Hudson Blvd., Lake Elmo, MN

ASL interpreters will be provided. RID and Administrative CEUs available. This event is co-sponsored by Northeast Metro 916 Intermediate School District and the Minnesota DeafBlind Project.

Registration is now open at www.ecsu.k12.mn.us/registration/events

Anna Paulson New Coordinator of Educational Advancement and Partnerships

The Commission of Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Minnesotans is pleased to announce that Anna Paulson will serve as the Coordinator of Educational Advancement and Partnerships. Ms. Paulson will begin working part-time, then switch to full-time the end of August.

Ms. Paulson has a BA in Elementary Education, MA in Ed Psychology, and is a board certified teacher for students who are DHH. She has been employed as a Senior Teaching Specialist at the University of Minnesota since 1996.

Anna has been an elementary general ed teacher and an itinerant teacher for students who are DHH in rural Wisconsin. She served as a consultant at the Community Mental Health Program in Michigan for adults who are DHH and was the Implementation Coordinator for Part H of the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act in the State of Michigan. This position included ensuring collaboration between the lead agency, other state agencies and human service groups, and services to early childhood high-risk children.

She is a member of the Minnesota Department of Education Advisory Committee for the Resource Center for DHH. In the past Anna served on the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Advisory Committee; she was the primary contributor to the "Recommended Skill Set for Teachers of Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing working with Early Childhood Students and their Families." Most recently, Anna has been a consultant to the Commission for Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Citizens working specifically on the Collaborative Outcomes Plan for Children who are Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing.

Please join MNCDHH in welcoming Anna Paulson to her new position.

Deaf Picnic

Saturday, August 2, 11 am to 10 pm
(rain or shine)
North Alexander Park
2nd Avenue Northwest
Faribault, MN

Free admission, door prizes, and give aways all day! Activities included: Rope Ladder Game, Blind Volleyball, Horseshoe Game, Water Tank Dunk, "Cornhole" aka "Baggo", Face Painting, Color Hair Spray, Inflatibilities, Shut-The-Box, and more.

Available for purchase: Walking Tacos, Hot Dogs, Brats, Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Draft Beer, Pop, Water, Slushies, Shaved Ice, and much more. All proceeds will go to Charles Thompson Memorial Hall, 100th Anniversary Committee.

For more information contact
Mai Vue, mai.vue@gmail.com

Deaf Day at Valleyfair!

Saturday, July 26, 2014
10:00 am to 11:00 pm
Valleyfair is located in Shakopee, MN

Special discount ticket price of \$27.75 available from 10:00 am to NOON. Tickets will be sold at the CSD (Communication Service for the Deaf) tent booth outside of the park near the entrance. Also, a special offer unlimited pop souvenir bottle for only \$8.99. CASH ONLY!

Parking is \$12.00 per car,
no charge for drop off and pick up.

2:00 pm at Galaxy Theatre
Ed Alonzo's Psycho Circus of Magic
ASL interpreted performance by ASLBlend



For more information about Valleyfair
www.valleyfair.com

Rapper Sean Forbes

On Monday, May 5th, Sean Forbes, a deaf hip-hop artist, drew hundreds to the University of Minnesota's Coffman Memorial Union. Forbes performs in both ASL and English. The concert was free to the public, sponsored by the U of M's Disability Resource Center.

Sean Forbes, age 31, is a successful songwriter, an accomplished percussionist, and the co-founder of Deaf Professional Arts Network (D-PAN). Sean grew up in Detroit in a family of musicians. He became deaf at the age of 2 months old after an illness with a high fever.

In an interview for *ABILITY Magazine*, Sean Forbes talked about his interest in music, "When I was very young, my parents noticed I could make a rhythm that was consistent, like a beats-per-minute, essentially. When I was five, my parents bought me a drum set because they noticed my propensity for rhythm."

Sean Forbes met Joel Martin, Eminem's publisher and owner of 54 Sound Studios, and D-PAN co-founder, at the Detroit Music Awards years ago. Forbes relentlessly pitched his signed music video idea to Martin. Martin hired Forbes as an intern to do market research on his idea. Forbes found American Sign Language (ASL) performers doing theater productions, but not music videos. Forbes and Martin then became co-founders of D-PAN in 2006. Since then, D-PAN has licensed dozens of popular songs and created videos featuring performers who are DHH expressing music lyrics through ASL. D-PAN is a nonprofit organization dedicated to making music and music culture accessible.

Next for Sean Forbes is another nationwide tour this fall, traveling to major cities, performing in nightclubs and schools.

Link to D-PAN: <http://www.d-pan.org>

Link to Sean Forbes, Deaf and Loud site:
<http://deafandloud.com>

Back-to-School Checklist Starter for Parents with Children who are DHH

There are so many things to consider as our children who are deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) head back to school. Parents with a child who is DHH have additional responsibilities and considerations. The more we can do to prepare our children before school starts the more confidence they will have during school.

Health and Wellness

Schedule annual appointments far in advanced during summer break or for after-school to minimize disruptions in your child's learning.

Well-care Visit

A well-care visit establishes a baseline of your child's general health with a doctor you can trust. Many children who are DHH have ongoing health issues that can be noted as part of the child's baseline health. Should your child become ill, the well-care notes along with a doctor who is familiar with your child can streamline a diagnosis for any new concerns.

Update Immunizations

Remember to ask for a copy of your child's immunization records. This saves time filling out health forms for fieldtrips, activities, emergency health cards, etc.

Medication Check

If your child is on medications have a doctor double-check the dose for their age, weight, effective, etc. Extra time for your child to adjust to changes in medications would be helpful before school starts. Make sure your child's current prescription is filled and ready before school starts.

Physical Paperwork

Sports, camps, summer school, etc. often require health forms signed by a doctor. Bringing the forms to their appointment will save time. Doctors can sign forms any time, but it can take extra time to process.

Visit the Dentist and/or Orthodontist

Again, schedule appointments well in advanced to get times that are least disruptive to your child's learning.

Vision Check

Children who are DHH need to have optimal vision. An annual eye exam is recommended whether your child wears corrective eyewear or not. If your child has glasses, in addition to checking the lens prescription, check for stretches that can obscure their vision. Make sure their frames are the right size with no pressure points and adjusted to fit properly.

Audiologist Visit

As parents with a child who is DHH we spend a lot of time at the audiologist's office. We know that equipment can malfunction at inconvenient times. Before school starts have your audiologist check your child's equipment, make sure the program is set for optimal sound and amplification for your child. If possible create a separate program for any auxiliary equipment used at school. Your audiologist can answer any questions and make sure you and your child understand how to change programs, batteries and general care of the equipment. Don't forget to take notes for the school audiologist!

Remember to have for your child's old CI processors and hearing aids programmed as up-to-date as possible. Old equipment is a viable back-up plan should something happen to their newer equipment.

Review Insurance and Warranties

Depending on your child's age, maturity, and many other variables it can be unsettling to send them to school with expensive equipment. Reduce anxiety by having a plan should something happen to their equipment. Most homeowner insurance does not cover this equipment. Talk to your audiologist, check product warranties and contact your healthcare customer service to figure out the most economical insurance coverage available.

At Home

- Find a safe and accessible place to charge batteries and keep equipment.

- Set up a distraction-free place to study and keep extra school supplies.
- Have your child memorize their home address and important phone numbers to reach their parents if need be.
- Label everything going to school.
- Update your contact list to include the bus service, IEP manager, DHH and general ed teacher/s, school nurse, attendance line, food service, etc.
- Check the school website for important dates: parent/teacher conferences, school events, and a list of days school is not in session.

At School

- Check for a VISUAL alert system and review with your child.
- Check tech devices for captioning capabilities; computers, televisions, etc.
- See the school nurse if your child has severe allergies or takes medications during the school day.
- Visit the school audiologist to touch base about your child's equipment and the auxiliary equipment used at school.
- Send extra CI or hearing aid batteries to use for back-up if needed.
- Check your child's classroom for ways to best accommodate their access to language in that environment.
- Together with your IEP team review your child's accommodations needs with school administrators and, if appropriate, with fellow students.

For children who are DHH there is no one back-to-school checklist parents can rely on that covers personal choices and their child's unique situation. Developing your own checklist that you can add to over time will give you peace of mind and valuable time for summer fun!

Lifetrack
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St. Paul, MN 55104-4804



MINNESOTA
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supporting families
with children
who are deaf and
hard of hearing

Minnesota Hands & Voices is a program of Lifetrack

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2014 Annual ★ Minnesota Hands & Voices

FAMILY PICNIC

for families with children who are deaf and hard of hearing

Free for the Family:

- ★ Dinner
- ★ Fun Games
- ★ Entertainment
- ★ Face Painting
- ★ Door Prizes!

Thursday,
August 7th

5:00-8:30 pm
(rain or shine)

Como Park
Midway Pavilion

RSVP: Before
Monday, July 28th