



# COLORADO HANDS & VOICES™

September 2022 Newsletter

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

# CONNECTION

**COLORADO HANDS & VOICES™**  
*Inspiration Gala*  
 October 8th  
 6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
 The ART Hotel  
 Denver, CO

*An event for the entire family!*

**Deaf /Hard of Hearing + Autism Day**  
**October 1st**  
 Happy Dog Ranch

**VIRTUAL PARENT EVENTS**

Come join us for any of our virtual events. Please scan the QR code to register and we will send you a Zoom link. If you need any type of accommodations, please RSVP 5 days in advance.

TO RSVP PLEASE GO TO  
[TINYURL.COM/2022EVENTSCOHV](https://tinyurl.com/2022EVENTSCOHV)

## WHAT'S NEW?

Our Fall Gala is BACK IN PERSON. See page 2 for more details or visit our website [www.co-hv.org](http://www.co-hv.org)

## D/HH+ AUTISM DAY

Don't miss out on connecting with other families in our D/HH+ Autism Day at Happy Dog Ranch! See more on page 2.

## EVENTS

Be sure to look at page 4 for an updated list of events for the state of Colorado!

August seemed to have slipped right past us, and here we are in September! It's Deaf Awareness Month, so be sure to celebrate what makes you so amazing! I have loved getting my son's school announcements and listening to all the amazing inclusive tips that are being shared with his peers to celebrate the month.

With kids back at school, there are so many exciting opportunities! Clubs, sports, and events! In August, we were contacted by The Ranch Event Complex in Loveland, and given the AMAZING opportunity for 18 D/HH kids, ages 5-16 to join Deaf Nina-Kyle Schulze and Jessie Graff, from American Ninja Warrior for a private lesson on the Ninja course. The Budweiser Event Center provided interpreters for both Saturday (the lesson), and Sunday (the live competition for the Ninjas). What an amazing experience for our kids to see a role model on such a big stage.

You have been waiting so patiently! The recorded videos of the Campus Connections event with The Marion Downs Center, CO Hands & Voices and RMDS earlier this summer are now live! Be sure to visit the Marion Downs Center's website at <https://mariondowns.org/> to get some great tips on how to prepare and be successful in college, and the work force after high school.

We are excited to host the Deaf/Hard of Hearing+ Autism Day again for the 6th year! October 1st, we will bring back the joy of our kids and animals. Be sure to read how to sign up for this fun event on page 2.

And on October 8th we will be hosting our Annual Fall Gala- The Inspiration Gala, to celebrate our 26th year! Please be sure to visit our website for ticket information, which will go live on September 9th. We are so excited to see you all again, in-person at the ART Hotel in Denver, CO. Rooms are available if you want to make a date night and spend time in beautiful downtown Colorado!

Thank you to all of our amazing families and providers who continue to help make this possible. We wouldn't be here without you. This month, remember to take a deep breath, have fun, and find the joy that is on your journey.



by Jami Fries, Executive Director

# D/HH+ AUTISM DAY IS HERE

Do you have a child who is Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH) and they have Autism? Have you ever been around animals and felt at peace when you left? They are magical! Sometimes being able to slow down and see the world through the connection of your child and nature can be a bright spot in a memory. We are excited to bring that feeling back for the 6th year, complete with alpacas, goats, and horses, oh my!

On October 1st, from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Colorado Hands & Voices and CSDB will be hosting D/HH+ Autism Day at Happy Dog Ranch in Littleton. Come bring your whole family and enjoy the day with all the animals, pieces of education, arts/crafts, and D/HH Role Models. Lunch and water is provided for all.

If you are wanting to help volunteer for this event please visit <https://tinyurl.com/DeafPlusAutismVolunteers> to sign up. To RSVP by September 20th please scan the QR code to sign your family up.

We look forward to seeing all our neighbors soon!

**D/HH+ Autism Family Day: Saturday, Oct. 1st**

Family, Parent, & Kid time in an accessible, nature-based (magical) place. Siblings welcome!

- Animal and Sensory Activities
- D/HH Mentors
- ASL Interpreters
- D/HH + Autism Specialists

**Free!**  
6th ANNUAL D/HH + AUTISM FAMILY DAY

**HAPPY DOG RANCH**  
Saturday, Oct. 1st  
10 A.M. - 1 P.M.  
7811 W. Titan Rd  
Littleton, CO  
RSVP Required

Sponsors, co-hosts, and volunteers be sure to RSVP by September 20th.



Questions or interested in sponsoring this event? Email us at [info@co-hv.org](mailto:info@co-hv.org)  
To register scan the QR code or visit <https://tinyurl.com/DeafPlusAutismDay>

**COLORADO HANDS & VOICES**  
**CSDB**

## ADVOCACY SUCCESS

*by Mah-rya Proper*

This year my son, who is a Junior in High School, is taking college classes through Colorado Early College (CEC). He has used captioning to access remote meetings with advisors and counselors. Thank you T-mobile's provision of RCC for the captioning!

He is taking online and remote classes through Aims Community College. Their Disability Access Services office has been great about communicating with him and providing interpreters and transcripts for his classes. They told him there were several types of captioning/notetaking platforms he could potentially use. He used his self advocacy skills to ask for samples and picked the one he thought would be best for the start of the semester. On day one of his classes, interpreters and captioning was there, helpful, and he participated in his classes. He is also taking one class on campus at FRCC and they have been great about discussing options and services that he might need as well.

We talk so often at the beginning stages of this journey about access and communication. I just want to share that while the advocacy continues, it has been encouraging to see my 17 year old take more of the lead and navigate the services and accommodations that he wants.



## INSPIRATION GALA

You wont want to miss this! Our in-person Fall Gala is back at the ART Hotel, Denver from 6:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M. Tickets go on sale September 9th (see the QR Code for more information). Don't wait, they wont last long!

Come celebrate 26 years of Parent to Parent Support and Educational Advocacy with our Colorado Chapter. Live auctions, limited cash bar, wine pull, catered dinner, a paddle raise and more will help our chapter continue to succeed!

Can't attend in-person? Don't worry. We have a Virtual auction as well! Please check our website with the QR code for more information.

Do you want to help with the Gala by either volunteering or helping us by fulfilling our Amazon Wishlist? Thank you for helping us to continue to support more families in Colorado!





## HELPING OTHERS

by Asha Federico

This summer, my family and I had the opportunity to travel to Kenya for almost three weeks. We spent the first week doing volunteer work in a small county called Bomet. While my parents were working at Tenwek Hospital, my brother and I did some work around the community. On our second day in Bomet, we traveled to a local village to build a mud hut for a mentally ill man who had recently lost his wife. All of the side roads in Kenya aren't paved, so the ride had us bouncing all over the place. When we arrived at the village, the wood framework of the hut was already in place. Since none of the villagers spoke English, we just followed along with what they were doing and started to collect water from a small pond and pour it on the dirt surrounding the hut. After taking off our shoes, we started to walk around in the mud to make it smooth enough to layer onto the hut. Once the mud was ready, the fun began. At first, I was a little hesitant to get my hands dirty because I wouldn't be able to adjust my hearing aids if I needed to, but my mom put wet wipes in my backpack just in case I needed to wipe my hands. Little by little, we proceeded to pick up the mud and lay it in the cracks between the wood.

People were working from both the inside and outside of the hut, and once the first layer was complete, we were able to make the second layer by throwing little balls of mud onto the hut. While we took a little break during lunchtime to have some chai, all the kids from a nearby school came and helped to smooth out the final layer of mud. Before heading back, we went to a church a couple minutes from the village to have a late lunch of rice and beans. I can't tell you how grateful I am to have gotten this eye-opening opportunity to experience life as a villager in Kenya - and all the rest of the fun this trip held!



Are you in need of any updating in your home with ADCO Hearing Products? They carry amplification devices for hearing aids, phones, abby monitors, TVs, headphones, and alarm clocks. We could go on and on! September is the time to do it!

In honor of Deaf Awareness month in September, ADCO is donating 10% of profits to Colorado Hands & Voices. Shop [here](#).

Thank you ADCO for thinking of our families.



[ADCOHEARING.COM](http://ADCOHEARING.COM)

**WE'RE  
HIRING**

Deaf/Hard of  
Hearing (D/HH)  
Parent Guide

*Open position :*

\*Must be a parent who is D/HH and have a child who is D/HH. Must be able to support all communication choices.



**COLORADO  
HANDS & VOICES™**

For more information please email us at [info@co-hv.org](mailto:info@co-hv.org)



GBYS Referral  
[tiny.cc/COGBYS](http://tiny.cc/COGBYS)



ASTra Referral  
[tinyurl.com/AdvocacyRequest](http://tinyurl.com/AdvocacyRequest)

Welcome  
Virtual Waiting Room



"There was no history of hearing loss in our family. I found out that the first six months is a period of rapid brain development and a time you can never go back and get again."

- Lisa, parent



## EVENTS

### Registration for RMDS ASL is open (In-person & Virtual))

Fall and Winter Sessions. Hosted by RMDS. To sign up go to <http://ASL.RMDS.co>

### September 8: New Parent Chat (Virtual)

7-8 p.m. Hosted by COH&V RSVP at [tinyurl.com/2022EVENTSCOHV](http://tinyurl.com/2022EVENTSCOHV)

### September 10: RMDS 25 Year Anniversary (In-person)

1 p.m.- 4 p.m. Hosted by RMDS at Pindustry. [MGoldberg@RMDS.cod](mailto:MGoldberg@RMDS.cod)

### September 10: Rapids Game (In-person)

7:30 p.m. Hosted by RMDS and DOVE To get tickets visit [bit.ly/3Sz0tJd](http://bit.ly/3Sz0tJd)

### September 13: ABCs of IEPs: Guidance for Parents of Kids with Cochlear Implants (Virtual)

10-11 am. Hosted by ACI Alliance. For more info or to register click [here](#)

### September 17: Denver Early Literacy Event (In-Person)

10am - 12pm. Hosted by CSDB at Berry Patch Farms. RSVP at [jmclellan@csdb.org](mailto:jmclellan@csdb.org)

### September 17: Northern CO Early Literacy Event (In-Person)

12:30pm - 2:30pm. Hosted by CSDB at The Farm At Lee Martinez Park.

RSVP at [jmclellan@csdb.org](mailto:jmclellan@csdb.org)

### September 18: Intro to Assistive Tech (Virtual)

1-2 p.m. Hosted by ADCO RSVP at [adcohearing.com/events](http://adcohearing.com/events)

### September 25: Deaf/Hard of Hearing Panel (Virtual)

7-8 p.m. Hosted by COH&V RSVP at [tinyurl.com/2022EVENTSCOHV](http://tinyurl.com/2022EVENTSCOHV)

### October 1: D/HH + Autism Day (In-person)

10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. to RSVP visit <https://tinyurl.com/DeafPlusAutismDay>

### October 8: Inspiration Gala (In-person)

6:00 p.m.- 9:30 p.m. The ART Hotel, Denver. For info visit <https://co-hv.org/fallbenefit/>

### October 16: Tech Hacks- Damage, Loss and More (Virtual)

1-2 p.m. Hosted by ADCO RSVP at [adcohearing.com/events](http://adcohearing.com/events)

### October 2: Advanced Alerting Options-Teens & Adults (Virtual)

1-2 p.m. Hosted by ADCO RSVP at [adcohearing.com/events](http://adcohearing.com/events)

### Little Language Learners @ CSDB (In-Person)

Play group for families in the Pikes Peak region with children who are Deaf/HH (18 months old - 3 years old). Meets from 9:30-11:30am at CSDB on the following Fridays: September 9, 26, and 23. October 7, 14, 21, and 28. November 4, 11 and 18. For more info please click [here](#)



## PIKES PEAK LIBRARY/CSDB ONCE UPON A SIGN



Be sure to register for virtual ASL Storytime with CSDB! Once a month from August 2022 until April 2023 (no sessions in November and December) CSDB will be hosting a Virtual Storytime at Pikes Peak Library District to showcase ASL with fun stories. These sessions are for families who have a D/HH child from birth to age 3. For more information, and registration links, please email Jennifer McLellan at [jmclellan@csdb.org](mailto:jmclellan@csdb.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



## Want your own copy of the e-news?

email [info@co-hv.org](mailto:info@co-hv.org) or call/text 720-598-2648

Parents and Professionals can sign up for our free e-news. Include your name, location, and child's age, and school district. If you have a particular area of interest, let us know!