



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

Dear Friend of Texas Hands & Voices,

Wow! It is school time again... The summer vacation flew by for us. I hope everyone stayed cool and could take some time to enjoy being with family and friends. **Texas Hands & Voices** and Guide By Your Side have been hard at work this summer, learning, planning and setting things in motion. Several board members and Guides were able to attend the Hands & Voices National Leadership Conference in Portland Maine. Our Guides presented and helped with ERCOD's Family Weekend Retreat in June. We had park days in Dallas/Fort Worth and Houston and are planning more across the state soon!

Sonic Innovations has graciously donated hearing aid batteries to many of the Hands & Voices chapters across the nation. We should receive our shipment very soon and will announce how we plan to distribute them. Please check the [Texas Hands & Voices Facebook page](#) for more information coming soon!

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**O.U.R. Children' Safety Project**

Observe - Understand - Respond

We don't like to think about it, but our kids who are deaf or hard of hearing are at a higher risk for both abuse and neglect. Like any children, they are at risk. As children who might not always be able to communicate easily and fluently, or understand the nuances of conversation with neighbors, caregivers, or strangers, they are at an even

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 .

[Join Today!](#)



Share the message of **Texas 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

higher risk of being victims of someone, somewhere...

If we can stop that cycle with even one child, one family... our efforts are more than worthwhile.

Hands & Voices is working closely with researcher Harold Johnson at Michigan State University to understand the scope of this problem, partner with supporting agencies (who often need to learn more about deafness), and teach ourselves how best to Observe, Understand, and Respond to our children. To keep them safe. To keep them free to grow up in the innocence of childhood.

[O.U.R. Children](#)

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### 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!

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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 of life for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

### Texas Guide By Your Side™

**Texas Guide By Your Side™ (GBYS)** is a family support program that embodies the mission of **Hands & Voices**, which is to provide unbiased support to families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

**Guide services to families include:**

- Direct parent-to-parent emotional support
- Sharing information and resources in an unbiased manner
- Workshops, trainings, and events for parents and children
- Networking opportunities with other families
- Referrals to other programs that serve deaf or hard of hearing children

“Parent Guides” are specially trained parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. They work directly with families in need of the unique support that comes from someone else who has walked the path him/herself and can share from direct experience and wisdom. Parent Guides can provide emotional support at the time of screening and/or confirmation of

### Join Us On Facebook!

**Texas Hands & Voices** has two Facebook pages to help you follow what is happening around the state, ask questions, share resources, and connect with other parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and the professionals that serve them!

[Texas Hands & Voices](#)

[Texas Guide By Your Side](#)

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### DeafTEC: Technological Education Center for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students

The National Science Foundation has awarded more than \$4.45 million over four years to the Rochester Institute of Technology and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf to establish DeafTEC: Technological Education Center for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students, an Advanced Technological Education National Center of Excellence.

It is the single largest NSF award in RIT's history. There are approximately 40 ATE centers across the country, and DeafTEC will be the first ever established to serve individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

DeafTEC will establish a model within targeted regions of the country - California, Texas and Florida - that will create partnerships among high schools, community colleges, and industry to improve access to technological education and employment for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. The initial regional DeafTEC partners in Texas are:

- Texas School for the Deaf, Austin
- Austin Community College, Austin
- The Dow Chemical Company, Houston, Bay Port, Texas City, Deer Park/LaPorte, Freeport and Seadrift

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### [DeafTEC: Technological Education Center for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students](#)

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hearing loss, as well as provide a continuity of support to families throughout the child's life, especially at times of transition. Guides offer resources, information, encouragement, and an opportunity to network with other families.

“Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH) Guides” are specially trained to provide families and children with invaluable perspectives that come from personal experience. Their role is not the provision of service (i.e., to teach families sign language or to share oral training techniques), but to provide helpful examples drawn from direct experience of life as an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing. Like Parent Guides, D/HH Guides are often an important link for extended family members who do not have direct contact with service providers, but do need to increase their understanding of the unique needs of a family member who is deaf or hard of hearing.

For more information, contact Debbie Kopp, Texas Guide By Your Side™ Program Coordinator at 512-462-5738 (voice), 512-410-1198 (VP) or email [coordinator@txgbys.org](mailto:coordinator@txgbys.org).

[TXGBYS Website](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Park Day

August 28, 2011

2:00-5:00 p.m.

Collins Park

6727 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, TX

Contact Kellie Berger for more information at

[kberger@yxgbys.org](mailto:kberger@yxgbys.org).

### Plano/North Dallas EHDI Family Forum

September 8, 2011

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Davis Elementary

2701 Parkhaven, Plano, Texas 75075

If your child's hearing loss was suspected or present at birth or if your child's hearing loss developed between the ages of birth-5 years of age, you are invited to join us for a thoughtful discussion related to the services and supports you received through the process of learning about your child's hearing loss.

For information or to register, contact Teresa Cason at [teresac@launchability.org](mailto:teresac@launchability.org) or 214-729-4298.

[Plano/North Dallas EHDI Family Forum flier](#)

### Houston EHDI Family Forum

September 14, 2011

6:00-8:00 p.m.

The Center for Hearing and Speech

3636 West Dallas, Houston, Texas 77019

If your child's hearing loss was suspected or present at birth or if your child's hearing loss developed between the ages of birth-5 years of age, you are invited to join us for a thoughtful discussion related to the services and supports you received through the process of learning about your child's hearing loss.

For information or to register, contact Alicia Favila at [alicia.favila@region10.org](mailto:alicia.favila@region10.org) or 972-348-1594.

### Astros Game with Texas GBYS

September 25, 2011

11:30 a.m. Fun Zone/1:00 p.m. Game time

Minute Maid Park

Houston, TX

Contact Kellie Berger for more information about discount/group tickets, [kberger@yxgbys.org](mailto:kberger@yxgbys.org).

**A.G. Bell Conference**

October 20-22, 2011

Wyndham Garden Hotel

Austin, TX

For more information, contact [Texas A.G. Bell Association for the Deaf & Hear of Hearing](#).

**EHDI: Partnering for Progress/Investing in Family Support Conference**

October 26-28, 2011

Sheraton Raleigh

Raleigh, North Carolina

IFSC is designed for EHDI Coordinators, Part C Coordinators, Early Interventionists, Parent Leaders, Audiologists, Speech/Language Pathologists, Teachers of the Deaf/HH and other professionals involved in the care and nurturing of children who are deaf/hard of hearing and their families.

For more information or to pre-register, visit the [EHDI: Partnering for Progress](#) conference website.

**Walk 4 Hearing 5k**

Saturday, November 5, 2011

Tom Bass Park, Section III - Pavilion #6

15108 Cullen Blvd.

Houston, TX 77047

HLAA invites everyone touched by hearing loss in any way to learn about the nation's largest walk for hearing loss and fundraising by visiting the Walk4Hearing website at [www.walk4hearing.org](http://www.walk4hearing.org). For more information contact, Lois Johnson at 713-835-9598 or [ettalois@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ettalois@sbcglobal.net).

**Looking ahead:**

[Family Weekend Retreat](#) - June 8-10, 2012 (tentative date), Registration opens in February

[Statewide Conference on Deaf Education](#) - July 29-August 1, 2012

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## YeeHaw!

YeeHaw! To:



Ella (3 YO) and Faith (7 YO) W. from Grapevine! The girls performed along with older brother, Foster, in the Actor's Conservatory Theater's summer

production of "Sleeping Beauty". Faith was a squirrel and a gift-giver; Ella was a chipmunk and a gift-giver.

Rachel C. from Pflugerville! Rachel was awarded a Pre-school-Age Financial Aid Scholarship by AG Bell! The money was used to offset expenses for a home-use FM system!

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](mailto:tamara@txhandsandvoices.org) with your/your child's accomplishment, first name, last initial, and home town. Photos are also welcome!

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## Did you know...?

...that the Educational Resource Center on Deafness offers a FREE online dictionary of math signs? This dictionary includes more than 500 math related vocabulary words for five different grade level intervals spanning K-12. The dictionary is presented in English and Spanish text with ASL and SEE options for each word.

[Texas Math Sign Language Dictionary](#)

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