



Supporting families with children who are deaf & hard of hearing



FOCUS

Enduring Value of Minnesota Hands & Voices Family Events

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.



Friends at the Annual Metro MNH&V Family Picnic

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 Transliterator, and/or any other accommodations. To request accommodations contact Anne Barlow, MNH&V Events Coordinator, by email at AnneB@lifetrack-mn.org.

“What’s not to love about being here?!”

Exclaimed an older sister of a brother who is dhh at an event last spring.

“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, care givers, 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.”

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Children's activities at a metro area MNH&V Family Event

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!”



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

Thursday, June 25

MNH&V Northfield Family Picnic
6:00 to 8:00 pm
Northfield, MN

Saturday, July 18

Mankato: Educational Advocacy Day Presented The Hands & Voices Way
9:30 am to 1:00 pm
Mankato, 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

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>

Minnesota DeafBlind Project Team Supporting Families and Educators

Minnesota DeafBlind Project, or “The Project” for short, is an organization that serves individuals from birth to age 21 who are deafblind by providing support, resources, and training to their families and the professionals who work with them in schools and in the community. In Minnesota an individual with a medically verifiable combined hearing and vision loss can be identified as being deafblind.



Jackie Bauer, Ann Mayes, and Deanna Rothbauer

“People who are deafblind are a very unique, diverse group,” said Ann Mayes, who is the Statewide Education Specialist for both the Low Incidence Project–DeafBlind and Minnesota DeafBlind Project. “We say that combined hearing loss and vision loss has a multiplicative impact and not an additive one, meaning it’s not just deaf plus blind. It’s really dhh compounded by blind/vision loss.”

Ann Mayes has been a teacher of deaf/hard of hearing for 30 years, working with students from kindergarten to age 21 in a wide variety of learning environments. During the past 10 years, she has also worked with students who are deafblind. Ann is a mother to four adult children, one who is deaf, two who are hard of hearing, and one with typical

hearing. As a parent and an educator, she understands the experience of attending IEP meetings from both sides. Ann, who is also deaf, has a passion for helping others expand their understanding and compassion for the students they are fortunate to work with.

“Please check your child’s vision on a regular basis to make sure they’re getting clear visual access,” Ann recommends. “If your child has both a teacher of DHH and a teacher of blind/visually impaired on his or her IEP team, then please reach out to us. This means your child has combined hearing and vision loss.”

Jackie Bauer is the Family Engagement Coordinator for the Project. She shares a family perspective as a busy mother of three children, her middle child is a 9-year

old son who is deafblind and has CHARGE Syndrome. She has devoted the last 9 years to learning as much as possible about parenting, advocating, and supporting her son’s unique set of needs. Jackie has a degree in Business Management, coupled with a certificate in American Sign Language from Saint Paul College, proving useful in the work she does for the Project as Family Engagement Coordinator.

“My role is to support families who have a child that is deafblind by planning events, workshops, and trainings; and by providing resources, materials and facilitating group connections amongst families,” said Jackie. “I also collaborate with other state deafblind projects and support initiatives at the national level.”

Minnesota students who are deafblind represent 1% of students who have a low incident disability. Children who are deafblind often require diverse specialized services and 80% or more have additional disabilities.

“Reach out; there are so many parents and professionals with experience in all aspects of navigating this unique path,” recommends Jackie. “We are faced with

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All Families can Nominate an Exceptional Individual for a High Five Award

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.



Minnesota DeafBlind Project Team continued from page 4

many difficult decisions and I have found that after looking at the pros and cons, going with my gut instinct has most often steered my family in the right direction.”

While Ann and Jackie are relatively new to the Project, Deanna Rothbauer has devoted the past 13 years to Minnesota DeafBlind Project. Her role as Project Coordinator for the Project has expanded to include the role of Grant Manager at Metro ECSU. Deanna is also a mother to a young adult who is deafblind. Combined with her many years of service to families and her experiences as a parent, Deanna knows first-hand the challenges many new families with a child who is deafblind can face. She is an invaluable support to Jackie and Ann as they transition into their new roles.

For Minnesota DeafBlind Project contacts: <http://www.dbproject.mn.org>

Jackie Bauer, 612-638-1505

jackie.bauer@metroecsuo.org

- Family Engagement Coordinator
- Provides resources & support to families
- Manages registration process for all events, including hotel and food
- Plans and facilitates all family education trainings and activities

Ann Mayes, 612-638-1527 videophone,

ann.mayes@metroecsuo.org

Education Specialist/Consultant

- Provides training, consultation, resources and support to school teams
- Hosts the Open Hands, Open Access Modules in Moodle Cohorts
- Plans and facilitates the statewide Deafblind Community of Practice, Intervener Training, and all educational trainings

Deanna Rothbauer, 612-638-1531

deanna.rothbauer@metroecsuo.org

- Assures that activities are in alignment with goals
- Writes and manages the federal grant
- Annual Child Census

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.



Janie Barlow, MNH&V DHH Guide

“Don’t be afraid to try something new and remember that you can always change the path if something isn’t working out,” recommended Janie, when asked what advice she would offer families. “Ask many questions!”

Contact Janie at janieb@lifetrack-mn.org

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>

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

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/>



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

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.

Spring Camp Cheerio

May 15-17, family
Glade Valley, NC
springcampcheerio.org

MRID Camp ASL

May 29-31
Annandale, MN
mrid.org/event-3683530

AHIHA Hockey Camp

June 13-20, DHH all ages
Bensenville, IL
usadeafhockey.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/

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

Academic Bowl, Debate, Soccer,

Volleyball, Football, Basketball

Camp Catch Them Young

July 12-25, gr 9-12

Gallaudet University, WA

gallaudet.edu

ASL & Deaf Culture

Immersion Week

June 14-20, ages 18+

CM7 Family Week

June 21-27, parents/ages 3+

KODA Children Camp

June 28-July 4, ages 8-10

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/

Listening & Spoken

Language Camp

June 14-19, ages 8-18

Nashville, IN

hearindiana.org/

Camp Wonder Hands

June 21-26, age 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

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.camponomia.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

lionsofillinoisfoundation.org/camp-lions.html

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 Taloali, 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

wisconsinlionscamp.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, 29, 31 and Aug 4, 6,

girls gr 6-9, 9 am-4 pm

Bloomington, MN

pacer.org/stc/exite/Camp.asp

Camp Grizzly DHH & KODA

July 28-Aug 3, ages 7-15

Wilseyville, CA

www.campgrizzly.org



HANDS &
VOICES™
MINNESOTA

709 University Ave. W.
St. Paul, MN 55104

FOCUS

NEWSLETTER

Minnesota Hands & Voices FOCUS Newsletter

February 2020

FAMILY PICNIC

★ 2020 Annual ★ Minnesota Hands & Voices ★ Metro ★

Date: Thursday, August 6th

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

Where: Como Park Midway Pavilion
1199 Midway Pkwy, St Paul, MN

Free for Families:

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



HANDS & VOICES
LEAGUE OF HEROES
SUPERPOWERS WITHIN™



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!

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