



# Hands & Voices New Mexico

February 2015

*“What works for your child is what makes the choice right.”*

## Fun February Family Event!

**Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 9 – 12**

### **Please join us!**

Hands & Voices New Mexico Chapter (HVNМ), Educating Parents of Indian Children with Special Needs (EPICS), and New Mexico School for the Deaf Early Intervention and Involvement Division (NMSD – EIID) as we collectively present a Fun February Family Event!

**Event** will be in Las Cruces, NM, and is scheduled for Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 9:00 AM through 12:00 PM. The Las Cruces De Noche Lions Club has generously offered to host the

event in their Community Center, located at 1501 N. Solano Drive in Las Cruces, NM. ASL and Spanish interpreting is available for the event.

Local providers of services for D/HH children will give short introductions about who they are, what they do, and share promotional material with the audience.

### **Local Resource Presenters:**

Lions Club  
Hearing Loss Association of America  
New Mexico State University -  
Audiology and Speech Therapy

**Reception** will give families a chance to speak more with local resource providers, with D/HH adults, and with other families with D/HH children. Light refreshments will be provided.

Door prizes too! Please join us to learn and share with other families with D/HH children.

### **More information:**

hvn.m.org  
epicsproject.org  
[nmsd.k12.nm.us/outreach/index.php](http://nmsd.k12.nm.us/outreach/index.php)

## **Why am I a Part of Hand & Voices New Mexico (HVNМ)?**

*By Carmen Armenta*

What motivates me to be part of Hands & Voices NM? I learn what parents before me have done, as well as what their children have gone through and accomplished. I read many articles and do a lot of research regarding my children’s hearing loss. I look up different modes of communication for education and social situations. I rarely feel a connection with most people in the articles, because I can’t talk to them, ask questions, and pick their brains. I am the type of person who likes to see things first hand and talk to people directly. With a personal connection, I have found that I get the unfiltered opinions, feelings, and thoughts, regarding schools, teachers, methods, and technology without the sugar coating found in many articles. I realize that everybody’s

### **Fun February Family Event**

**When:** Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
**What:** 9:00 Parenting a D/HH Child  
Local Resources  
10:00 Reception – Meet, Mingle & Munch  
11:00 IEP, 504, Adult Transition  
**Where:** Lions Club Community Center  
1501 N. Solano Drive, Las Cruces, NM 88001  
**Who:** All are welcome!  
**More:** ASL and Spanish interpreting available!  
Door prizes!

Please renew your membership today!

## Why am I a Part of HVNM?

(Continued from Front)

experiences are different, and that what works for one person may not work for someone else. That is why I think it is important to talk to as many parents and children who live with deafness to get a good perspective of the needs of my children.

At a recent HVNM event, I learned from a D/HH teenager how to work an FM blue tooth streamer for hearing aids. I asked her dozens of questions about how it works, but more importantly does she like it? Is she benefiting from it? My daughter has a few years to go before she is a teenager but she loves music. I can help her hear it better by getting the audio feed directly to her hearing aids. I am not the most technically savvy person and while I could have figured out how to use it, or gotten information from a professional audiologist, it would have taken me a lot longer to figure out how FM Bluetooth feeds work, and my daughter wouldn't be benefitting from it right now. Life is too short to miss out on the fun things in life. I am excited about the opportunities HVNM has given me to talk to other families and children, as well as to share my own family's experiences. I am extremely motivated to be a part of HVNM.

Won't you join us?

## Happy New Y-Ear!

By Andrea Shije, GBYS Parent Guide

Hello! This is from the Shije family from Zia Pueblo. We all agree that the Y-Ear Event that HVNM hosted on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 at Flying Star in Corrales, NM was a great and fun and successful event. We networked and some new D/HH friends and families. The food was great. And we loved the door prizes.

Thanks HVNM, for a great event!

## 2015 Membership

Please be sure to join Hands & Voices New Mexico Chapter and complete the online survey through our website, [hvnmm.org](http://hvnmm.org):

Parent/Family: \$25 per year  
Professional: \$40 per year  
Institutional: \$50 per year

Benefits to you:

- Receive *The Communicator*, a Headquarters H&V quarterly newspaper
- Receive quarterly HVNM Chapter newsletter
- Information on workshops, resources, events
- Informational support for you and your family
- Opportunities for parents and professionals working together to help children who are D/HH

Scholarships are available if you wish to become a member but cannot afford the dues, please contact us.

Thank you!

## Stay in Touch!

Web: [hvnmm.org](http://hvnmm.org)  
E-mail: [parentgroup@hvnmm.org](mailto:parentgroup@hvnmm.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/handsandvoicesnm](https://www.facebook.com/handsandvoicesnm)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/handvnm](https://twitter.com/handvnm)  
Pinterest: [pinterest.com/hvnmm](https://www.pinterest.com/hvnmm)  
Phone: 505-357-0344 English  
505-357-0345 Spanish

## Board Members

Carmen Armenta  
Acting President  
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Hard of Hearing Teen  
Student

Carol Clifford, AuD  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Professional

Marjorie Madsen Keilers  
Executive Director  
Parent, Hard of Hearing Adult

If you have a personal story, ideas for future articles, or if know of upcoming events that would benefit our readers, please let us know:

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**Albuquerque, NM 87199**

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[parentgroup@hvnmm.org](mailto:parentgroup@hvnmm.org)