

## *A Rallying Cry: We Need All Your HANDS & VOICES*



**I**n your family, do you talk or sign? Or cue? Whatever you do, we need you. If you are directly, indirectly, or potentially involved with children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families, we need you. We need to be united by our hands and our voices. We are parents, professionals, adult mentors, consumers, and others who are in so many ways connected to a cause and to each other through the community of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. We are Hands & Voices.

Our philosophy of unbiased support makes Hands & Voices unique among Deaf/HH organizations. There are many wonderful organizations that provide support and information about methods and modes of communication, but at Hands & Voices, we rally around the need to improve educational outcomes for our kids, and to enhance their quality of life.

Our organization is parent-driven, but highly collaborative with professionals who are represented on our advisory board, and make up approximately one third of our membership. We work at both the local and national levels. Our state chapters provide local and regional support consistent with the Hands & Voices non-biased philosophy and mission. In addition to family support, we strive to be meaningfully involved at the systems development level.

Whether we're at work locally or nationally, Hands & Voices continues to be driven by the need to improve the educational outcomes and quality of life for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Be a part of this dynamic movement.....become a Hands & Voices member today!



HANDS &  
VOICES

### NEBRASKA CHAPTER

**For information please contact:**

Nebraska Hands & Voices

P.O. Box 241229

Omaha, NE 68124

info@handsandvoicesne.org

**or contact:**

Kris Flott - (402) 203-0673

kris@handsandvoicesne.org

Laryssa Payne - (402) 578-8531

laryssa@handsandvoicesne.org

Audrey Thompson - (402) 316-8512 (Norfolk)

athompson@handsandvoices@hotmail.com

### *National Information:*

## **Hands & Voices**

PO Box 445

Carthage, IL 62321

or

PO Box 3093

Boulder, CO 80307

Phone (217) 357-3647

Toll free (866) 422-0422

Email: parentadvocate@handsandvoices.org

Website: www.handsandvoices.org



HANDS &  
VOICES

*Hands & Voices is a  
non profit 501(c)(3) organization*



# HANDS & VOICES



*What Works  
for your Child  
is What Makes  
the Choice Right™*

*Non-biased support for families of  
children who are deaf  
and hard of hearing*

*www.handsandvoices.org*

## Parent Support and Advocacy for Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

### Our Mission:

**H**ands and Voices is dedicated to supporting families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing without a bias around communication modes or methodology. We're a parent-driven, non-profit organization providing families with the resources, networks, and information they need to improve communication access and educational outcomes for their children. Our outreach activities, parent/professional collaboration, and advocacy efforts are focused on enabling Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing children to reach their highest potential.



## Hands & Voices Areas of Focus Include:

- Parent - to - Parent Support
- Guide by your Side Program
- Deaf Ed Reform - Educational Excellence
- "Medical Home" Initiative
- Full & effective Communication Access
- Hearing Aid Coverage by Insurance Companies
- Universal Newborn Hearing Systems
- Parent/Professional Collaboration
- Deaf/HH Adult Mentoring
- Parent Education and Support
- Deaf Child's Bill of Rights
- Natural Environments, Least Restrictive Environment
- Communication Choice Making
- Meaningful Parent Involvement
- Educational Advocacy and Training

## What People say about Hands & Voices:

"Hands & Voices supported my personal decision about my son and how he would learn to communicate with the world as a deaf person. Hands & Voices did not judge, but supported my choice."

**Shirley Swope,**  
parent and advocate, Colorado

"Hands & Voices is what our state has been waiting for. I had several requests for specific information which sent me scrambling for some appropriate resources and information. Hands & Voices was where I found it."

**Lorna Irwin,**  
parent and consultant, Idaho

"For too long we have debated what communication mode is best, rather than work to provide the variety of options necessary to meet the diverse needs of deaf/hh children. The broad vision of Hands & Voices comes at exactly the right time."

**Lawrence Siegel, Esq.**  
National Deaf Education Project

## Tell us Who You Are

We invite you to become a member of Hands & Voices. Your membership benefits include: the quarterly Hands & Voices newspaper, *THE COMMUNICATOR*; reduced fees to attend workshops; advocacy assistance priority, website.



## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

*Mail this form to:*  
**Nwbraska Hands & Voices**  
**P.O. Box 241229**  
**Omaha, NE 68124**

Sign up for:	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent of deaf/hh child*	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Deaf or hard of hearing adult	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional	\$40.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization / agency	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donation	_____
	Subtotal: _____

\*Scholarships available for parents check here

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Children's Ages \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment**

Check

Scholarship - Parent



## Hands & Voices Resources Include:

- The Resource Guide for Parents
- Quarterly publication, "The Communicator"
- [www.handsandvoices.org](http://www.handsandvoices.org)
- Lending Library
- IEP Facilitation/Advocacy Support
- Public Speakers Bureau
- State Chapters Affiliate Support
- "We are Hands & Voices" video
- Statewide workshops
- Legislative advocacy
- Parent perspective representation on statewide/national issues
- Regional Parent Coordinators
- Spanish Speaking parent coordinator
- Unilateral Hearing Loss parent Coordinator
- Teacher/professional pre-service and in-service training
- Deaf /HH Adult Role Models