

# Expectations

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

## Making a difference with your future

### September 22 - 24, 2006

An exciting and informative workshop that will help parents and guide students in their journey from high school to work or postsecondary education.

Join us for our 5th transition weekend workshop for students who are deaf or hard of hearing entering grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 and their parents/guardian. The workshop is offered at no cost to the families.

### CRITERIA

*Please use the following criteria to decide if you qualify for participation in the workshop.*

#### Grade Level of Student

Entering grades 9, 10, 11 or 12 in September

#### Parental/Guardian Participation

At least one parent/guardian must attend

#### Resident of the State of Ohio

#### Participation in the workshop

Student and parent(s)/guardian must attend entire workshop, including Friday and Saturday night stay over at the hotel

#### Date of Pre-Registration

Registration form must be returned by June 25.

### WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

Starting at 7:00 pm on Friday, September 22 and running through Sunday, September 24 at Noon, the workshop will focus on the students' self-awareness, development and career awareness, and how to begin preparing for the future.

Transition from school to work or post secondary education will be addressed at the workshop, helping parents and students identify the best path to success. The workshop topics and highlights will include:

- ◆ Self Awareness Activities
- ◆ Career Awareness
- ◆ Career Fair
- ◆ The Transition Process
- ◆ Accessing Resources
- ◆ Keynote Speaker, Dr. Gerry Buckley
- ◆ Developing a Plan for the Future
- ◆ D.E.A.F. Awards, featuring CJ Jones
- ◆ Networking with 40 other families



### PRESENTERS

National Technical Institute for the Deaf and Gallaudet University staff and other professionals in the field of deafness, transition and career planning.

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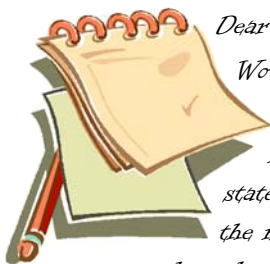
## Expectations for Your Family Family Dynamics...Beyond Communication

At the Navigating Your Child's Future workshop, Rudy Gawlik, family therapist, gave a presentation on family dynamics. Rudy emphasized that deaf children develop best when families have open and clear communication, use positive reinforcement for good behaviors and emphasize the strengths of each family member. This article continues those themes.



Rudy Gawlik,  
Family Therapist

An fictional letter to Mr. and Mrs. Jones from their deaf child at graduation.



Dear Mom and Dad,

Wow, like I'm graduating from high school! I want to thank you for helping me.

Thank you for making "clear and open communication" one of the most important rules for our family. I remember when we had a family meeting and wrote the mission statement...there at the top was communication. Often in the family, I felt like I was in the middle of a tornado of words flying all around me and I couldn't catch them. But I remember when I didn't understand something, you were willing to repeat it, and say it slowly, and then find a different way to say it to help me understand. You were patient and sometimes you showed me a picture, or if you were giving me instructions, you would show me or do the task with me. That made me feel like a success...not a failure. And when you couldn't understand my signs or my speech, you didn't give up but you gave me a chance to repeat and try again and again...until you understood. You really wanted to know my ideas and my feelings even when it took a long time. In our family, it was okay to be angry and sad and frustrated. Sometimes I felt sad about being deaf and embarrassed or hurt when kids made fun of my speech or my hearing aid. But I knew I could talk about these feelings at home in our family. We could talk about anything even sex and money!

Thank you for the other family value - giving compliments, showing appreciation and noticing each person's strengths. I know my ears don't work right and my speech sometimes sounds awful, but you noticed that I am good in math and good at my computer games, and that I know a lot about baseball and about cars. Maybe I'm not an "A" student, but you see that I am good with animals...and I'm not afraid to ask for help with my homework and ...I have a talent for drawing cartoons...and, and you know I am a risk taker and I'm not afraid to try something new...and that I don't like things that are not fair... Your positive comments really make me feel good - like I have money in the bank - and even help me forget that I'm deaf.

Thank you, Mom and Dad. I'm glad I have a family like ours.

### The Jones' Family Mission Statement

- ◆ Our family will practice clear and open communication - we will make sure everyone understands and has a chance to share ideas and feelings. All ideas and all feelings will be accepted and we will help each other to express and understand all ideas and feelings.
- ◆ Our family will notice strengths as well as weaknesses. We will have consequences for wrong behaviors and plenty of rewards for good behaviors. We will compliment each other and show appreciation as often as possible.

"...use positive reinforcement for good behaviors and emphasize the strengths of each family member."

Deaf Initiatives welcomed over 200 parents, grandparents and other family members to the Navigating Your Child's Future workshop on March 18. Our largest turnout to date!

## Family Dynamics...Essential Resources

- ◆ Chapman, Gary, *The Five Love Languages*. Northfield Publishing, Chicago, 2004.
- ◆ Covey, Stephen R., *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families*. Golden Books, 1997.
- ◆ Glasser, Howard and Easley, Jennifer, *Transforming the Difficult Child*. Glasser, 1998.
- ◆ Sachs, Brad, *The Good Enough Child*. Quill/Harper Collins, 2001.



## Featured Family

Jenna Woodburn attended the 2004 Making a Difference with Your Future conference when she was a senior in high school. Jenna participated in the D.E.A.F. Awards and was one of our winners! Since graduating from Zanesville High School in June 2005, Jenna has been very busy immersing herself in her studies at Gallaudet University. Jenna's mother, Jennifer Woodburn had this to say...



Jenna, after receiving her D.E.A.F. Award, in September 2004

*The 2004 conference was extremely helpful to Jenna. Jenna was the winner of your future award and she is really getting a wonderful start to her future. Jenna is a freshman at Gallaudet University. She is having a remarkable year also. I always worried about her leaving me for college because of how close Jenna and I are. Jenna went to Zanesville High School for her education in that district's hearing impaired program. Jenna mainstreamed out for everything, but she remained in that program even though it was a 40-mile trip one way everyday, mainly because she needed the socialization. Our situation was unique again because of the fact that I was the one who interpreted for Jenna in her high school years. I worked hard at encouraging her independence and with Jenna's maturity level she never complained about the fact that she had to see her mother in her high school classes.*



*Also, I want to let you know that while at your conference Jenna got to see the Gallaudet Dancers perform and last fall upon entering Gallaudet, Jenna tried out for the dance team. Jenna was accepted to the team and this is only one of her many successes at Gallaudet.*

*I want to thank you very much for the difference you have made in Jenna's life. I am encouraging all of our Zanesville students to attend the 2006 conference. Again thank-you.*

Gallaudet University Dancers

## D ★ E ★ A ★ F ★ Awards

September 23, 2006

7:30 - 9:00 pm

Columbus Marriott Northwest



Deaf Initiatives is thrilled to welcome CJ Jones!



In his one-man show, *"What are you...Deaf?"*, CJ Jones blends his unique style of visual imagery and storytelling. Combining voice, American Sign Language (ASL) and mime, along with recorded music and multi-media projections, Jones paints colorful, riveting pictures of his life experiences, revealing what it was like to grow up in a tough St. Louis neighborhood, in the shadow of his deaf Golden Gloves champion boxer dad and on through the challenges faced during his quest to make it as a comedian and actor in Hollywood.

CJ is known primarily as a comedian, actor, producer, director and motivational keynote speaker. He has traveled with the National Theatre of the Deaf and toured with "Children of a Lesser God" on Broadway. He has also appeared on NBC's "Frasier", the PBS television shows "Sesame Street" and "Rainbow's End", and was the host of "Happy Hands Kids Klub".

The D.E.A.F. Awards is also a unique opportunity to showcase the students participating in the Making a Difference with Your Future workshop. Tickets are only \$15 in advance and **DOOR PRIZES** will be awarded throughout the evening!

**To purchase tickets, or for more information about this exciting event, contact Deaf Initiatives at (800) 985-3323 v/tty or email [TheDEAFund@aol.com](mailto:TheDEAFund@aol.com).**



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

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## 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. Keepsake Theme Quilts also provides first time job experience to high school students in Central Ohio. This spring we have had Shana from the Ohio School for the Deaf working with us. Shana has been a wonderful addition to our team. Although she'll be heading home for the summer, Shana will be taking a lot of valuable information with her that will be of great benefit in her future employment. For more information about our quilts, visit [www.tshirtquilts.com](http://www.tshirtquilts.com).



### Keepsake Quilts Job Opening

- 6 week, paid internship
- Open to high school student (or recent graduate) who is deaf or hard of hearing
- Learn key job skills
- Work in an environment where everyone uses Sign Language
- For more information, email [TheDEAFund@aol.com](mailto:TheDEAFund@aol.com)

### Deaf Initiatives Board of Directors

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