Wisconsin Families for Hands & Voices sponsors a Silent Auction during the Statewide Professional and Family Conference which was held at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton, WI on November 10-11, 2017. Auction proceeds go towards the Family Scholarship Fund to help ensure that every family has the opportunity to attend this important event.

The goal of the Conference is to provide a supportive and informative atmosphere for parents and children through informational workshops, discussion groups, organization and vendor exhibits, fun family activities, and networking opportunities. The total cost for a family to attend this Conference is $250. We awarded $4,063.00 in 2016, $4,925.00 in 2015, and $4,465.00 in 2014 in Family Conference scholarships.

This year we raised $1456 during the silent auction. An American Girl Doll with hearing aids and an "I Love You" ASL hanging craftwork piece were especially popular! We also received $1650 in cash donations from Captell ($1000), Riverpark Family Dental in Franklin, WI ($500) and Stucky Chiropractic (Eau Claire, WI). We are extremely appreciative to these businesses that support our mission and dedication to families with children who have hearing losses.

A few pictures from the Silent Auction at the recent Statewide Professional and Family Conference.
Wonderstruck: Why Sign Language Is Only Used in Half of the Movie

Wonderstruck is a 2017 American mystery drama film directed by Todd Haynes and based on the 2011 novel Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick.

Wonderstruck intercuts between two parallel plots: In 1927, a deaf girl living in Hoboken heads to New York City in search of a celebrated actress, while in 1977, an orphaned boy is struck deaf and runs away from his home in Minnesota to New York in hopes of finding answers about his past.

So why is sign language only used in half of the movie? It isn’t used in the Amazon and Roadside drama’s 1920s-set scenes because it wasn’t recognized as a legitimate means of communication during that time period.

“It was frowned upon — people were ashamed of the deaf people in their own family and felt they should be fully assimilated into the hearing world and learn how to talk,” explains director Todd Haynes. “That’s what dominated the deaf education world until the 1960s, when things changed and sign language was considered a real language and eventually taught in public schools. In a way, this movie compares how things changed for deaf people between these two eras, the ’20s and the ’70s.”

Sunday July 23, 2017 at Harriet Park in Verona families enjoyed conversation and fun with other families with children of all ages with hearing loss at our annual Summer Picnic.

One kind word can warm three cold months

Japanese Proverb
There are basically three types of hearing loss.

1) SENSORINEURAL
The kind of hearing loss that is permanent and is the result of something affecting the inner ear, or the nerve that deals with hearing (the auditory nerve) is called sensorineural hearing loss. There are many different causes of sensorineural hearing loss, including congenital infections, medications, noise, and genetics. Congenital hearing loss is present in three to six out of every 1000 newborns and is detectable at birth. Sensorineural hearing loss can also develop later in life for various reasons, one of which is excessive exposure to loud noise.

2) CONDUCTIVE
Another type of hearing loss is called conductive hearing loss. Conductive hearing loss is the result of something affecting the outer or middle ear, such as ear infections associated with fluid in the middle ear space. Middle ear infections are the second-most common reason children see physicians. Any time children have middle ear infections with fluid in their ears, they have an accompanying hearing loss. Other common causes of conductive hearing loss include excess wax, foreign bodies, or swelling of the auditory canal. In most cases, conductive hearing losses can be treated either medically or surgically, and are not permanent.

3) MIXED
Finally, mixed hearing losses are combinations of sensorineural and conductive hearing losses.
Insider tip: "258" means "very interesting."
If a Deaf person ever jokingly signs to you the numbers "2, 5, 8" what they mean is "very interesting." The two comes from the initialized English sign for VERY. (The English sign VERY uses a "V" as the handshape and uses a position, palm orientation, and movement similar to the sign "BIG." Which is to say, the Signed English sign "VERY" is an initialized version of the ASL sign "BIG." ) ASL doesn't use the sign "VERY," rather ASL uses exaggerated movement, body language, and facial expression to indicate the idea of "very."
Newly Published

We Are Hands & Voices

Stories for Families
Raising Children Who Are Deaf/Hard of Hearing

Hands & Voices (H&V) new book, We Are Hands & Voices: Stories for Families Raising Children Who Are Deaf/Hard of Hearing, published April 2017, is a collection of stories featuring the challenges and joys of parenting a child who is deaf. Authored by Karen Pruz, Sara Kennedy, Stephanie Olson, and Janet DesGeorges.

“What works for your child is what makes the choice right,” is the Hands & Voices motto.

If you are a new parent or a long-time parent looking back, you’ll find this collection of stories moving. The book features many different perspectives of the parenting journey along with the ups and downs. This book hopes to provide some guidance on your own parenting journey. To order this book go to http://www.handsandvoices.org/resources/products.htm

Our Walk4Hearing Team raised money of which $558.00 came back to us to help families.

Sunday September 24, 2017 several moms of children with hearing loss gathered in Monona for another Mom’s Brunch social event

HELP OTHERS BY DONATING
USED HEARING AIDS!

WI Families for Hands & Voices is now accepting hearing aids donations as part of a partnership with Starkey. If you have hearing aids that are not being used and would like to make a charitable donation to help WI Families for Hands & Voices, send them to:

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

It takes us all. That’s why it’s important that parents, teachers and students work together in concert to address these issues.