



deaf initiatives

Greetings!

Meredith Crane, Founder

Deaf Initiatives has worked to accomplish our goals in four ways: The Dorothy E. Ann Fund, "Making a Difference with Your Future" transition workshop, "On the Road to Your Future" bus trip, and the Keepsake Theme Quilts cottage industry.

In these times of funding challenges within our school system, you may find it difficult to provide families with deaf and hard of hearing children with all the resources needed to help them make informed decisions about their child's transition process. Deaf Initiatives can help by providing an opportunity to learn more about the options for life after high school. Deaf Initiatives' public/private relationships are unique in that they provide families with opportunities without adding financial burdens to our school system. For example, in my school district, we used the bus trip and workshop as part of my son's Transition Plan. For more information about how Deaf Initiatives can be a valuable "outsourcing" tool in the transition process for your family or school system, please contact our office or visit our website at www.t-shirtquilts.com.

On the Road to Your Future

This past April, 21 college bound deaf and hard of hearing high school students and their parent or guardian traveled to two of the most popular post secondary institutions in the country for the deaf and hard of hearing populations, the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) in Rochester, NY and Gallaudet University in Washington, DC.



Making new friends!



On the Road to Your Future Participants

NTID, one of the seven colleges of the Rochester Institute of Technology, is the world's first and largest technological college for deaf and hard of hearing students. Gallaudet is the only liberal arts university in the world designed exclusively for deaf and hard of hearing students.

While on the bus, the families played games, watched videos and heard presentations from graduates of both NTID and Gallaudet. Along the way, we stopped at Wendy's, Damon's and Bob Evans restaurants. They did an outstanding job accommodating the group - not an easy task with 47 people on a time schedule!

Both schools rolled out the red carpet for us with special meetings with both Dr. Robert DaVila, Vice-President of NTID and Dr. I. King Jordan, President of Gallaudet. While at NTID, the families learned about the admissions and financial aid process, along with a specialized tour of the dormitories and various programs of study. Gallaudet staff presented information about admissions, conducted a student panel of current and former students, as well as giving a guided tour of the beautiful campus. The students and parents/guardians were also able to spend a few hours in Washington, DC for sightseeing and downtime. After an amazing three days of fun and learning, the group was ready to head home on Sunday morning. The experience was a memorable one for all involved!

This trip could not have been possible without the help of some very special sponsors. 25 scholarships were donated, which allowed each family to attend at a minimal cost. Along with the Harry C. Moores Foundation and Ingram White Castle, many others donated their time, money and services to this project. For a complete list of sponsors, please contact our office.

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The mission of Deaf Initiatives is to support and encourage activities that strengthen the potential of young adults who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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Future Plans

One of the goals of Deaf Initiatives is to help the private sector achieve a better understanding of the needs and challenges of deaf and hard of hearing youth and their families. The transition workshop, Making a Difference with Your Future, and the bus trip, On the Road to Your Future, are two ways in which we work specifically with this private sector. The transition workshop, for example, is a collaboration of The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission and The Ohio Department of Education, along with local and regional companies. The next workshop is scheduled for September 2002 and the bus trip is planned for April 2003. Should there be an overwhelming request to host the bus trip on an annual basis, that too will be considered. If you would like to attend an upcoming event or participate as a donor or planner, please contact Deaf Initiatives.



Youth Volunteers

National Youth Service Day

National Youth Service Day is an event to highlight the ways young people serve their communities 365 days a year. This event is sponsored by Youth Service America (YSA). YSA seeks to make service the common expectation and experience for all young Americans. Deaf Initiatives recruited five deaf or hard of hearing youth volunteers to make a Keepsake Theme quilt. The quilt will be donated to the Ohio Association of the Deaf (OAD) and subsequently raffled with the proceeds used to support OAD's Youth Leadership Training, in August 2001. The five youth spent April 21, 2001 at Deaf Initiatives, where, after hands-on step by step training, they created a beautiful Keepsake Theme Quilt. The participants included Parker Green of New Albany, Jim Crane, Michael Kupay, and Margaret Gray of Columbus and Rachel Nicol of Marysville.

The Dorothy E. Ann Fund - 2001 Grants



Key to the inception and subsequent development of Deaf Initiatives, was the establishment of

The Dorothy E. Ann Fund (D.E.A.F.) at The Columbus Foundation. D.E.A.F. was created in 1997 to support existing and new opportunities for strengthening the potential of youth who are deaf or hard of hearing. D.E.A.F. has provided support to a number of efforts in the community including Family Learning Day for the Columbus Hearing Impaired Program, Reading and English Achievement for the Deaf Youth Program at the Columbus Speech and Hearing Center and the Equestrian Program at The Buckeye Ranch. The grants awarded in 2001 include:

- **Alexander Graham Bell Parent Teacher Association** - to provide summer tutoring to 12 deaf or hard of hearing youth and to purchase manipulative materials to aid in building literacy skills

- **The Buckeye Ranch** - to purchase a captioning device so that videos produced or edited by the Ranch are accessible to deaf and hard of hearing students and staff

- **Deaf Services Center** - to support the Deaf Kids & Teens Club and the development of a web-based calendar of events for the deaf community

- **Ohio Association of the Deaf (OAD)** - to support the youth programming at the OAD State Conference

The Dorothy E. Ann Fund also provides mini-grants to local teachers who serve deaf or hard of hearing students and who develop projects which "strengthen the potential of deaf or hard of hearing youth through innovative techniques used in the classroom." Ten mini-grants were awarded for the school year 2000-2001. Those wishing to make a contribution to the Fund may do so by calling The Columbus Foundation at (614) 251-4000.

Special Projects

■ **Blue Jackets:** This was the inaugural season for the National Hockey League team The Columbus Blue Jackets. Deaf Initiatives had the honor of working



The Columbus Blue Jackets

with their Foundation to make three unique Blue Jackets Theme Quilts. The goal of their Foundation is to improve the quality of life throughout the community. The three quilts were raffled during various functions throughout the season and earned a substantial profit, which will assist the Foundation in reaching its goals.

■ **New Product:** We are currently creating a product called a Patchwork Quilt. This quilt is a gathering of our beautiful fabrics into one Keepsake quilt. The quilt can be personalized with a special embroidered message. For more information, or to place an order, please contact us today!



Kathy Nunley, a new employee at Deaf Initiatives, is modeling our Patchwork Quilt

■ **Goede dag! (Hello!):** We have gone international! This year has been an exciting one for Deaf Initiatives - our sales are continuing to increase and we have expanded our reach beyond Central Ohio and even beyond the US. This spring, two quilts were shipped to Ireland and one was sent to the Netherlands. It is great to know that our quality quilts and our mission are known worldwide!

■ **Log on:** Be sure to check out our exciting new website! There is more information regarding the workshop and bus trip, along with new pictures of the beautiful quilts! Log on to:

www.t-shirtquilts.com