Mission
Hands & Voices is a parent-driven organization that supports families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing without bias around communication modes or methodology.

Vision
We envision a world where children who are deaf and hard of hearing have every opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Motto
“What works for your child is what makes the choice right”
Hands & Voices Presence

Hands & Voices Chapters
For info on a H&V chapter near you click a location marker on the maps below. Stars indicate full chapters and dots represent start-up/provisional chapters.
• Kids with mild, moderate, severe, profound, unilateral, conductive, auditory neuropathy, congenital, acquired, or age progressive hearing loss or deafness
• Kids who speak, kids who sign, kids who do both, kids who cue, kids who are aided or not aided, and/or kids who have cochlear implant
• The families of these children and the professionals who work with them in all capacities

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History of Hands & Voices

• Tired of the division...
• A group of parents/professional in CO in 1996
• Created support for families with kids birth through high school...
• Autonomy at each chapter level while maintaining a vision for a shared enterprise
• Requests for educational advocacy support started rolling in... PARENTS NEED(ED) TRAINING
HELP...

• “...I was told to get a follow up screen from the hospital, but there are no appointments available for 3 months.”
• “...My early intervention provider is telling me if we don’t choose ______ as our communication option, our child will not succeed”
• “...they tell me my son is not eligible for special ed. Because he’s doing ‘too well’?”
• “...they’ve assigned a new interpreter to my daughter who uses ASL, and the terp uses SEE?”
• “...my school just assigned an SLP who has never worked with deaf kids, and my child just got a CI”
Mentoring families with newly identified D/HH babies

Advocating for individual student or full systemic improvement

Providing thought leadership to program development and implementation

Serving as parent consultants to programs and agencies

Training professionals on sensitivity and awareness of family issues

Providing end-user quality control oversight to services and systems
Parent led, centered, involved, directed...

- For their own child
- For each other

Parent Participation through advocacy...

- In the system

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Where Families Find Support

Parent-to-Parent
- Formal Parent Support Groups
- Deaf Specific
- General Disability
- Informal Parent Support

Adults Who Are Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Mentor
- Role Model

Information
- Internet Websites
- Brochures
- Books
- CDs/DVDs/Videos
- Resource Guides
- Curricula

Existing Communities
- Family
- Friends
- Neighborhood
- Places of Worship/Spiritual

Professionals
- Service Coordinator
- Parent Educator
- Early Interventionist
- Audiologist
- Medical Home/Physician
- Speech/Language Pathologists
- Teacher
- Hospital Staff
- Communication Instructor/Specialist

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From Parents: I joined Hands & Voices because.....

• I want to help others get what we didn’t get.
• I want the best for my children.
• I don’t want fear to drive my decisions.
• I don’t want my child to feel alone.
• I don’t want to feel alone.
• I know what it feels like to have my parents/professionals advocate for me.
• I want my children to know their options are not limited by limited hearing.
• If you have a state H&V chapter, contact your state’s director
• Go to the H&V website for articles, resources, advocacy materials: www.handsandvoices.org
• Become a professional member of Hands & Voices
• Ask for parent representation at all levels of transition activities (state, local, individual)
• Other ideas?
• **Strategic** Leadership and Planning
• Conference **Calls**
• **Annual H&V Leadership Conference**
• **Resources:** Grant Templates, articles, presentation and workshop support etc.
• **Common Culture**
• The Hands & Voices “Guide By Your Side” and ASTra **Programs**
• **Database** Program
• **Board Development** Strategies
In the end, it’s not just about the choices we made for our children, but how we fostered their ability to make the right choices for themselves, and then honored their choices.

- Seaver, Hands & Voices
Contact Us

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