

“Friends of DHHS” group dedicated to raising money for agency and providing fun events for community

Friends of DHHS, which Nina Lazzari started, had a successful year in 2011. The committee, which consists of Sandy Faulkner, Nancy Gingery, Audrey Southwell, Toby Wilcox, Terry Gingery, Marty Jansen, Claudia Scribner, and Roman Karpinski, help plan community events and donations for DHHS.

FODHHS donated \$2,249.25 in 2011 from DINGO and potato bags. That helped DHHS buy an iPad 2 as a raffle item for the Silent Celebration, snow plow service, supplies, and a big screen TV with a DVD for DHHS to put in their great room. The TV and DVD is used for workshops, presentations, and people who are waiting for service.

They are dedicated to seeing Friends of DHHS (FODHHS) grow more. Audrey Southwell makes the potato bags which sell for \$10 each and the small bags which sell for \$5 each. The small bags are used for pagers, glasses, Kleenexes, and other items in your purse or bags.

The committee has donated time and materials in helping DHHS grow our community events and making sure people have fun!

They are hard at work for 2012



to support FODHHS and our community events!

- DINGO on March 17 at 5:30 p.m. after the MDA board meeting at Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. Supper and games included.
- Silent Celebration on June 9, 2012 at Johnson Park, 2600 Wilson Ave SW. \$5 admission for games and BBQ lunch.
- DINGO in October. TBA.
- Wii tournaments to be announced! Come and join us!
- Signing Santa on December 8, 2012 at DHHS. 40 kids came last year. It is free and open to the public. Milk, coffee and cookies provided.

Upcoming DHHS Events

February 9 - Town Hall meeting from 3-5 p.m. with Sheryl Emery from DODHH at DHHS. Open to the public.

February 13-16 - ASL I-IV classes offered at DHHS in Grand Rapids and Muskegon. Call (616) 732-7358 to register.

February 24-26 - Silent Weekend retreat at Camp Manitou-Lin in Middleville, MI. Call (616) 732-7358 or spott@deafhhs.org for more information.

March 17 - DINGO card game and supper. Starts at 5:30 after the MDA board meeting.

March 24 - Interpreter Series Workshops presents “Mental Health Settings and How to Sign Them” by James Ypma. \$35. 0.4 RID CEUs and 4 BEI/QA/EIPA hours approved.

April 18 - On the Border dine-out to support DHHS. 10% of your bill is donated if you show a flyer.

We will miss you, Betty Gauthier

Elizabeth "Betty" Rose Gauthier, aged 68, of Wyoming passed away on Thursday, January 12, 2012. She was preceded in death by her parents, George and Rose Gauthier; siblings, Donald, Vivian, Louis, Joseph, Leroy; and her infant daughter. She will be greatly missed by her longtime partner, Karen Nielsen (Karpinski) and her children, Karla Sarver, Michael Karpinski; several grandchildren; twin sisters, Gladys Stevens, Gertrude Jones; many nieces and nephews. Betty was a graduate of the Michigan School for the Deaf in Flint. A Memorial service was held on January 14.

Sign up for Silent Weekend! Excellent opportunity for NIC, BEI/QA/EIPA and ITP students from Feb. 24-26, 2012 at Camp Manitou-Lin

Silent Weekend presenters and workshops are designed to fit ALL skill levels in four groups.

Workshop topics include:

MLS interpreting

Mental health situations

Classifiers

Vocabulary development

Ethical decision making tools

No voicing all weekend! All in ASL and gesturing.

0.85 RID CEUs and 8.5 BEI/QA/EIPA hours approved.

\$145 for certified interpreters. \$120 for ITPs - includes lodging, meals, supplies, interaction and CEUS/hours

Contact DHHS at (616) 732-7358 or bperry@deafhhs.org

(616) 828-0146 or spott@deafhhs.org

Board**Debra Buckley**

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Supports Coordination**Scot Pott**

Community Relations Coord.

Kevin SandgrenHearing Assistance &
Technology Specialist**Save the Date!**

17th annual

Silent Celebration

June 9, 2012

10 - 3 p.m.

Johnson Park

2600 Wilson Ave S.W.

Walker, MI 49534

**Interpreter Services Update**

Hello interpreters!

New DHHS Interpreter Services business cards are coming your way soon! We have designed a 2-sided card for you to give out on assignments. On the back they have a blank for you to fill in your name. This will make it easier for the customer to request you for follow-up appointments, and it will help us collect valuable feedback.

New DHHS badges are also in the works. We need a photo of each of you. If you have already submitted one by email, that's great. However, if Deb recently took your photo with her phone, you will have to stop in for another photo or email us one, due to a recent phone accident.

I encourage you to attend our Feb. 9 Town Hall meeting, 3-5 p.m. at DHHS. Sheryl Emery, DODHH director, will be here to discuss DODHH activities and goals. It is an open forum, and all are welcome. Please spread the word to students and clients as well. This is an opportunity to have your questions answered by the director herself and to get clarification on any issues that are of concern.

In mid-January I emailed all of you a list of policy reminders. With winter finally upon us, don't forget our inclement weather policy: If an event is cancelled or a location closed due to bad weather, we do not pay you or bill the customer. If conditions are bad, please check the news for closing information, call ahead to make sure your location is open, and allow extra time to arrive safely.

I know that many of you are in the process of taking the new BEI test and your old QA is expiring. Please remember to let us know when you have registered new credentials with DODHH, and when your QA is no longer valid. We need your current certification in your file, as well as proof of current professional liability insurance and proof of an annual TB test.

Thanks for all your hard work, and everything you do to serve our community!

Nan Soper, DHHS 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. 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!

The Interpreting Process & Self-Evaluation (TIPS)**Workshop Series**

Tools You Need to Improve Your
Interpreting Skills

This is different than the monthly Interpreter Series Workshops. The TIPS Series is focused on skill development to meet your certification goals.

We offer it every second Friday of the month.

Upcoming Dates:

Friday, February 10, 2012

Friday, March 9, 2012

Friday, April 13, 2012

Time:

4-7 p.m.

Location:

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

Format:

Bert Schwartz, NIC, and Jamie Rix, CT/CI, are the workshop facilitators that will guide your interpreting skills.

Participants will analyze the interpreting process; learn self-evaluation; and enhance interpreting skills.

Come at 3:30 p.m. and bring a camcorder, flip video or laptop. Set up prior to the workshop.

Cost:

\$35 per session

\$245 for the year (postmarked by
March 1)

Contact Information:

Need a flyer or want to register for the workshop? Contact Bethany Perry at bperry@deafhhs.org or (616) 732-7358.

Need more information? Contact Scot A. Pott at spott@deafhhs.org or (616) 828-0146.

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 and anytime!

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

Stop by and visit with us!



2nd biannual **DINGO** event

Hosted by Friends of DHHS



Saturday, March 17, 2012

Door opens at 5 p.m.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

4328 Kalamazoo Ave. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Supper at 5:30 p.m. DINGO starts at 6p.m.

Cost: \$15 per person for food & DINGO
\$10 per person for DINGO only; \$ 5 per visitor with supper
5 prizes plus bonus go to the winners. Door prizes included!

DINGO is limited to 50 players

Contact Nancy Gingery at fodhhs@gmail.com

Money proceeds go to DHHS programs

Signing Santa visited Grand Rapids on December 10! 40 kids told him what they wanted for Christmas, enjoyed milk, cookies, games, and played with their pals!



Santa with Sophie



Santa with Jocoy and Jakye



Santa and kids enjoying candy!

Visit Santa again on December 8, 2012!

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

4328 Kalamazoo Ave S.E.

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Find out if you were naughty or nice this year!

Thank You to Our 2011 Cash Donors !

Allen and Connie Weston	Jackie O'Connor	William and Dixie Sampson
Angela and Mark Deling	John Engman	Ed and Marjorie Stinson
Angela Venturo	Judy Gordon	JBS Packland
AnneMarie	Karen and Mark Kramer	Deb and Jim White
Arla Sessions	Karen Gillett	Jo Anne Dishaw
Audrey Southwell	Katherine Keith	Quota International
Betty Grimms	Kenneth Thede	Jaime and Linda DeFreese
Beverly Chesebro	Kimberly Clark Foundation	Kristen Halfmann
Bob Anthony	Mario Duron	Margaret Felix
Bruce and Nancy Jo Partridge	Marni Vyn - in Barbara Rapaport's honor	Krystle Kaiser
Caledonia Christian Reformed Church	John McKendry Family	Michael LaHaye
Cara Oosterhouse	Michael Swix	Anne London
Carolyn Juster - in honor of JoAn Riegling	Mickey Carolan	Charlene Matteson
Carrie Taylor	Miller Johnson staff	Ashley Miller
Cheryl TerHaar	Nancy Gingery and Robert Lawson	Kathy Rent
Chris and Katie Prins	Nancy Riegling - in honor of JoAn Riegling	Annette Sexton
Claudia Scribner	Nina Lazzari and Pat Salmon	Sandra Thielen-Mulder
Cynthia Simon	On the Border Restaurant	Ben Norris - Miracle Ear
Dale Phillips	Pam VanTimmeren	
Dan and Jane Gritter	Philip Swift	
Debbie Buckley and Reggie Meekhoff	Rena Brooks	
Dennis and Danielle Wilson	Robert Lane Poultry	
Dianna Elledge	Robert and Rose Gelushia	
Donald Damuth	Robin Mokma	
Ralph Donley Bolt	Roger and Sandy Faulkner	
Edward and Marjorie Stinson	Ronald and Jane Prins	
Elizabeth Manning	S&C Resale Co	
F. Rasie	Scheer Family	
Friends of DHHS Committee	Senior Citizens group	
Gail Veley	Shirley M. Boyd	
Gloria Verway	Team Financial	
Grand Rapids Fire Department	Teresa Venton	
Harry & MaryAnn Sandgren	Terri Stonecipher	
Jacqueline Willis	Tim and Debra White	
James Myszka - in honor of Therese Myszka	Tom Stob	
Janine Byler	Valley Hearing	
Jason and Kerri Maas	W.J. Rondeau	
	Weldon Brumels	

In 2011, we received a total of

\$16,681.20

in cash donations.

Our total income was \$714,845 for 2011 through fee for service, workshops, events, grants, program income and cash donations.

Cash donations help maintain things not covered by grants and programs.

We need cash donations for 2012!

They will go towards:

Building Fund

Office supplies and printing material

Operating expenses

New or refurbished computers

People in need of hearing aids and equipment

Lawn mowing and snow plowing

ASL class scholarships

Kids Kamp scholarships



Thank you, 2011 Donors. You made a difference!

With your donations, we...

- * were able to continue our seven full-time employees and one part-time employee to serve our community
- * put up a new signage outside of our building to increase visibility and branding
- * painted several rooms in our agency with warmer colors to invite people in and painted the outside of the building
- * planned outings for our mental health clients to continue socialization skills
- * implemented upgrades to the Interpreter software program to improve our communication with our vendors and jobs with our interpreters in the community
- * bought cleaning and paper supplies for the year
- * got display cases and adaptive equipment for display and testing in the Assistive Technology Room
- * ensured two people that could not afford the cost received hearing aids from donations
- * put it towards Muskegon office operations
- * purchased several pieces of adaptive equipment for people that could not afford it.
- * purchased a baby monitor for a new mom who was hard of hearing
- * got supplies for our spring clean-up day
- * got new plants for the landscape
- * paid off printer expenses
- * through the generosity of Friends of DHHS committee, we got a TV and DVD player for the great room
- * put up a loop system for one of our conference rooms so people with hearing aids could hear clearly
- * got additional equipment, art supplies and two scholarships for Kids Kamp
- * purchased books, CD's, and DVD's for the library with topics that are beneficial to deaf, hard of hearing people, interpreters and parents
- * put up signage for advertising ASL classes
- * got a new printer for Receptionist area

..... AND MORE!

Donate in 2012 and support our agency again!
We love reaching newer and improved goals to
serve your community!



Town Hall Meeting with
 Sheryl Emery
 Thursday, February 9, 2012
 (Snow Date: Thursday, March 8)
 If snow, call us to confirm



3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Sheryl Emery is Director of Division on Deaf/Hard of Hearing at Michigan Department of Civil Rights. She will give a presentation on what the DODHH has been doing since she took office and goals for the next few years. You may share your compliments and concerns with her about the community. This is an open forum and the public is welcome.

The town hall meeting will be conducted in ASL. If a voice interpreter is needed, notify us.
 Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
 4328 Kalamazoo Ave S.E.
 Grand Rapids, MI 49508

For more information, contact
 Scot A Pott at spott@deafhhs.org.

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



**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.



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.