

Louisiana Hands & Voices

Guide By Your Side

Year in review: 2014



We respectfully submit our annual report detailing the activities accomplished in the year 2014,

Louisiana Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side (GBYS) is a family support program that embodies the mission of Hands & Voices, which is to provide support in an unbiased manner to families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. GBYS services are provided free to Louisiana families who have a child who has a hearing loss or a hearing loss is suspected.

Families of children diagnosed with a hearing loss are systematically referred through Louisiana's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program

to a Parent Guide in their area who has been trained by the national GBYS program.

Louisiana Hands & Voices continues to be dedicated to supporting families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing without a bias around communication modes or methodology. We are a parent-driven, non-profit organization providing families with the resources, networks, and information they need to improve communication access and educational outcomes for their children.

Our GBYS outreach activities, parent/professional collaboration and advocacy efforts are focused on enabling deaf and hard of hearing children to reach their highest potential.

Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much.”

~Helen Keller

Louisiana Hands & Voices

Board of Directors

Amy D'Alfonso, Marbely Barahona
Jill Guidry, Penny Hakim,
Brandy Hidalgo, Ashley Nielsen,
Tammy Radcliff,
Mariah Ranko, Amy Ward



Executive Director: Nicole DeLeon

Advisory Board: Donna Embree,
Linda Frantz, Terri Mohren,
Rana Ottallah, Melinda Peat

Parent Guides:

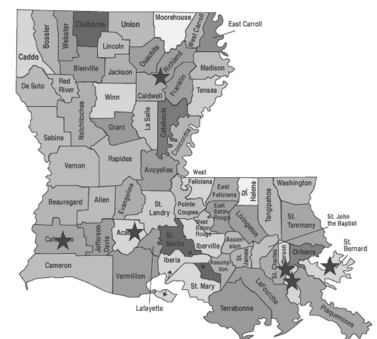


**GUIDE BY
YOUR SIDE™**

Marbely Barahona
Renee Carlson
Nicole Deleon
Jill Guidry
Penny Hakim
Mariah Ranko

GBYS Guides are located across Louisiana:

Harahan
Lafayette
Lake Charles
Monroe
New Orleans
Violet



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GBYS Support and Community outreach

Louisiana Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side provided many opportunities statewide for parents to meet other families of deaf and hard of hearing children through social gatherings like picnics, pool parties, park playdays, parent coffee chats and holiday parties.

Examples of events hosted by GBYS

Rock'n'Bowl Back to School Bash
Meet us at the Pool / Park
Holiday gathering
Coffee Chats

New Orleans
Sulphur
Lafayette
Lafayette
Lake Charles
Monroe
New Orleans

Families Served:

385 La H&V membership/
contacts in master database

122 GBYS participants

458 H&V event attendees

Social Media Networking

Awareness of LA Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side increased substantially through a variety of mechanisms this year. LA Hands & Voices website features organizational information, Board and Advisory Board members, and contact information. Also included are projects of involvement, such as workshops, family events, family and student support, and conference meetings. The Guide By Your Side program is featured, outlining importance of family support. Resources are likewise highlighted to provide linking information to parents desiring additional material from a diversity of sources.

A social media presence has also increased awareness of parents to the available activities and resources of LA Hands & Voices and Guide By Your Side programs. LA Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side chapter shares information through its Facebook page and newsletters. The quarterly newsletter is sent to LA Hands & Voices members, professionals, and Guide By Your Side participants.

LA HV "likes" increased from 355 to 474

LA HV FB post views - 24,659

E-newsletter recipients - from 243 to 280

LA HV website views: 1075

Louisiana website: www.lahandsandvoices.org

www.facebook.com/LouisianaHandsandVoices

National website: www.handsandvoices.org

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Conferences, Exhibits, and Presentations

Family Conference presented by Louisiana Hands & Voices
2014 National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Conference,
2014 Annual Speech Pathologist and Audiologists in Louisiana Schools (SPALS)
Conference, Lafayette
Jefferson Parish Resource Information Workshops
New Orleans Resource Information Workshop
Hearing for Life Celebration
Presentation Acadian Elementary Staff
Participation in LA EHDI State Advisory Council the Identification of Hearing Impairment
in Infants
Participation in group support for parents,
The Bright School and Louisiana School for the Deaf
Presentation to regional Early Steps providers
Grand Rounds presentation to pediatricians at Red Stick Potpourri, Baton Rouge
Participant in National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality (NICHQ)
Assist National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM)
create documents for families in Spanish
LA H&V Annual Planning Meeting
Representation in Louisiana Association of Educators
Representation in Louisiana Deaf Education Alliance

