

deaf initiatives

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



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Meredith Crane

Founder/Executive Director of Deaf Initiatives

It Takes a Community to Raise a Child

Deaf Initiatives believes that it takes a community to raise a child, and that philosophy is the foundation for our programs and initiatives offered to families around Ohio. Raising a child starts in the home, but it certainly does not end there. Collaborative efforts are the key to this approach - support from school systems, audiologists and organizations such as Deaf Initiatives is available to families to ensure that all 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.

Deaf Initiatives currently offers three programs in support of this goal: **NAVIGATING YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE**, **MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH YOUR FUTURE** and **ON THE ROAD TO YOUR FUTURE**. Since 1998, 225 families have participated in the three initiatives. Our *community's* efforts are providing families and youth with a hearing loss, with the support they need.

Navigating Your Child's Future

Deaf Initiatives will host the third annual Navigating Your Child's Future workshop on **SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2005**. Registration is open to all **PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND ADULT EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS** (i.e., grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.) of **CHILDREN WITH A HEARING LOSS AGES BIRTH THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE**. The third in a series, this workshop will focus on **UNDERSTANDING THE DYNAMICS OF PARENT ADVOCACY**. Learn from respected professionals with vast experience in this area, while meeting other parents and families from around Ohio who are experiencing similar challenges. For more information, or to register for the workshop, please contact Deaf Initiatives at (800) 985-3323 v/tty or email TheDEAFund@aol.com.

Navigating Your Child's Future and On the Road to Your Future are sponsored by Ashland, Inc., The Dorothy E. Ann Fund and the Vera M. Tazelaar Fund, both of The Columbus Foundation, Ingram-White Castle Foundation, Advocates 4 Kids and The Columbus Foundation.

Save the Date!
March 12

9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Fee: \$10 per person • Lunch Provided
Held at Ashland, Inc. in Dublin



On the Road to Your Future

Deaf Initiatives is hosting the third biennial bus trip, On the Road to Your Future, for **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING AND THEIR PARENT/GUARDIAN**. An exciting opportunity to visit two of the most prominent colleges for the deaf in the country - **THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF** in Rochester, NY and **GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY** in Washington, DC. Registration begins January 2005 and space is limited!

Save the Date! April 13-16, 2005



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Deaf Initiatives hosted the fourth biennial workshop, Making a Difference with Your Future, on September 24 - 26, 2004. 30 high school students with a hearing loss and their parents/guardian from around Ohio attended the workshop. This workshop would not have been possible without community support from the planning committee, Deaf Initiatives staff and lead sponsors: Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, Ohio Department of Education, and The National Technical Institute for the Deaf, along with 45 additional corporations and individuals.

The highlight of the weekend was the **D.E.A.F. AWARDS** on Saturday, September 25. This event, open to the public, provides an opportunity for the workshop participants to showcase their skills. The Gallaudet Dance Company performed for a crowd of over 300. **NetJets, Inc.** was the key sponsor of the D.E.A.F. Awards.



*The Gallaudet
University Dance
Company*

*D.E.A.F. Awards winner Anna
Ramach, with event emcees
Darlene Zangara and Ben Hall*



Keepsake Theme Quilts, a division of Deaf Initiatives, Inc., is a unique social enterprise which employs adults and young adults who are deaf or hard of hearing. For more information or to order a Keepsake Quilt, visit our website at www.T-SHIRTQUILTS.COM or call (800) 985-3323 v/tty.



Judy Bryant joined our staff in April 2004. Judy is a skilled seamstress with many years experience. Her expertise has allowed us to increase quilt sales and productivity. We are thrilled to have Judy's positive attitude in our workroom!



Suzanne Kenreich joined Keepsake Theme Quilts in March. Suzanne is a graduate of Gallaudet University and also works part-time for a photography studio. Suzanne has been a tremendous asset to our organization!