



Hands & Voices New Mexico

November 2014

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

10 Year Anniversary!

Back to School 2014 Report

Hands & Voices would like to give a HUGE shout out to Lisa McNiven and Paul Bradley for being our guest speakers and sharing their stories with us at our annual Back to School (BTS) event on Sept 28, 2014. We would also like to say THANK YOU to the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science for letting us host our BTS event, for the second time, in their beautiful planetarium.

The benefit of learning the histories of these two deaf and hard of hearing (D/HH) individuals is monumental. Even though they both grew up in an era that is much different than today, without the

American Disabilities Act (ADA) and IDEA, their experiences are the same struggles our children face today. These two individuals were encouraging because of the success they have achieved throughout their lives thus far.

After learning about Lisa and Paul we headed to the reception for all our guests to meet our speakers. Everyone mingled and got a chance to ask one-on-one questions. The reception also gave our new Parent Guides from our Guide By Your Side (GBYS) program to answer questions and share more details about this newly implemented program.

Our event was a success with more than 40 guests in attendance. In attendance we had quite a few professionals from the deaf and hard of hearing community. Next event we would love to see more families to attend. Join us!

They did a great job as guest speakers and Hands & Voices wishes them continued success in the future.

If you would like more information about our BTS or future events and our GBYS program, please visit our website:

hvnm.org

Mov-E Mystery!

Sometime in December! Food!

And ACTION!

Please join HVNM for a Mov-E Day sometime in December over the winter break from schools. Why no exact time? Because the theaters have not yet posted their movies and times this far in advance, that's why. The HVNM Board was debating the pros and cons of the various close captioning options throughout New Mexico, and thought "why not check it out in person?"

Then we thought, "what kind of event would it be without food?" So there will be food, possibly a Pizza Party or an Ice Cream Social, either before or after the event. Hence the mystery component!

Event is open to all: ages 0 – 18, college-age children home for winter break, parents and professionals. All are welcome! We're hoping to find a theater with both G and PG rated films showing simultaneously for fun for everyone! Stay tuned to our website, Facebook page, and Twitter feed. Please RSVP to let us know your interest and we'll add you to our e-mailing list and keep you posted. RSVP to parentgroup@hvnm.org.

And CUT!



**GUIDE BY
YOUR SIDE**

Meet Our Parent Guide Rachel Gutierrez

Rachel Gutierrez is from the Clovis/Portales area. She is a recent graduate of Clovis Community College with an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts and is currently enrolled in the ASL Interpreting program at Santa Fe Community College. Rachel is pursuing a Tri-Lingual Interpreter certification to include Spanish. Her experience includes Home Health Care, Case Management, Family Development, and Peer Counseling.

Rachel has been blessed with four beautiful children: Juan (17), Fabiola (16), Lorenzo (8), and Lorena (3). Lorena attends the New Mexico School for the Deaf Pre-School. Rachel's family's world completely changed for the better once Lorena was born. The family has met so many supportive professionals, deaf adults, and other wonderful parents with circumstances similar to their own throughout this journey. "We have been truly blessed," says Rachel. She hopes to provide support and encouragement to newly informed parents of D/HH children; even if it is simply lending an ear to listen, a shoulder to cry on, or sharing a good laugh; together learning from one another.

New!
Phone Connections!

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: \$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!

E-mail:

parentgroup@hvnm.org

Website:

www.hvnm.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/handsandvoicesnm

Twitter:

www.twitter.com/handvnm

Pinterest:

www.pinterest.com/hvnm

Phone:

505-357-0344 English

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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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