

Expectations

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Autumn/Winter 2006



Providing initiatives that strengthen the potential of youth who are deaf or hard of hearing

On the Road to Your Future



April 18 - 21, 2007

An exciting opportunity to visit two of the most prominent post secondary institutions for the deaf and hard of hearing populations.

Join us for our 4th bus trip for students in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 and their parent/guardian. The bus trip is offered at a cost of only \$50/person. Registration Deadline: February 16.

BUS TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

A one-of-a-kind opportunity to visit two colleges at once! Learn about and discover:

- ◆ financial aid and scholarship opportunities
- ◆ educational opportunities
- ◆ school policies
- ◆ the steps to achieving admission into college
- ◆ student activities
- ◆ tour campus and residence halls
- ◆ student life on campus

All meals, lodging and transportation are included!



CRITERIA

Please use the following criteria to decide if you qualify for participation in the bus trip.

Grade Level of Student

9, 10, 11 or 12

Parental/Guardian Participation

One parent/guardian must attend

Resident of the State of Ohio

Participation in the bus trip

Student and parent/guardian must participate during the entire bus trip, including riding on the bus, stay over at the hotel and campus tours

Priority Registration

Priority is given to Making a Difference with your Future workshop participants and to students in grades 11, 10, 12 and 9, respectively.



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SAVE THE DATE:

March 17, 2007
Navigating Your Child's Future
More details inside...

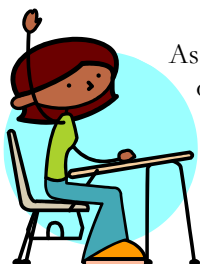
"I was thinking about the bus trip and how it made an impact in my future. I wanted to thank you. Thank you for forming this bus trip. If I hadn't gone on that bus trip, I would've been LOST! I wouldn't be going to Gallaudet, I would be at home and doing nothing, or working. So this trip was for exploring my future. I'm proud to say that I worked for you and that I know you. If anybody asked me how I found out about Gallaudet, I would say, "The bus trip that was formed by Deaf Initiatives!"

- Meredith Burke, Gallaudet University Student



Expectations for Your Family When “Good Enough” is not “Good Enough”

At the Making a Difference with Your Future workshop, Dr. Catherine Andersen, Director of First Year Experience at Gallaudet University, gave a presentation on the characteristics of a successful student. Dr. Andersen emphasized the importance of parental involvement in their child’s education. This article continues those themes.



As young adults transition from high school into the real world, whether entering the world of work or on to college, they face numerous situations which they may or may not be ready to handle. The most successful young adults are those who are able meet a wide variety of challenges and have learned the value and satisfaction of a job well done. These students work hard and meet high expectations. However, even the most successful students, when faced with a new environment, may stumble. Students who have not learned that “good enough” is NOT always “good enough” will struggle. Students, parents and teachers must work together, before college or work, to help students develop the skills that they need to succeed.

What do I mean by “good enough?” Simply put, “good enough” means one is doing the minimum, and not trying their best. In my twenty-plus years of working with first-year college students, I have encountered my fair share of bright students who turn in work that I call “hot off the press.” Sometimes the paper actually feels warm, when students give it to me. Occasionally, students don’t have their work and tell me that in their haste to rush and print it, the printer ran out of paper. My first thought is always whether or not they did their work at the last minute. While this is not always the case, for example the work was done well in advance, and they only saved the printing until the end, many students have developed “good enough” habits from previous school experience. My next thought is whether or not this behavior has worked in the past. Sometimes these students have gotten by or have even received good grades. When turning in papers in college, or preparing a report for work, the last-minute planning and “good enough” approach won’t work – at least not for long.

My next thought is “who is to blame?” Do we as educators accept “good enough” work? Do we as parents accept “good enough” work – or worse yet, take the “good enough” work and fix it to make it better? Ultimately, it is a team effort. Teachers must expect students to work hard. High expectations must be set, with support if needed so that “good enough” is NEVER “good enough.” Teachers must recognize students’ full potential and expect students to meet it. Parents, beginning when their children are young, must advocate for their students to be sure they are being challenged. Parents too must not accept “good enough” but encourage their children to try hard. Trying one’s hardest, and feeling really good about it, has actually been identified as one way to experience a psychological high. This powerful feeling of a job well done is what propels both college students and those in the work force to succeed. When students feel this high, it’s hard to go back to “good enough”.

“Parents, beginning when their children are young, must advocate for their students to be sure they are being challenged.”

Deaf Initiatives welcomed 100 students, parents and guardians to the Making a Difference with Your Future transition weekend on September 22-24. Our largest turnout to date!



A Parent’s Story: “Good Enough” by Meredith Crane

Although legislation has changed the laws regarding proficiency testing, my story is an example of holding the school and teachers accountable for partnering in my child’s academic success. My daughter, who was mainstreamed from an early age, brought home grades that reflected to us that she was doing grade level work. One week before the 4th grade proficiency test, an administrator called me to deliver what she thought was great news, “Your daughter is not required to take the proficiency test!” She explained that the law exempts children with disabilities from taking this test. I thanked her for the phone call but said what tool, other than grades which are arbitrary, really helps us measure that she is doing 4th grade work. We were not so focused on passing vs. failing, more so we wanted to see where she tested among her peers. We felt this test was a tool that we could use in evaluating her academic progress. The powerful feeling of a job well done was not only experienced by my daughter, who took and passed the test, but also by her teacher, the administration and her parents!

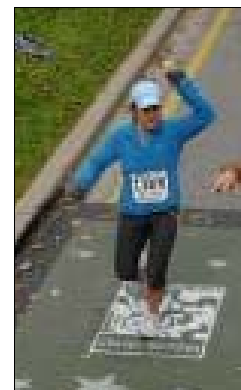


Featured Family - Running for a Cause!



Beth Connelly, along with her mother-in-law and siblings, attended the Navigating Your Child's Future workshop in Spring 2006. Graciously, Beth asked her close friends and family members to make a donation to Deaf Initiatives in support of her marathon training. Beth ran the Chicago Marathon on Sunday, October 22. To date, Deaf Initiatives has raised \$2,000 from the Connelly's friends and family.

After 13 years of marriage and two healthy kids (Ryan 10 and Sara 8), I found myself on bedrest with a pregnancy that only lasted 27 weeks. Our youngest son Sean was born 13 weeks early weighing only 1 pound 15 ounces. After a roller coaster stay in the NICU, we found out Sean was profoundly deaf upon discharge when he failed his newborn screening test. We have been blessed to have support from so many friends and family and I have been humbled many times at the generosity of others when we struggled through our worst times with Sean. Running was always something I enjoyed prior to my pregnancy, but it quickly became an outlet for me to release stress as well as an opportunity for me to think through all of the decisions that had to be made for Sean. I decided that running for a charity would be a perfect way for me to pay forward for all of the great things people did for our family when we needed it most. I felt Deaf Initiatives was the perfect choice because Meredith had gone out of her way to give me information that helped empower our family to make the best possible decisions for Sean. It seemed like a great way to say thank you. I am also proud to report that Sean is a happy healthy two year old! He wears his hearing aids everyday and has somehow been able to use whatever residual hearing he has to his fullest advantage. He attends speech and music therapy and is developing speech and language. He just has to work a little harder than the average kid!



Beth Connelly in the Chicago Marathon



Sean Connelly

Navigating Your Child's Future

Saturday March 17



Space is limited!

Registration is open Jan. 1 - Feb. 16. Contact Deaf Initiatives to register for this exciting one-day conference.

Cost to attend: \$10 per person
All parents and adult extended family members are welcome!

Visit www.deafinitiatives.org for more information

Educating Children One at a Time

Please join us for an exciting and informative workshop on Saturday, March 17 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. This presentation will explore:

- ♣ strategies for parental and student empowerment in the IEP process;
- ♣ using legal and advocacy tools to achieve the individual centered educational placement the special education is intended to provide; and
- ♣ a discussion of laws, regulations and check lists to empower families.

All students are entitled to daily access to the regular school curriculum and student specific goals, objectives and placements in the least restrictive environment. Learn how you can obtain the best education while maintaining cordial and mutually respectful relationships with education professionals.

The Keynote speaker will be **Michael Bailey** from Portland, Oregon. Michael is the author of "Special Education: A Parent's Guide to a Child's Success," and has presented a message of pride and empowerment at dozens of state, national and international conferences as well as being a regular contributor to disability magazines and other media. For ten years he was coordinator of Partners In Policy Making in Oregon as well as a community organizer, lobbyist, newspaper editor and founder of "The People First Connection," a publication of writings by people with disabilities. Michael currently serves on the board of directors of the National Disability Rights Network in Washington, DC and is the immediate past president of the Oregon Advocacy Center.





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Providing initiatives that strengthen the potential
of youth who are deaf or hard of hearing

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.DEAFINITIATIVES.ORG

Keepsake Theme Quilts & Wall Hangings

Keepsake Theme Quilts is the social purpose business of Deaf Initiatives. The Keepsake Theme Quilts workroom consists of several experienced seamstresses, all of whom are deaf. The communication barrier-free work environment is very important to our employees. We are excited to welcome Drew Landefeld and Mary Elizabeth Polson to our team. Drew is a student at Northland H.S. in Columbus and has done a wonderful job as a production assistant. Mary Elizabeth graduated from high school last June and will attend Columbus State Community College this winter quarter. Mary has been a very determined employee who is responsible for order entry and production.



KTQ has had a phenomenal year! Quilt sales have increased 45% compared to 2005!! Still looking for that perfect **holiday gift**? Purchase a **Keepsake Theme Quilts gift certificate** today! For more information about our quilts, visit www.tshirtquilts.com.

As a special thank-you to our customers, please clip this coupon to receive 10% off your next quilt purchase!
**Good through March 31, 2007*

Congratulations to the D.E.A.F. Awards winners!

Deaf Initiatives welcomed internationally known comedian CJ Jones and more than 400 members of the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Hearing communities to the D.E.A.F. Awards on September 23, 2006.



Pictured from left: Danny Kelly, Derek Dickson, Joshua Wilson and Militsa Embaugh

A special thank you to our 2006 sponsors:

- ◆ Abercrombie & Fitch
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- ◆ Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission
- ◆ Porter Stark Family Fund*
- ◆ Women's Fund of Central Ohio
- ◆ All individual and corporate donors



The Board and Staff of Deaf Initiatives would like to wish you and your family a Happy Holiday Season! Thank you for supporting our efforts in 2006.

