

3rd Annual Gala brings 70 people, 15 years of memories and a great auction!

Our theme was "Celebrating 15 Years of Service." It was held at Crowne Plaza on September 10, 2011. Chris Hunter was our keynote speaker. We look forward to our 4th annual gala next fall!



Upcoming DHHS Events

October 8 -
"HIV/AIDS/Diseases"
Interpreter Series
Workshop
with Scot A. Pott at
DHHS from 9 - 1:30 p.m.
\$30

October 8 - DINGO
card game and Sloppy
Joes at DHHS from 4 - 9
p.m. \$8 admission.

October 20 - October
Fest fundraiser at Pietro's
for DHHS' ADAPT
program. \$35 ticket.

November 12 - "5th
Annual Best Business
Practices" Interpreter
Series Workshop
with Rose Gelushia and
Ray Thomas from 9 a.m.
- 4 p.m. at DHHS. \$30

November 19 -
ASLFilms is showing
"Versa Effect" at
Northview High School
auditorium at 2 p.m. \$11
admission. Proceeds go
to DHHS' programs.

December 10 - Signing
Santa is coming to DHHS
from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Donations in lieu of
admission.

ASL Classes

DHHS' ASL classes started for the fall session in Grand Rapids, Muskegon and Howard City! We have a record number of ASL I students for our Monday night class - 29 students! We encourage people interested in ASL 1, 2, 3, and 4 to register now for spring!



Contact Scot A. Pott at
spott@deafhhs.org for more
information or Robin Mason at
rmason@deafhhs.org to register!



Welcome to our new Community Relations Coordinator!

Scot A. Pott is our Community Relations Coordinator. Scot joined DHHS in January 2010 as our Job Placement Specialist, assisting customers referred through Michigan Rehabilitation Services that were seeking employment.

He is now responsible for community events and workshops through DHHS, including interpreter series workshops, advancing certification (for BEI and workshops for the deaf, NIC practice) workshops, Silent Weekend, American Sign Language classes, and smaller events such as Movie Night. Scot has settled into his new position and ready to enhance community-based relationships with you!

Board**Debra Buckley**

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Manager/Human Resources**Robin Mason**

Accountant

Bethany Perry

Administrative Assistant

Nan Soper

Interpreter Services Specialist

Mark HarrisonBehavioral & Mental Health
Supports Coordination**Scot Pott**

Community Relations Coord.

Kevin SandgrenHearing Assistance &
Technology Specialist

Please donate your
used ink
cartridges!



Drop off at DHHS
anytime! We recycle for
cash to support our
programs.

Interpreter Services Update

Hello interpreters,

As you may have noticed by my desperate calls and emails lately, DHHS Interpreter Services is busier than ever! Requests from colleges and public schools are way up, and filling these requests leaves us fewer interpreters to cover the day-to-day community needs. It's a delicate balance, and we can't make it work without you! Here's how you can help:

Let me know if you are interested in giving our after-hours pager a try. You can take it for a weekend, or a few evenings. Contact me if you'd like more information.

If you have certain days/times that you are available to accept community assignments, let me know what they are (if you haven't already).

If you would be interested in subbing for college interpreters - in Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Big Rapids, or Muskegon - let me know.

Keep your DHHS file up to date. We need your current certification, proof of professional liability insurance, and proof of an annual TB test. Also please notify me in writing (email) if your name or address changes.

Check your email often! I would prefer to contact interpreters individually to fill requests, but that is sometimes impractical when we are so busy. So when you see an email with a list of available assignments, please know that I will still make every effort to fill each assignment with the most qualified interpreter, according to our policy.

Scot Pott is our new community relations specialist at DHHS, and one of his duties is coordinating interpreter workshops. You can reach him at spott@deafhhs.org with any questions about workshops. If you have ideas about workshop topics or presenters you would like to see at DHHS, let him know.

Reminder: As I emailed all of you, St. Mary's Hospital will give free flu shots and TB tests to DHHS interpreters, weekdays between Oct. 24 and Nov. 4. This opportunity is for INTERPRETERS ONLY. In order to work anywhere on the St. Mary's campus once they officially declare "flu season," interpreters must have submitted proof of a flu shot and TB test. I have to relay this information to St. Mary's by Nov. 4. As outlined in my email to you, there is a process in place for declining to get a flu shot. Let me know if you have questions.

Thanks for all your hard work and dedication. You are the reason we can continue to serve West Michigan with top-notch interpreting services. The DHHS Interpreter Services program provides valuable funding for our agency, helping us to keep our doors open in these difficult economic times.

Nan Soper, Interpreter Services Specialist

Need more interpreters!

Our interpreter assignments are growing by the month, and we sometimes don't have enough interpreters to cover all our requests! We are looking for more interpreters to sign up with us, regardless of QA, BEI or NIC level. We send interpreters to different locations around Michigan.

Contact Nan Soper at nsoper@deafhhs.org at 616-732-7358 to sign up with us, or if you're already signed up, please consider accepting more jobs!

"ADVANCING YOUR CERTIFICATION" WORKSHOPS

Offered for ITP graduates
who want to take the BEI
exam and receive their
certification
and for BEI or NIC
interpreters who want to
advance to the next
certification level

Workshop formats include sign-
to-voice, voice-to-sign,
transliterating, pure ASL, and
practicing real-time scenarios.
Mentors offered as part of the
curriculum.

One Friday per month
4 - 7 p.m.

Advancing Your Certification

Workshop Dates

October 21

November 18

December 9

Cost:
\$25 per workshop or \$70 for
three workshops

Location:
Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Services
4328 Kalamazoo Ave S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Coordinated by Scot A. Pott,
Community Relations
Coordinator

For more information, contact
Scot at spott@deafhhs.org or
(616) 828-0146



ADAPT Program Benefits Youths, Adults, and Senior Citizens with Access in Home and Community

Kevin Sandgren (pictured right) is the Hearing Assistance and Technology Specialist at Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. The ADAPT (Awareness and Distribution Assistance for Persons with Technology) program helps any persons ranging from youth to senior citizens with hearing loss who need equipment, technology, and consultation to lead better lives in their home, workplace, or community. If you have trouble hearing at home, work, church or community events, or have a family member who has hearing loss, Kevin will assist you in identifying what is needed and show different assistive equipment available. He is also able to attend your workplace, school, or church and explain what it is like to live with hearing loss and how to improve accessibility in your area. Kevin himself lives with hearing loss and some vision loss. His great sense of humor livens up people around him!



Various equipment is available through our assistive technology center room located at 4328 Kalamazoo Ave S.E., Grand Rapids, for purchase or for exhibition upon request. We depend on donations and equipment sales to run the program. The program serves all ages and counties in West Michigan. We are also partially funded through Area Agency on Aging of West Michigan to serve persons over 60 years old and live in Kent County with low income.

If you want to learn more about the ADAPT program, contact Kevin at ksandgren@deafhhs.org or (616) 732-7358 ext. 210.



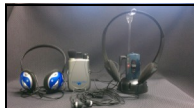
“Versa Effect” is showing at Northview High School auditorium on November 19 at 2 p.m. It is about two people who accidentally get switched in each other’s bodies and race against time to make it right! 90 minutes long. Rated PG with subtitles. \$11 admission. Purchase your ticket at DHHS or at the auditorium.

Samples of technology products available in our Distribution Center Room

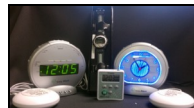


Clarity C1000 corded telephone with large buttons, emergency call button. \$39.

Clarity XLC2 DECT 6.0 Real Simple Real Clear cordless 50dB phone has talking caller ID, direct connection to assistive listening devices or headset, speaker phone, loud adjustable ringer, hearing aid compatible and battery backup. \$125



(Left) **William Sound** comes with an extension to extend the microphone, great for meetings and watching television, volume and tone control. \$149
(Right) **Comfort Duett** comes with headset and ear buds, unit re-charges when placed in the charging base, holds a charge for up to 20 hours. \$159



Watches, clocks and timers are all available from analog to digital and some even have MP3 players. Clocks come with bed shakers and loud alarms, watches available in analog or digital, watches vibrate and/or beep to remind you of daily reminders or to wake you up, color, sizes, prices and warranty varies, call Kevin at 616-732-7358.



Assorted alerting systems, shown here fire alarm by Gentex that is ADA compliant. This dual alarm system has a loud audible horn and a flashing strobe. Sensors detect both fire and smoke, simple to install. \$165
Sonic Alert doorbell/telephone alerting system, wireless unit, hooks up to a lamp when telephone or someone pushes the button a lamp will flash and the chime will sound. \$109

Save the Date for 2nd Annual Silent Weekend!

February 24-26, 2011
Camp Manitou-Lin
Middleville, MI

Scot A. Pott and Kristin Dart are the coordinators this year. They will announce presenters, registration and information soon! You can pre-register for the event now by calling DHHS’ administration assistant, Bethany Perry. She will take your name and contact information.

How does Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services serve your West Michigan community?

We help over **3,000** individuals & families in West Michigan on a yearly basis.

We serve more than **20** counties with interpreter services, behavioral & mental health, job placement, ADAPT, Kids Kamp, advocacy, referral, workshops, and American Sign Language classes.

We have **8** full-time and part-time staff that serve all kinds of needs. Three are deaf, one is hard of hearing, and four are hearing. Our staff is **diverse!**

We send over **55** interpreters to an average of **90 jobs per week.**

We help you find **employment**, ensure **interpreters** are available for **effective communication**, provide **adaptive equipment** for your home or business, learn **sign language**, identify **behavioral and mental health** needs, provide **youth camp**, **community awareness events & workshops**, and **advocate** for you anywhere you need!

Our office is located at 44th and Kalamazoo Ave. in Grand Rapids.

Stop by and visit with us!



Merchandise for sale

Proceeds go to support DHHS' programs

Call
(616) 732-7358



\$5 each



\$20 each. S, M, L, XL sizes available



\$10 each



\$3 each

Summer & Fall 2011 Partners and Donors

- Debra Buckley
- Bavarian Inn Lodge
- Kelly Lambert
- Gerald R. Ford Museum
- Grand Rapids Public Museum
- Children's Museum
- John Ball Zoo
- West Michigan Whitecaps
- Park Center Lanes
- Grand Rapids Civic Theatre
- Binder Park Zoo
- Meijer
- Beverly Chesebro
- Bruce Partridge
- Barbie Slusser
- Sandra Faulkner
- Ron Prins and Family
- Janine Byler and Family
- Jan Janson
- Frank and Deb Atwood
- Karen Kramer
- Jason and Kerri Maas
- Valley Hearing
- Audrey Southwell
- Nancy Gingery
- Dianna Elledge
- John Engman
- Shirley M. Boyd
- Senior Citizens Group
- Robert Lawson
- Rudy Kazoody's candy store

Thank you to our 2nd annual gala interpreters and volunteers who donated their time!

- Erica Allen
- Kristin Dart
- Rose Gelushia
- Betsy Jackson
- Erin McCarthy
- Sarah Rubingh
- Leia Sparks
- Kim Stevenson
- Teresa Venton



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services' Top 10 Goals by Katie Prins

Every fall, certain thoughts start coming to my mind as I start preparing for the next year: "How did we do this year?" "What can we improve for next year?" "Did people benefit from our services?" "How well did we communicate with our donors and supporters?"

One thing I want to say is — when I look back on this year, I am very blessed with the quality of staff and the work we bring to the table every day. DHHS is where it is with our staff's motivation, heart and ideas, not only mine. Thank you, Deb, Robin, Scot, Nan, Mark, Kevin, and Bethany.

I want to share 10 top goals for next year with you:

Goal #10: Send out surveys to all our customers, interpreters, and vendors to ensure they are satisfied with our services and products.

Goal #9: Improve our web site aesthetics.

Goal #8: Strengthen our donor bases and have media kits available with program and financial information for your knowledge as a vital DHHS donor.

Goal #7: Improve our interpreter series workshops and certification workshops.

Goal #6: We hope to see an increase of interpreters and quality in our pool since the job market demand is high in West Michigan!

Goal #5: Increase vendor booths at our annual gala and Silent Celebration

Goal #4: Raise money for the 2012 capital campaign!

Goal #3: Utilize staff and volunteers to your best capacity

Goal #2: To always serve deaf and hard of hearing needs in our community

Goal #1: To have the best year possible!

Sponsor Us

Corporate, Local Business, Family, and Individuals can sponsor our agency's programs or large events such as Silent Celebration, Silent Weekend and/or our annual fall gala.

Sponsor us once for the entire year or just for an event!

We have media kits and sponsor forms available.

Donate

Individuals can donate any amount they wish at any time for our programs. It can be in honor of someone or for the good of giving!

Volunteer

We need people to mow our lawn, shovel our walks, arrange our library, stuff envelopes, and help our support groups!

For Sponsor, Donation and Volunteer opportunities or more information, contact us:

(616) 732-7358 or

(616) 828-0186

datwood@deafhhs.org



4328 Kalamazoo Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
616-732-7358
www.deafhhs.org

Proceeds will go toward the DHHS ADAPT Program

"Providing equipment that will enhance the lives of the deaf and hard of hearing in our community"

Awareness & Distribution Assistance for Persons with Technology



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services with Pietro's Italian Restaurant and John Russo's Wine Warehouse & Deli is hosting a

October Fest Party

Pietro's Restaurant
2728 Birchcrest Dr SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Thursday, October 20, 2011
6:00 – 9:00 PM

All You Can Eat
Pizza, Pasta, Salad, Bread Sticks,
Spumoni Italian Ice Cream,
and Wine Tasting



TOWN & COUNTRY PLAZA
4301 KALAMAZOO SE • GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49508
616-827-3902
www.JohnRussoWine.com

Tickets \$35

Available at Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, John Russo's Wine Warehouse or at the door



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

Physical address: 4328 Kalamazoo Ave S.E.
 Grand Rapids, MI 49508
 Mailing address: P.O. Box 8812
 Kentwood, MI 49518-8812
 Phone: 616-732-7358
 Fax: 616-732-7365
 E-mail: info@deafhhs.org

DHHS' mission is to provide communication, human services and education to deaf, hard of hearing and hearing communities in West Michigan.

Communication Begins with You.

Visit us on the Web!
www.deafhhs.org

FREE Healthy Heart Screening
 Saturday, October 1st 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

NO FASTING REQUIRED
 Total Cholesterol & HDL Cholesterol

FASTING REQUIRED
 Lipid Panel (TC, HDL, LDL, Trig and TG/TGIDL ratio)
 Blood Pressure
 Immediate Results and Consultation with Pharmacist

Did you know?
 Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the U.S., claiming the lives of 493,000 people each year.
 60.9 million Americans have some form of CVD.
 On average, Americans in the United States suffer from a stroke every 20 seconds. That means about 650,000 people have a new or recurrent stroke each year.
 You can reduce your risk!

COSTCO PHARMACY 5100 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids
 Please call 616.233.4428 to schedule an appointment.

Join us at CostCo Pharmacy at 5100 28th Street, Grand Rapids, near I-96 and 28th exit.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services is having a booth and 'mock' American Sign Language classes for the public.

A sign language interpreter will be available for the tour of CostCo Pharmacy as you learn more about healthy heart screening which is FREE.

October 1 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Yes, I want to make a donation to DHHS!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone or E-mail _____

_____ Check _____ Cash _____ Money Order _____ Credit Card

Amount \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$75 _____ \$250 _____

\$500 _____ \$1,000 _____ Other \$ _____

Call us to set up a monthly or yearly payment plan for your desired amount.

Credit card option available through www.deafhhs.org or Robin Mason at DHHS by calling (616) 732-7358 ext. 207.

Designated for _____ general fund _____ building fund _____ youth program
 _____ ADAPT program _____ behavioral & mental health program _____ other

In honor or for a gift of _____ (if applicable)

Please send tax-exempt receipt to _____.

Interested in signing up for our newsletter or mass e-mails? _____ Yes! _____ No, thanks.