



# COLORADO HANDS & VOICES™

September & October 2024 Newsletter

"What works for your child is what makes the choice right."™

# CONNECTION



## CONCERT

Hands In Praise ASL Choir and their Benefit Concert in Greeley, CO.. See more on page 3.

## EVENTS

Take a look at page 4 for a full list of events. COH&V events are in **ORANGE**, H&V HQ Events are in **BLUE**. Others are in **GREEN**

## FALL GALA

We are excited to announce our 2024 Fall Gala and annual fundraiser for our Chapter. See more on page 3.

And just like that we are in fall. Our children are back to school, and IEP season is upon us! We are very excited to announce that our Transitions Guide, Kim Nadeau, has taken over as our ASTra Coordinator. And just in time! We added to our ASTra Program with our Level One and Level Two ASTra Training that was held in July (see page 2). Keep an eye out for upcoming mini-series on our Educational Advocacy, Support and Training topics. If you have any ASTra questions, please reach out to Kim at [ASTra@co-hv.org](mailto:ASTra@co-hv.org).

With the start of school, comes all of the fall events! Please be sure to see page 4 for a full list of events available all around the state. Highlighted are 2024 Deaf Awareness Night at the Colorado Rapids, and the Benefit Concert (see page 3), in which Colorado Hands & Voices has been selected as a beneficiary of the fundraiser. These funds mean we can bring more events to you!

Our Fall Galla is fast approaching. Be sure to save the date for October 20th, with tickets officially going on sale September 24th (see page 3). We are excited to see you all there as we celebrate our Family First Award Winner at Balistreri Vineyards in Denver, CO.

We look forward to seeing our families who are coming to our 8th Annual Deaf/Hard of Hearing + Autism Day at Happy Dog Ranch this weekend. What a fun way to kick off Deaf Awareness Month!

Help us celebrate and continue to share, inspire, and educate so our Deaf/Hard of Hearing children have the best supports surround them. As always, we are here to help support our families from birth to age 18. Please email us at [info@co-hv.org](mailto:info@co-hv.org) to reach us.



by Jami Fries, Executive Director

# D/HH+ AUTISM DAY THIS WEEKEND

We are very excited to host our 8th Annual Deaf/Hard of Hearing + Autism Day at Happy Dog Ranch, in collaboration with Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind and Springs Learning Community on Saturday, September 7th. Please note that Happy Dog Ranch has moved and are now located in Sedalia, CO.

Be ready for a beautiful day and lots of smiles. Please be sure to arrive a few minutes early to sign wavers and get checked in.

If you have any questions, please email us at [info@co-hv.org](mailto:info@co-hv.org).



Pictured to the left is our amazing group of 2023 volunteers who made this day possible.



## CLIFF MOERS RETIRES

Cliff Moers retired as Director of the Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind on July 31. Cliff stated, "It is time for me to step back and rejuvenate, pursuing my passions and embracing a new chapter in life. I cannot express enough how fortunate I have been to work alongside stakeholders and CCDHDB staff."

Cliff dedicated 17 years for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind communities and helps make instruments and impactful changes in Colorado.

He was awarded the Family First Award from Colorado Hands & Voices and will truly be missed. We wish Cliff all the best in his new adventures. Thank you for everything you have done!

## ASTRA ADVOCATES

In late July we held our Level One & Level Two ASTra Training in Longmont, CO. We are thrilled to announce that we have seven new ASTra Advocates to take on cases for Educational Advocacy, Support and Training. This program is in place to help guide and coach parents in the complexities of the educational system when your child is on a IEP/504.

To find out more about our ASTra Program, please visit our website [HERE](#). To submit an ASTra Request, please do so [HERE](#), and we will have an Advocate reach out to you.



# COLORADO HANDS & VOICES GALA

Every year, we come together for our biggest fundraiser of the year. We love seeing everyone come together and have an amazing night! Be sure to save the date for Sunday, October 20th at Balistreri Vineyards in Denver.

The funds we raise from our Fall Gala go directly back to our families. Parent to parent support with our Guide By Your Side (GBYS) Program, events, educational handouts, educational advocacy support with our ASTra Program, and so much more are a direct result of fundraising efforts.

This past year we served 156 families all across the state with direct one on one support through our GBYS Program, and helped 14 families with their child's IEP/504 through the ASTra Program.

Tickets go on sale September 24th. Visit our [website](#) for more information.



## DHH Pen Pal Program 2024-2025

**Purpose:** Foster relationships and connect DHH students with other DHH students in the state of Colorado.

**Participants:** ECE-Transition students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing

How it works:

- ❖ Get permission slips signed ([Sample Permission Slip](#), but make sure it is approved by your district!)
- ❖ Sign up: Must sign up students by September 15
- ❖ Student Matching
- ❖ Ongoing Exchange

**Important Dates:**

- ❖ Sign Up by September 15th
- ❖ First exchange by October 15th



Questions? Email us at [dhhpenpalscolorado@gmail.com](mailto:dhhpenpalscolorado@gmail.com)

## D/HH PEN PAL PROGRAM

Colorado Department of Education is running a Deaf/Hard of HEaring Pen Pal Program for the 2024-2025 school year. Students must get permission from their school admins regarding rules and participation in activities like having a Pen Pal and sharing personal information. Parents must sign a permission slip to be able to be paired with a Pen Pal.

To get more information, please reach out to [dhhpenpalscolorado@gmail.com](mailto:dhhpenpalscolorado@gmail.com). Or to sign up please click [HERE](#).

## BENEFIT CONCERT

Colorado Hands & Voices is honored to be selected by Hands in Praises, an ASL Choir in Northern Colorado.

Come join us, on September 21st, at Tigges Farm, in Greeley, Colorado. Doors open at 6:15pm.

Bring the whole family for an evening of inspirational music "signed" by the Hands In Praise Christian Sign Language Choir. There will be contemporary

praise and all time favorite hymns and you are welcome to join by "singing" along. Come rain or shine as the event center is covered and enclosed, yet has an open air feeling.

Tigges Farm is a free admission farm and that goes for the concert too. All donations are will go towards, Colorado Hands & Voices, and the Weld Food Bank

**Benefit Concert**

**Sept 21 7:00pm**

Food or Financial Donations Appreciated for **Weld Food Bank & Colorado Hands & Voices**

Sponsored by **Hands In Praise** Christian American Sign Language Choir

Hosted at **Tigges Farm**, 12404 County Road 64 1/2, Greeley, CO

More Information: [www.TiggesFarmLLC.com](http://www.TiggesFarmLLC.com) or [www.HandsInPraiseASL.com](http://www.HandsInPraiseASL.com)

# EVENTS

## September 3rd: Little Language Learners

Hosted by CSDB. Ages 12 months to 3 years and their parents.

Tues. & Thurs. 9-11am. To register email [LLL@csdb.org](mailto:LLL@csdb.org)

## September 6th: Toddler Program at Butterfly Pavilion (In-Person)

Hosted by RMDS. 10am-12pm. Register [HERE](#).

Additional Days to save the date- Oct. 4th, Nov. 1st, Dec. 7th, Jan. 10th, Feb. 7th, March 7th, April 14th, and May 16th.

## September 7th: D/HH + Autism Family Day (In-Person)

Hosted by COH&V and CSDB. Happy Dog Ranch in Saladia. Registration required.

## September 10 & 11- Community ASL Classes Start (Virtual & In-Person)

Hosted by RMDS. Classes run through the fall. Register [HERE](#)

## September 11th: Summers at the Park (In-Person)

Hosted by CSDB. 5:00 - 7:00 pm at CSDB's new all inclusive playground.

## September 14th: Meow Wolf- ASL In Motion

2:00 pm. Must purchase tickets [HERE](#)

## September 15th: D/HH Pen Pal Sign Up Due

Hosted by Colorado Department of Education. Sign up [HERE](#)

## September 21st: Hands in Praise Benefit Concert

7:00 pm. Concert is free, but donations benefit COH&V and Weld County Food Bank

## September 21st: Little Language Learners at Sunflower Farm

Hosted by CSDB. 10am- 2pm. Ages 0-8 and their families. Please RSVP [HERE](#).

## October 5th: 2024 Deaf Awareness Night at the Colorado Rapids

Hosted by CCDHHDB. 7:30 pm. Buy Tickets [HERE](#).

## October 20th: COH&V Fall Gala (In-Person)

SAVE THE DATE. 5:30-8:30 pm. For more information please visit [HERE](#).

## October 24th: Transition to Preschool (Virtual)

Hosted by COH&V. 7:00-8:00 pm. Register [HERE](#).

## November 19th: You Are Not Alone (English- Virtual)

Co-Hosted by COH&V. 7:00-8:00 pm MST. Register [HERE](#).

## November 20th: You Are Not Alone (Spanish- Virtual)

Co-Hosted by COH&V. 7:00-8:00 pm MST. Register [HERE](#).

Did you know every time you shop, you could be helping Colorado Families for Hands & Voices? Be sure to select us with the code below as your Community Reward Member.

YF108

Community Rewards

Earn money for your community organization when you use your loyalty card

DEAF 2024 AWARENESS NIGHT

Colorado Rapids vs Seattle Sounders

Saturday, October 5  
7:30 p.m.

Dick's Sporting Goods Park

Purchase Link:  
[bit.ly/Deaf-at-Rapids](https://bit.ly/Deaf-at-Rapids)

ASL Interpreters & captions provided

COLORADO Commission for the Deaf, Hand of Hearing, and DeafBlind



Do you have an event that you would like us to share with our families? Please send us your information and a flyer at [info@co-hv.org](mailto:info@co-hv.org)

"Like" us on Facebook. Parents, ask to join these private Facebook group(s) to see the latest updates.

- Colorado Chapter - Hands & Voices (general),
- COHV Unilateral Hearing Loss
- Manos Y Voces (Spanish)
- COHV Deaf+Autism
- cCMV Family Network
- Instagram and Twitter: Colorado Hands & Voices



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