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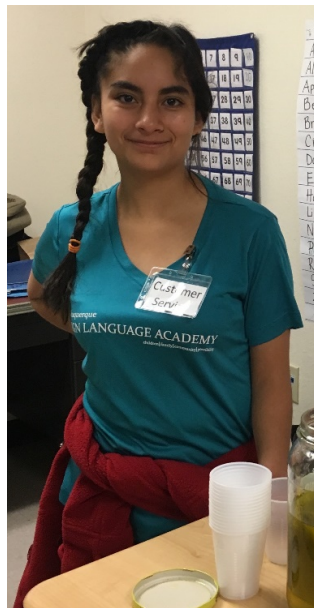
# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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## Hands & Voices, NM

PO Box 90804 Albuquerque, NM 87199  
Hvnm.org T: 505-357-0400 English 505-357-0345 Spanish  
email: parentgroup@hvnm.org

### “Spot Light” Is on **Saira Santillanes**

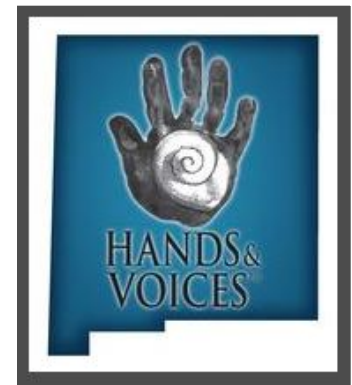


### “Spot Light”

HVNM would like to congratulate 18-year old Saira on her school award. She received an award for The Most Determination Award. She never gives up on assignments and always tries her best. Saira is Deaf. She enjoys bicycling, zumba and playing volleyball.

Please add your questions or comments to our Facebook chat.  
<https://www.facebook.com/handsandvoicesnm>

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### Upcoming HVNM Events

**September 9**  
**Back 2 School Event – Meet, Mingle, Munch!**

Location: Main Event – 4040 Pan American Fwy NE, Albuquerque

**October 14**

Roswell Meet and Greet: TBD

**October 28**

Closed Board Meeting due to training

***We are Looking for more Parents***

## Topic of the quarter: Communication Considerations – Communication Choices and Decision Making

Decision making is a process of problem solving that leads us to a plan of action after considering our alternatives. Communication choices (described in other parts of this series) are the alternatives – the various approaches used to educate and converse with deaf and hard-of-hearing children. The decision making process around communication choices is a unique journey each family takes with their child to make connections, communicate and share the wonders of the world.



**What do we mean by Communication Choices and Decision Making?** As parents, we make decisions for our children each day. The decision about how the family will communicate with a child is personal and precious...it has ramifications for all involved. So, it can seem especially weighty. I am not the parent of a D/HH child, so I cannot fully appreciate how overwhelming such decisions can be. However, as a parent, I can identify with the fear that accompanies complex decisions. Remember that the process is to choose from among alternatives – not to make a choice between right and wrong. The initial decisions are less of a burden if we recognize that they can be modified over time as we get more information. Many families revise their decisions at various times during the child's life. Others combine approaches in unique and creative ways, depending on the child's needs.

Families approach decision making in ways that reflect their unique styles, culture, values and concerns. There is no one "right" way. Some may gather all the information and rationally consider the pros and cons. Others may trust their gut instincts and respond to how they feel about the situation. Still others may seek creative solutions to build support systems. It can be useful to blend all of these approaches (rational, emotional and creative) when problem solving.

If you were to "pack a bag" for this decision-making journey, it might include three things: 1) encouragement to take the time you need to explore the issues and to understand your child's unique needs, 2) support from good listeners and others who have made the journey before you (parents), and 3) a bias detector – allowing you to recognize that few opinions are without some bias. Recognizing this gives perspective as you consider the input.

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If you would like to get more information about our Parent Guides, or the GBYS Program please call: Carmen Armenta, GBYS Coordinator 505-553-4365 or email: [carmen@hvn.org](mailto:carmen@hvn.org)

## In the Community

### ASL Classes

### Fall Session 2017

### Deadline to register September 12

<http://www.nmsd.k12.nm.us/outreach/classesworkshops.php>

### NMCDHH

The Main Albuquerque Public Library downtown has a public video phone available for use.  
[www.cdhh.state.nm.us/](http://www.cdhh.state.nm.us/)

### Board Members:

**Ellie G. Lee**

President/Professional

**Andrea Shije**

Co-Vice President/Parent Guide

**Rachel Gutierrez**

Co-Vice President/Parent Guide

**Carol Clifford**

Secretary/Treasurer/Professional

**Carmen Armenta**

Executive Director/Parent

**Marjorie Madsen-Keilers**

Board Member/Parent Guide