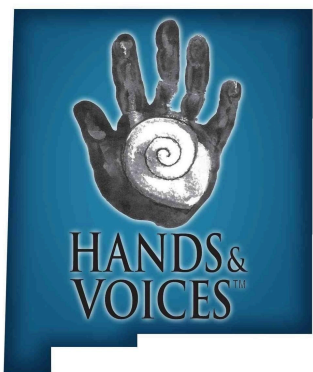


Hands & Voices, NM

Quarterly Newsletter

January 2023

Meet Your Board Members



"What works for your child is what makes the choice right!"



GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE™

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Carmen Armenta

Carmen is a parent of three children, two of whom are Deaf/Hard of Hearing. They both wear bilateral hearing aids. They communicate through spoken language and ASL. She has been involved in H&V NM since 2013 as a Parent Guide, and in 2016 she became the Executive Director/GBYS Parent Coordinator. Carmen is also a Parent Co-Chair on the board of the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) for the State of New Mexico. She is dedicated to supporting DHH children and families.



Rachel Gutierrez

Rachel is a parent board member and Guide by Your Side. Rachel has six children, two of whom are Deaf/ Hard of Hearing with Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder and fitted with bilateral hearing aids. Rachel has been involved with Hands & Voices NM for almost 10 years, since her oldest daughter with hearing loss was born. Rachel is trilingual, serving New Mexico's Spanish-speaking families. She strives to provide support and encouragement to newly informed parents of D/HH children.



Andrea Shije

Hello from Zia Pueblo! Andrea is a parent board member. She and her family have been a part of H&V NM for many years. Andrea has two Deaf sons, Andy and Patrick. Andrea's sons attended NMSD and later went onto college. Their family and Pueblo have many generations of deaf community members that use a signed language. She believes that H&V NM is a great way to extend her experience in life onto parents who are just starting their journeys.



Jaclyn Meyers Ulibarri

Jaclyn is a parent board member. She has three children. Her youngest is Deaf/Hard of Hearing and wears bilateral hearing aids. Their family primarily uses spoken language supported by ASL. Jaclyn joined the H&V NM board to help other parents navigate their way through their own journeys. Jaclyn's family lives in a rural area and she hopes to bring more awareness of resources to families like hers.



Lorraine Crespin

Lorraine grew up in NJ but has called NM home for 42 years. She worked in the field of education for over 35 years, both in the classroom and as a supervisor and specialist for the early childhood D/HH home visiting program. She retired in Jan. 2020 right before COVID! She has two grown sons and five grandchildren. She recalls when the H&V NM chapter was first starting and is grateful for the opportunity to continue serving families throughout New Mexico.



Courtney Kasin Mann

Courtney is a pediatric audiologist at Presbyterian Ear Institute. She and her husband moved to New Mexico in May 2022 after she completed her residency year at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, OH. She was elected to the H&V NM board in September and had the opportunity to represent NM at the annual H&V Leadership Conference in Fairport, NY. She loves working with all children along their hearing healthcare journeys!



Upcoming Events

Happening in New Mexico:

January 23: ASL classes through NMSD begin

February 11, 3-5PM: Valentine's Virtual Painting Night

April 8: Spring Gathering in Southeast NM (in progress)

H&V National:

January 20 & March 17: H&V Book Club

January 26: FL3- Authentic Parent Leadership in Systems

March 23: FL3- How Do We Support Siblings in Family Support Programming?



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H&V Leadership Conference

The Hands & Voices Leadership Conference took place from September 18-20th in Fairport, NY. It was a truly eye-opening experience attending as a professional and being in the minority. So many families shared what has been impactful for them throughout their journeys. I believe that I walked away a better professional and advocate. My favorite session focused on the importance of family networking and providing hope to new families of D/HH children.



Las Cruces Fall Festival

Hands & Voices NM held our Fall Festival in Las Cruces on October 30th. It was a fun-filled day with games, snacks, pumpkin decorating, and a costume contest. The Graff family, with their sweet Jack-o-Lantern, won the cake walk on their very first try! Our little friends, the Skunk and the Hulk, won Best Costume!

This event would not have been possible without the support of New Mexico State University and Bert & JoJo! Thank you so much!



Freeze Your Fanny 5K

The Hands & Voices New Year Virtual 5K: Freeze Your Fanny 5K took place from December 30-January 2! Hands & Voices chapters from across the nation created teams and participated in this virtual event, posting pictures on social media and cheering each other on. H&V NM had eight participants register and compete in the Freeze Your Fanny 5K. We hope to have even more participants join us next year!

