

## Meet our family...

### Our first student



Amanda has been attending Ohio School for the Deaf for six years. She will graduate from High School this June. She comes from a small town outside Paulding, Ohio. As part of the *Comprehensive Program for the Deaf*, Amanda was placed at *DI* for a four-week work experience. Amanda traveled by city bus from OSD to Bexley four days a week to work at *Deaf Initiatives*. Together we learned many things. Amanda left *DI* with a workbook of goals, photographs, and performance evaluations to show future employers. Amanda was a very good worker and we will miss her. She has been working on her resume and is applying for several jobs near home.

### Our volunteer

Rhonda Foreman read about *Deaf Initiatives* in a newspaper article. She lives near the Dawson workshop, likes to quilt, and likes to help others. She visited *DI* in February and said, "I'm yours, put me to work". She has graciously donated countless hours over the months helping with computer questions, cutting fabric, and designing quilt sets. She even puts in extra hours when asked to help meet deadlines. All of this is especially remarkable as Rhonda also has a job with Hadassah of Columbus. She and her husband Jon have a two-year son, Ian.

### Our consultant

Cindy Jopling first became involved with *Deaf Initiatives* in December 1998 to help sew a few bindings for early orders. When *DI* moved into the Dawson workroom Cindy assisted with design of workstations, product development, order forms, and material use. Cindy has BS in Physical Therapy, an MS in Education and has been quilting for over 20 years. She is in the process of writing training manuals for each of six workstations. Cindy and her husband Mike live in Upper Arlington with two active teenagers.



(Left to Right) Debbie, Rhonda, Amanda & Cindy

### Our Sewer

Debbie Steinhour was hired in April on an "as needed" basis as our sewing machine operator. Orders were coming in and *DI* needed help with the sewing to meet schedule deadlines. Debbie has many years of commercial sewing experience and is able to make our industrial machine purr like a kitten. Her skill level, dedication to detail and quality workmanship have made her an exciting addition to the workroom. Debbie and her husband George live in Plain City with two busy teenagers.

### Our first Board Member

Claudia Berquist has been employed as the counselor within the Department of Disability Services at Columbus State Community College for approximately 18 years. At Columbus State, Claudia



also serves as the Outreach Site Coordinator for the Midwest Center for Post-secondary Outreach (located in St. Paul, Minnesota), assisting post-secondary programs in Ohio and Indiana in their efforts to better serve students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Claudia serves on the NAD Board of Directors as their Region II Representative for the mid-western states. In January 1999 Claudia joined the Board of *Deaf Initiatives*. Her wonderful insight and ideas have been a great benefit to the program.

### How to find us

Deaf Initiatives is located in Bexley. Dawson Avenue is one block east of the Drexel Theatre and, north of Main Street. Street parking is available. If you would like to place an order or learn more about us we would love to have you visit. Please call first to make sure we are in the work room that day.

### In the next issue.....

1. Fall Open House to showcase Dawson Avenue workroom.
2. Dates and location announced for September 2000 workshop "Making a Difference with Your Future".



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## Needs Wish List

- 1 \$300 to buy care labels for quilts.
- 2 \$200 to publish this newsletter for 1 year.
- 3 New or used microwave.
- 4 35mm print film to photograph students.
- 5 Speaking engagements for your group or organization.
- 6 Used slide projector to help give presentations.
- 7 Old T-shirts we can use for practice.
- 8 OSU T-shirts we can use for raffle quilt.
- 9 Orders! Orders! Orders!

**Deaf Initiatives**  
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TheDeaFund@aol.com

# Deaf Initiatives

## Greetings Friends, Colleagues and Business Associates

*Meredith Crane, Founder*

For those of you not familiar with *Deaf Initiatives*, the mission of this non-profit group is to support and encourage activities that strengthen the career potential of young adults who are deaf or hard of hearing. We do this through two projects. The first is a workshop called "Making a Difference with Your Future." The biennial workshop is for high school students who are deaf or hard of hearing and their parents. With the support of the Rehabilitation Services Commission, The Ohio Department of Education and twenty-five other agencies and businesses, this workshop was designed to help facilitate the transition of target youth from high school to post secondary education or work.



563 South Dawson Ave.

The second project of Deaf Initiatives is the operation of a small business, "Souvenir Theme Quilts and Wall Hangings." The business began on January 1 of this year with three goals. *First*, to produce a quality keepsake quilt or wall hanging using peoples treasured T-shirts from their special

vacations, sporting events, or favorite hobbies. *Second*, to encourage a "deaf friendly" work environment that will help young adults develop good work habits and learn the importance of time management, dependability, setting and achieving goals, increase their self confidence and self esteem and help to improve communication skills. *Third*, all proceeds from the sale of the quilts will go directly to support the workshop, "Making a Difference With Your Future" and other projects and services which strengthen the potential of our deaf and hard of hearing young adults.



25 panel quilt for Silent Weekend

*Deaf Initiatives* offers six quilted products in a variety of sizes. We have made approximately forty quilts to date. The most popular size is the *Twin* with twenty T-shirt panels. The next most popular is the *Stadium* with six-teen panels. Many quilts have been ordered as Birthday, Graduation and Father's day gifts. Some quilts celebrate years of participation in dance, baseball and running. Others document college events. Customers are invited to return a satisfaction survey after receiving their quilt. Our favorite quote is "It's like sleeping under a lifetime of memories". We are off to a fabulous start!