

Summer 2010



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

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Join Texas Hands & Voices Today!

Texas Hands & Voices is a Chapter of the National **Hands & Voices** Organization. By becoming a member of **Texas Hands & Voices** you will get membership privileges that include the *National Communicator* Quarterly Paper mailed to your home or place of business. Your annual dues help us defer the cost of mailings and give us a small budget to continue our Texas efforts to support Deaf and Hard of Hearing children, their families and the professionals that serve them, in the state of Texas. It also allows us to create resources, training materials and a Texas specific website .

Dear Friend of **Texas Hands & Voices**,

Wow! What an exciting and busy summer it has been for **Texas Hands & Voices!** We have traveled to our National Leadership Conference, been a major sponsor at the Statewide Conference on Education of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, attended Family Weekend Retreat, and participated in the Texas EHDI Summit, among other things! As the time for vacation travel draws to a close, we hope you will begin making plans now to join us at some of these great events in summers to come.

Texas Hands & Voices is excited to announce our newest fund-raising opportunity but we need your help! The best part is that it costs you absolutely nothing, all we are asking you do so is search the Internet; yes, it's that easy! Choose **Texas Hands & Voices** as your charity, then use GoodSearch.com whenever you perform an internet search and they will make a donation to **Texas Hands & Voices**. There are more details below and it really is fast and easy, so download the toolbar and give your support today!

As always, we love to hear from you; email me at laura.davis@txhandsandvoices.org .

Laura Davis
Executive Director

TOOL Information

Have you always wanted more resources for yourself and your children? Do you want to learn more about many topics like: Signed English, American Sign Language, Cued Speech, raising a child with hearing loss, Deaf Education..... And much more? Did you know that ERCOD, the Educational

[JOIN NOW!](#)



Share the message of ***Hands & Voices*** with your family, friends and professionals!

[Forward this message](#)

Texas Hands & Voices is a chapter of the nationwide non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families and their children who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as the professionals who serve them. We are a parent-driven, parent/professional/community collaborative group that is unbiased towards communication modes and methods. Our diverse membership includes those who are deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing impaired and their families who communicate orally, with signs, cue, and/or combined methods. We exist to help our children reach their highest potential. Whether we're at work locally or nationally, ***Hands & Voices*** continues to be driven by the need to improve the educational outcomes and quality

Resource Center on Deafness, has a FREE DVD Lending Library?

Texas Hands & Voices has been working with ERCOD to recommend new resources for the TOOL Library. More titles are being added! For more information or to register, click on the link below.

[TOOL Library](#)

[Good Search](#)

What if ***Texas Hands & Voices*** earned a donation every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 30 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause.

And if you download the GoodSearch – ***Texas Hands & Voices*** toolbar, our cause will earn money every time you shop and search online - even if you forget to go to GoodShop or GoodSearch first! Add the ***Texas Hands & Voices*** toolbar at <http://www.goodsearch.com/nonprofit/texas-hands-and-voices.aspx>

Please consider supporting ***Texas Hands & Voices*** through GoodSearch!

[Statewide Conference](#)

Texas Hands & Voices was so honored to be a part of the Statewide Conference on Education of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing held in Fort Worth in July. Every attendee received a custom lanyard with our web address and our booth in the exhibit hall was busy with old friends and new contacts stopping by for

hard of hearing.

Parent Leaders

Texas Hands & Voices Parent Leaders are parents of children with hearing loss who have received training in order to provide local resource information, training opportunities, social events, and support in their communities for families of children with hearing loss and the professionals who serve them.

- Dallas/Fort Worth Area:
Tamara Joyce-
Wylie, tamara@txhandsandvoices.org
- McAllen Area/Spanish
Liaison: Tina
Proctor, tina@txhandsandvoices.org
- Houston Area: Kellie
Berger, kellie@txhandsandvoices.org
- Austin/San Antonio Area:
Laura
Davis, laura.davis@txhandsandvoices.org

More information about the Parent Leader Program and their upcoming events will be added to the ***Texas Hands & Voices*** Website!

This e-newsletter is provided to the families of children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing and the professionals who serve them as a joint project between ***Texas Hands & Voices*** and the [Educational Resource Center on Deafness \(ERCOD\)](#).

information and just to say hi throughout the conference.

The highlight was our Family Fun Night held at Tarrant County College Trinity River Campus, where the older children's programs were also held. We had a great evening visiting over pizza and rice crispy treats!

Planning is already underway for the 2012 event, so if you have suggestions on what ***Texas Hands & Voices*** can do to encourage family attendance, please let us know!

Region XI Town Hall Meeting

Town Hall Meeting to discuss educational services for the Deaf
September 9, 2010, 6:00-8:45 p.m.

Town Hall Meeting to discuss educational services for the Deaf
ECS Region XI invites parent, teachers, and other staff working with deaf and hard-of-hearing students, deaf community members, agencies serving the deaf, and other stakeholders of the deaf community and deaf education to participate in this town hall meeting. Your input is needed as we gather information to identify needs and seek to continuously improve educational services to students who are deaf and hard-of-hearing within the Region XI area.

For more information or to register for this meeting contact:

Stacey McKenzie - smckenzie@esc11.net

Susie Tiggs - stiggs@esc11.net

Penny Morrison - pmorrison@esc11.net

YeeHaw!

YEEHAW to Hayden. Hayden gained a new step-dad recently when his mom, Laura Davis, Executive Director for ***Texas Hands & Voices***, recently wed Graham Riedel. Welcome to the ***Hands & Voices*** family, Graham!

If you or one of your kids got the scholarship, made the team, performed in a program, or accomplished a goal - no matter how big or small - we want to hear about it! This is your place to brag! Send your YeeHaw!

to tamara@txhandsandvoices.org with your/your child's accomplishment, first name, last initial, and home town.

Photos are also welcome!

Did you know...?

...that the Educational Resource Center on Deafness had launched a new website to make it easier to find information and resources about educating deaf and hard-of-hearing children in Texas?

<http://www.texasdhhresources.org/>

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