



# Hands & Voices New Mexico

March 2014

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

## Guide By Your Side Program in New Mexico (GBYS)

*By Edina Rutland, HVNM Board Member*



Great news for families with deaf or hard of hearing children (D/HH) in New Mexico!

We are very excited to announce that Hands & Voices New Mexico (HVNM) has been approved and received funding (thank you Buckaroo Ball and the Department of Health, Children's Medical Services) to provide this wonderful program to NM families with children who are D/HH.

Many families report a sense of helplessness and anxiety upon learning that their baby is D/HH, and connecting to someone who can truly say "I know just how you feel" can provide unique and critical support.

The benefits of the encouragement and assistance that can be provided by an individual who has been down a similar path is the motivation behind H&V GBYS program. It is designed to provide the unique support of experienced families of children who are deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind to families at the time of their child's identification of hearing loss, as well as at other crucial times throughout the parenting years.

GBYS is an innovative H&V program designed to provide emotional support and specialized knowledge from trained parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. The GBYS program can:

- Help make connections with at-risk and newly-identified families who are often lost to follow up services after newborn screening and/or diagnosis.
- Provide a cadre of parent mentors who have been trained by Hands & Voices to support families

without bias towards modes or methods of communication or educational programming, and to model specialized parenting skills that emphasize meeting the unique needs of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing.

- Mentor families through the early intervention years by combining an experienced parent's insight of early intervention and educational systems.

- Expose families to diverse models of communication--equitably presented--and exemplified by families who represent the Hands & Voices slogan, *"What Makes the Choice Work for Your Child and Family Is What Makes the Choice Right."*

- Influence and improve the systems designed to serve families and their children who are D/HH by providing GBYS mentors in early intervention programs and public education at the decision-making level.

Please stay tuned for further developments in establishing our GBYS program on our website:

<http://hvn.org>

***Thanks for your support at our gift wrapping fundraiser!***

Hands & Voices New Mexico held a successful Christmas gift wrapping fundraiser at the Santa Fe Place Mall. The fundraiser was organized by our Board member and was attended by several others. We would like to thank everyone who made this event a success. We are planning more fundraiser events in the near future. More details will follow and we are hoping you could all help us spread the word. Check out our website for upcoming events and how you can help support HVNM.

***Thank you all!***

*Please complete and mail in survey and 2014 dues!*

## Stay in Touch!

### *We've changed our email address!*

Please check in with us in one of a number of ways:

**NEW** E-mail:

**parentgroup@hvn.org**

Website:

**www.hvn.org**

Facebook:

**www.facebook.com/handsandvoicesnm**

Twitter:

**www.twitter.com/handvnm**

Pinterest:

**www.pinterest.com/hvn**

## 2014 Membership

Please be sure to join Hands & Voices New Mexico Chapter and complete the online survey through our website, hvnm.org:

Parent/Family: \$25 per year

Professional: \$40 per year

Institutional: \$150 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!

## Meet Our New Board Member, Edina Rutland!

I am a late-deafened adult after becoming deaf overnight at the age of 15 after being hit by a car while crossing a street. It was a major change that shook not only my own life but changed my family's dynamics as well. We adapted and started on a road that was rocky at times but most importantly it brought us closer together. I learned to read lips and received "oral" education with basically no support throughout my high school and early college years. When I entered California State University, Northridge for my master's degree, my life changed dramatically again. It was the first time I socialized with deaf peers who could sign. I learned to sign and ever since then I consider American Sign Language my main communication method. While I still speak clearly and can read lips, I now prefer to rely on my sign language skills and those of the interpreters for full communication access. I received my Ph.D. in Social Psychology at the University of Nevada, Reno. My life goal is to create a bridge between the deaf and the hearing population and to help D/HH children fully realize their potentials regardless of the communication method they choose. I am currently the agency director of the Community Outreach Program for the Deaf (COPD) in Albuquerque.

## *Shout out to Yadira Delgado for translating HVNM Newsletter!*

### Board Members

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Parent, Deaf Adult  
Professional

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

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