

Expectations

Volume 9, Issue 2

Fall/ Winter 2007/2008



Mission: To provide initiatives that strengthen the potential of youth who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Vision: To ensure that all Ohio youth who are deaf or hard of hearing, and their families, have access to resources, professionals and activities that will help guide them into becoming successful and contributing members of our society.

Sponsored by:



March 8 ~ Navigating Your Child's Future

YES! Your Child CAN Learn to Read ~ and Read Well!

Learning to read and write is one of the most important and powerful achievements in life. Parents, and other involved adults, play a crucial role in their child's literacy and learning development, providing experiences and vocabulary that link their child to incidental as well as intentional information.

- For parents of children from **birth through 5th grade.**
- **Teaches innovative techniques** to help parents work with their child who is deaf or hard of hearing to develop the literacy skills necessary for their academic and personal success. Learn appropriate activities that parents can utilize to support the development of critical reading skills such as phonemic awareness and phonics.
- Nationally recognized presenters, **Karen Roudybush, M.Ed. ~ Bringing Literacy Home, Beverly Trezek, Ph.D. ~ Visual Phonics, and Denyse Woods, M.Ed. ~ Visual Phonics** help parents discover exciting new ways to help children recognize and remember vowel patterns and their sounds, and to read and write with accuracy and fluency!
- **Only \$10 per adult. On-site childcare provided at no additional charge for children through the 5th grade at A.G. Bell, 1455 Huy Road, Columbus, OH.**
- **Unique opportunity to network with families that face similar experiences, circumstances, and challenges.**



October 11 ~ Independence IS Your Future

In collaboration with Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), Deaf Initiatives will host this one-day workshop for students in grades 6 through 10 and their parents. The workshop will focus on **financial literacy** and the **student taking responsibility** for his or her own decisions. Students will learn how to prioritize wants vs. needs and plan for their future, while parents explore their role in collaborating with their student to ensure long term educational outcomes. Key topics include:

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- ☞ How to develop good study habits
- ☞ Strategies to use in the classroom
- ☞ Independent living skills
- ☞ Parental involvement in their student's academic achievement
- ☞ Good decision making abilities
- ☞ Self confidence and self advocacy



Sponsored by:



September 12, 13, and 14

Making a Difference with Your Future

Any deaf or hard of hearing student in grades 9 through 12 and their parents are encouraged to participate in this statewide workshop designed to help facilitate the **transition** of youth from high school to post secondary education or work. Workshop highlights include:

- ◆ Self Awareness Activities
- ◆ Role models and Mentors
- ◆ Career Awareness/Career Fair
- ◆ The Transition Process
- ◆ Developing a Plan for the Future
- ◆ Keynote Speakers, D.E.A.F. Awards and Entertainment



Students are equipped with **career "road maps" for the future**, while parents will be better prepared to assist their children in making academic and extra-curricular decisions, which affect their child's future.

For information or to register for any of the workshops, please contact Anna at (614) 238-3323 or TheDEAFund@aol.com



Deaf Initiatives hosted **"Independence IS Your Future"** on November 10, 2007, at Ashland Chemical in Dublin, Ohio, for students in 6th - 10th grade and their parents. Delbert Dagel and Robert Borden, from the **National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID)** at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), Rochester, New York, worked with the parents while students were taught by Eyob Zerayesus from NTID, Marlan-Katie Toman with Columbus Speech & Hearing Center, and Wendy Postle from Jr. Achievement. Parents were presented information on strategies for student success in school and preparation for college while students prepared to take responsibility for their own future.

"Parental Involvement in Their Student's Success"

Predictors of academic achievement include a home environment that encourages learning, and setting high, but not unrealistic expectations. Students should be encouraged and challenged at their highest potential. Successful students in school have parents who are interested in their education and support what they are learning.

Predictors of high success include taking algebra, reading a great number of books, and expecting to graduate from high school and college. Choosing challenging courses keeps a student's mind active and provides for a strong mental workout.



To achieve high success, parents are encouraged to make reading a part of their student's daily homework. Set up an area in the home with books to read, encourage daily reading, and discuss what their student is reading. Learning to read is a critical development task that has profound implications for education, work, job, and professional and social development. Students who do a lot of independent reading enhance their reading comprehension, increase their knowledge, increase their vocabulary, and incorporate reading as a lifelong activity.

Different students have different learning styles or ways of learning. Learning involves intake, processing, remembering, and applying. The different types of learners included active, reflective, sensing, intuitive, visual, verbal, sequential, and global. Parents should think about how their student learns. As students transition to high school, parents should assist in selecting some teachers whose teaching style matches better their students learning style.

Students today have more access to technology and are a part of what is being termed the Millennial Generation. They are a part of the first generation to grow up surrounded by digital media. This relates to the way students learn, receive information, and how our teachers teach.

Parents and students need to understand their rights and responsibilities and the differences between services in high school and in college. Colleges are trying to predict student success and how a student will fit into their respective college environment and culture. At the same time, parents and students should be looking for colleges that fit their special needs. Some of these special needs may require adjustments due to a student's hearing loss.

Eyob Zerayesus ~ Trainer at the "Independence IS Your Future" workshop last fall

"My first involvement with Deaf Initiatives was the "Making A Difference with Your Future" workshop followed by the RIT/Gallaudet Bus tour about 8 years ago. I remember the great times I had and I learned a lot. DI gave me the opportunity to experience so many different things and made me aware of the possibilities that my future could hold. They helped me learn and grow into the person that I am today. DI offered me the motivation to complete my education so that I could become a role model to young people. Coming back as a mentor 2 years ago and now as an experienced trainer is a dream come true. I look forward to continuing to inspire young people."



DEL & BOB'S TOP TEN STUDENT RECOMMENDATIONS: (Parents' role is to provide support)

10. Study for ALL exams and quizzes.
9. Complete your homework.
8. Set-up a home study area.
7. Use a daily planner or calendar.
6. Make good choices about your health.
5. Make good friends.
4. Do not procrastinate.
3. Challenge yourself academically.
2. Attend school.
1. Read, READ, READ!



Thank you:



Featured Family



Logan Lugo is an extremely active and enthusiastic 13 (soon to be 14) year old teenage boy. He has a bearded dragon, 2 dogs, and 2 brothers, Hayden (age 12) and Austin (age 10). As an eighth grade student who is fully mainstreamed at Sells Middle School in Dublin Ohio, Logan really enjoys school and maintains Honor Roll Status each grading period throughout middle school. His favorite subjects are Language Arts and Math and his favorite academic activity is creating projects from building an operating Ancient Greek Aqueduct to producing movies and PowerPoint presentations. Logan is an avid reader and writer. He hopes to publish his first book in the upcoming months – “The House on Shadow Curse Hill”. Logan is reading books right now on how to become a business owner. Logan is an inventor/designer, an avid sportsman, active in his community and is a Life Scout, on his way to the highest rank of Eagle. He loves to travel to learn, enjoy historic value and have some fun too! Logan would like to attend The Ohio State University or Harvard and complete Medical School to become a Pediatrician.

Why Is Logan so successful and motivated?

“Logan has EVA (enlarged vestibular aqueducts) and was diagnosed through an ABR at 2 ½ with a profound loss in his left ear and a severe to profound loss in his right ear. He wears high powered digital hearing aids that have helped him with tremendous decibel gain and oral word recognition exceeding 55%. Saul and I have been strong advocates for Logan from the beginning of our journey in raising a deaf child. Logan is now his biggest advocate. We have been extremely fortunate to have had support, education and encouragement from other parents and organizations advocating for deaf children, such as Deaf Initiatives, that supplied our toolbox for success.

We believe that the key to Logan’s success can be boiled down to a few elements:

1. We are active, engaged and visible in all aspects of Logan’s life.
2. We keep ourselves educated by attending Deaf Initiatives workshops and by networking with other parents and service providers.
3. We deliver a constant and consistent message that Logan can achieve ANYTHING he sets his mind to.
4. We set high standards and do not accept anything less than Logan’s best effort and we work with the school to maximize his opportunities and potential.

Logan has an equal seat at the table with everyone else in our immediate and extended family. We do our best to ensure that our house and family and social events allow him to participate equally. We do not place ANY limitations on Logan and we remove obstacles so that he can demonstrate his ability and build on his own success.” ~ Julie Lugo, Logan’s mother

The Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to thank Julie Lugo for her on-going commitment to Deaf Initiatives. She is instrumental in securing Ashland as a site for many of our workshops using her superior organizational skills to ensure our workshops run smoothly. She is a true inspiration to all of us. Thank you Julie!

Experiencing Your Future

Deaf Initiatives coordinates with Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT/NTID) to arrange a *ten week co-op employment* for deaf college students. DI also arranges safe housing for these co-op students during their stay in Columbus.

RIT/NTID offers students with a wide variety of skills including Accounting, CAD, Computer Technology, Optical Technology, Art and Computer Design, Automation Technology, CIM, Laboratory Science Tech, and Digital Imaging and Publishing.

Students:

- are employed in their chosen field of study
- gain practical work experience
- build strong resumes for future job seeking
- complete requirements for graduation from college



“I am grateful to DI and DSC; working with these deaf organizations gave me the confidence I needed and the opportunity to develop my skills as a web developer.” ~ Ashley Hofkamp (worked with DI and DSC)

“She was a warm and intelligent individual who worked well in a team environment. ~ John L. Moore DSC

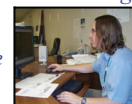
Cammi Wing, Human Resource Director at The Crane Group Companies says, *“The experience we’ve had with NTID’s co-op program has been nothing but positive. The interns’ work has been valuable to the company and the people at NTID made it very easy to implement this program. And, with housing available through Deaf Initiatives that is affordable for the students, it’s a win or everybody. We look forward to our continued relationship.”* The Crane Group Companies employed 2 co-op students in 2007.

Last year DI and Deaf Services Center shared a wonderful co-op student, Ashley, who worked hard developing web-sites for both organizations that are truly unique and professional. www.deafinitiatives.org www.tshirtquilts.com www.dsc.org



“I will always cherish this engineering experience for it is my passion in terms of a career. It has been a fantastic experience interacting with my superiors all the way down the line to the operator.” ~ Sriram Balasubramanian (worked at Crane Plastics)

“I am 100% sure that I learned 2 to 3 times more than what I learned in the classroom. The experience is exactly what the student needs for their success in the future.” ~ Casey Kelly (worked at Crane Performance Siding)



Do you feel you would be able to provide a very meaningful co-op opportunity to a bright, young college student? Consider becoming a co-op site. The program gives you the opportunity to help mold an eager young mind ready to learn from your experiences and knowledge while creating a safe environment for the students to develop the job skills needed for today’s competitive market. *Contact Meredith Crane at TheDEAFund@aol.com or call at (614) 238-3323 for more information.*



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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



KTQ WISHES ALL OF YOU A VERY
HAPPY NEW YEAR
JUDY BRYANT NAMED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Judy Bryant is a loyal, dedicated employee who showed true strength in leading her team to a record year in 2007. Judy was born and reared in Painesville, Oh. She lives with her husband in New Albany and she is the mother of 2, proud grandmother of 6 (soon to be 7), and we must mention her 2 spoiled Siamese cats! When she's not making precious quilts, Judy enjoys crafts, photography, drawing, and sewing - of course. **Judy, congratulations on being Keepsake Theme Quilt's employee of the year.**



Judy at work

Guided by supervisor Kathy Nunley, Keepsake Theme Quilts broke all records with a huge 20% increase in the number of beautiful keepsake theme quilts made by this dedicated group of seamstresses. Blue Team: Judy Bryant and Terri Caldwell, and Green Team: Susan Cunningham and Bonita Woodward, created beautiful hand crafted quilts in 2007. Support staff Ceneé Dawkins, Miracle Johnson, and Christy Elkins ensured that all the paperwork was completed and customers were satisfied, t-shirts were stabilized and ready to transform into a treasure that will be cherished and passed down to generations to come, and kept the place clean and safe for all the women.



Reader's Digest featured Keepsake Theme Quilts in their Holiday Guide to help get our name out to the world. Now KTQ will show the world our superior quality product with all inclusive pricing. From the high end fabrics that last a lifetime, to the meandering quilting that gives our quilts superior strength, to the skill and love our seamstresses put into each quilt, KTQ takes great pride in their workmanship. One of our truly valued customers said it best; *"These women treat each piece of clothing like it belonged to their own beloved mother and create a masterpiece from their hearts with their skilled hands."* Our goal for 2008, as we continue to grow, is to keep that special feeling as we make quilts, one-at-a-time, that re-tell each customers story for generations to cherish.

Keepsake Theme Quilts Staff

www.tshirtquilts.com