

# THE WISCONSIN Communicator

Volume 17, Issue

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

## Wisconsin Families for Hands & Voices needs you!

**Do you care about Wisconsin children who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deafplus and want to help?**

**Join our Board of Directors.**



**HANDS & VOICES™**

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Karen Manning

*President*

Beth Hall

*Vice President*

Becky DeGrave

*Secretary*

Sam Hall

*Treasurer*

Connie Stevens

Kristy Schindler

Wisconsin Families for Hands & Voices is recruiting new Board members to help fulfill our motto: "What works for your child is what makes the choice right." We believe that individual families raising deaf/hard of hearing/deafplus kids are helped by connecting with others traveling a similar path, no matter the communication choice.

We are accepting applications to join our state Board - from family members, from deaf/hard of hearing adults, and from professionals working in this field. We need *all* of you to continue the work we do! Our Board is all volunteer and meets three times per year via video-conference or in person.

Wisconsin was one of the first state chapters of Hands & Voices, a 23 year old international, non-profit organization. Hands & Voices helps families:

- Secure funds through our scholarships and micro-grants – this helps families pay for things like a conferences, sign language/auditory verbal classes, camps, local events for children, and seed money to develop community programs.
- Meet fellow families raising children who are deaf/hard of hearing/deafplus.
- Meet role models who are deaf/hard of hearing/deafplus. Lobby insurance companies to pay for children's hearing devices.

We are proud and honored to collaborate with state and local partners such as Wisconsin Sound Beginnings, Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing, and HEAR, WI. We hope to expand collaboration with other fellow non-profit groups in Wisconsin.

Please consider applying yourself and sharing this request with others in your community.

For more information and to request an application to join the Board of Wisconsin Families for Hands & Voices, email us at: [handsandvoiceswi@gmail.com](mailto:handsandvoiceswi@gmail.com)



Wisconsin Families  
for Hands & Voices

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Green Bay, WI 54308  
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**HANDS & VOICES™**

Wisconsin

**Member's Corner /**

## ❄️ **Gratitude for our Deafblind Intervener** ❄️

Contributed by Jodi Anderson

Our son Liam is totally blind and profoundly deaf with a right-sided cochlear implant. Due to Liam's dual sensory loss, he lacks access to information. This challenge prevents him from interacting with his environment and encourages isolation. The less Liam interacts within his environment, the fewer chances he has to learn. A person is needed who can consistently bridge the gap of sensory deprivation so that Liam can receive information and link to the world around him. This person is called intervener. An intervener is a person who works one-to-one with a deafblind individual and has training and specialized skills in deafblindness. (Alsop, Killoran, Robinson, Durkel, & Prouty, 2004; McGinnes, 1986; Robinson et al., 2000).

Mary Wilcox has worked with our son Liam since he was in kindergarten. She and Liam have a very special relationship built on trust and mutual respect. Liam has made so many gains thanks to her hard work and patience. Although she is not a water person, she braves the pool to assist Liam. She has learned music and band right along with him as she figures out ways to provide him access. We are very blessed to have her in his life. She has fostered relationships between Liam and his peers and has assisted him in trying many new things.



Liam Anderson and Mary Wilcox at the Memorial Day Parade  
in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin in May 2019

### ***Intervener Receives National Credential***

Mary Wilcox has recently completed the requirements of the national credential process. She is the fifth intervener in Wisconsin to complete the national credential. Her dedication to Liam and this field is demonstrated by her efforts.

The requirements for obtaining the National Intervener Credential include: a minimum of 10 hours of credited coursework from an Institution of Higher Education. (Mary went through the online program at Utah State.) This coursework must include Practicum experience (minimum of 2 credit hours) under the supervision of the course instructor and the guidance of a trained Intervener Coach. This practicum includes a minimum of 100 hours of contact time with a child who is deafblind and a minimum of 3 coaching sessions, and a completed Intervener Portfolio based on the National Intervener Competencies which provides documentation that the intervener has acquired the knowledge and skills needed to be an effective intervener.

*Thanks to mom, Jodi, for sharing the successes of her son Liam and of his intervener Mary in Members Corner with us! #dhhfosteringjoy*

### What is #dhhfosteringjoy?

The Twitter hashtag #dhhfosteringjoy began recently with a core group of professionals and parents to create a paradigm shift. They wanted to help parents see the strengths and capabilities of their children, and help find spaces to rejoice in children and all they bring into our lives.

Hands & Voices is inviting parents and parent leaders to join the "Fostering joy movement" by seeing themselves as "Joy Ambassadors."

P.S. We're already *sharing the joy* locally at Wisconsin Families for Hands & Voices through our own "Members Corner"! You can foster joy, too! Help us connect, share, care by sharing your own story with all of us!

### Wisconsin Families for Hands & Voices Moms Brunch in Southwest Wisconsin



Thank you to our host, Mom! We had a cozy setting to talk about supporting our amazing children, especially families in rural communities.  
Lancaster, WI, October 13, 2019.

### Contribute to *The Wisconsin Communicator* and *Member's Corner* / *Share your successes in the world of deafness and hearing loss*

What's the **best** thing that happened lately?

What makes you **happy, proud, or grateful**?

What challenge have you **overcome**?

In words. In pictures. Or both.

### **Help us connect, share, and care**

We publish member contributions in our newsletter and social media platforms.

\*Email a document, photo, scan, or file to: [handsandvoiceswi@gmail.com](mailto:handsandvoiceswi@gmail.com)

\*Or Mail an image of your work (please no original artwork!) to:

WI Families for Hands & Voices  
P.O. Box 9644  
Green Bay, WI 54308

Please include the following signed statement so we can share your work publicly:

*I give permission to WI Families for Hands & Voices to release the attached written, pictorial, video, or photographic images on Hands & Voices media and marketing materials.*

Note: Text may be edited for length or content prior to publication. Color images will convert to grayscale in print material. Individual written consent is required for all photo images of people.

**Renew Your Membership or Become a New Member Today!**

Families and Members have the **Power** to make it happen!

**The WI H&V Family Empowerment Micro-Grant**

Positively Impact Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafPlus Youth Where You Live.

- Do you want to:*
- Organize a fun social event for your child and others?*
- Access some technology?*
- Help children take that special class?*
- Provide equipment or snacks for an after-school club?*
- What else??*

**Share your idea with us.**

**We want to help.**

**Micro Grant awards: up to \$500**

**Application deadlines: March 30 / September 30**

For more info and an application go to our website:

<http://www.handsandvoiceswi.org/>

**2020**

**Wisconsin Families for Hands & Voices**

**New Member/Current Member Renewal Form**

Join/renew online at:  
[www.handsandvoiceswi.org](http://www.handsandvoiceswi.org)

*or*

Clip or copy this membership form and mail with your check to:

WI Families for Hands & Voices  
PO Box 9644  
Green Bay, WI 54308

Please circle one of the following:

Parent of a deaf/HH child	\$25.00
Deaf /HH Adult	\$25.00
Student	\$25.00
Professional	\$40.00
Organization/agency	\$75.00
Additional Donation	\$_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment

Check \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship \_\_\_\_\_

