



www.idhandsandvoices.org

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One Busy September, coming soon...

Idaho Hands & Voices Family Camp encore at Paradise Point Camp near McCall, Idaho, September 5-7. We've lined up two great speakers--Steven Snow, executive director of the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Steven Birkby, an IESDB Educational Specialist, bringing their professional expertise and personal experiences to share with families. Once again, we'll have all those fun camp activities (beach play, kayaking, swimming, archery, ceramics, climbing wall and ropes course) to enjoy, plus an encore of Storytelling with Mikkel and April Nelson, and Preschool in the Woods with Emily Donaldson, Janna Dunnagan, and their helpers. You will find the registration forms and more information at www.idhandsandvoices.org; look under "events" to find "family camp."

Our annual golf scramble, which earns most of the funds we need to support the camp and other activities, will be September 20. If you know of a business or individual that would be willing to help sponsor this event or donate a raffle item, or if you know some golfers, please alert them to this opportunity to make a big difference for our organization and families of kids with hearing loss. More information including registration and sponsorship forms is available at <http://birdeasepro.com/idahohandsandvoices>.

Deaf Awareness Day, September 27, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m, at the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing offices at 1720 Westgate Drive, Boise. The day will include workshops and information on the Americans with Disabilities Act, Human Rights Commission, How to File a Complaint and much, much more. Especially if you live in the Boise area, be sure to mark your calendar and "save the date" now. We'll have lots more information in the September edition of "Wavelengths."



June was a busy month, too... *we've two reports of activities that took place last month:*

Sawtooth Camp 2014

by Samuel Ruth (camper) age 15

June 11-14 was this year's IESDB Deaf Camp. Charles, the camp director, did an excellent job of planning and organizing the camp. He sent out almost 400 applications for the Sawtooth camp, however only 16 teens filled them out and attended the Deaf Camp. Even though there was a lack of applicants, we still had a lot of fun. Most of the teens who came were from south central Idaho around Boise. A few other adults from the IESDB campus also helped with the camp.

Some of the activities included white water rafting, swimming, hiking and bike riding. There were also camp fires in the evening, where we played games (capture the flag, and tag), told stories and ate delicious s'mores. I know all of the kids who attended had a great time. We met and made new friends with others who were just like ourselves. We have to thank Charles the Camp Director and hope to see more kids next year!

Ready, Set, Go to Work!

by Ann Flannery

Ten students, twenty two volunteers and three days of learning that challenged high school students from across the state who had a few things in common: they were willing to step-up and apply, travel to Gooding and admit there were lessons to be learned about the world of work. So much about each of them was unique. From fifteen to eighteen years of age, from as far north as Troy and as far east as Pocatello, from private baccalaureate to public schools to our Gooding campus program, from no amplification to cochlear implants and from only ASL to only speech and everything in-between. IESDB Foundation and a generous grant from Wells Fargo Bank saw friendships formed and challenges faced while each camper's 'tool box' for the world of work was filled with invaluable resources, new

choices and brilliant ideas for securing future employment.

The twenty-two camp staff also hailed from far reaches of our state and served our youth in a variety of roles bringing a variety of talents:

Alan Wilding, president, and the Idaho Association of the Deaf hosted a welcome bonfire with s'mores and toasted banana splits in addition to providing a session on how self-exploration needs to be the foundation of career development.

Scott Hoover, Disability Rights Idaho, was our keynote speaker at the Twin Falls Center for the Arts. As we dined together courtesy of Elevation 486, Scott inspired our *Ready, Set, Go to Work!* campers and staff with the importance of dispelling labels and dismissing the limitations imposed by others. Scott insisted that it is when we personally determine the challenges we want to take up, carefully discern the resources and supports we will need to meet our goals and never believe the naysayers who may cross our path that we can hope to succeed and know it is truly our personal journey.

The Idaho Department of Labor's Disability Resource Coordinators (DRC) stepped up in force and guided our campers through a variety of learning tasks about what to expect in the seeking and securing of employment. They hosted us at their Twin Falls office highlighting the resources and supports available to all seeking employment across our state. While on the Gooding campus, the DRC's focused in on the many ways an applicant prepares to approach a potential employer and the resources and supports to prepare in the process.

Kim Thornsberry, case manager with Utah State Division of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing brought the NCIEC Deaf Self-Advocacy Training curriculum inviting campers to consider the access they will need on a career journey and how each might negotiate and secure the accommodations needed.

Rose Pabon and Doug Clapp, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors, shared the ways IDVR would support their efforts to work toward employment after high school or after college.

Lisa Newton, University of Idaho student and Cortney Peters, IESDB Education Specialist each shared the differences between their accommodations and how access supports must fit their individual communication preferences. Exploring the technology that is available and predicting where and when supports could be beneficial to work performance is something each of them can begin to investigate now.

Steven Snow, Executive Director of the Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, hosted a Café Rio buffet for all as he invited us to learn more about the challenges he faced and the solutions he found on his road through college and on to employment as a Deaf professional.

At the close of *Ready, Set, Go to Work! 2014*, campers paired-up in a competition. Each pair was given two hours to encapsulate what they had learned during our days together in a visual format presenting this recap to judges as the final event of our camp. Each of the four groups chose to present a skit that captured the highlights of the challenges and learning they experienced. Awards were presented, door prizes were drawn and emails and text numbers were exchanged. Given the camper feedback collected in short videos as the youth collected their things to depart, our *Ready, Set, Go to Work! 2015* will be a *new and improved* version!

Upcoming Events

For fast-breaking news, "follow" our Facebook page.

Treasure Valley DHH Summer Play Group Contact: Jill Muir 914-3728/ jill.muir@iesdb.org

Wednesday, July 23- Idaho Aquarium- 10:00-12:00, 64 N. Cole Rd, Boise. We will receive the group discount- \$4.00 children ages 3-11, \$7.00 ages 12-adult, 2 and under free. Please arrive at 10:00 if you want the discount!

Wednesday, August 6- Jabbers-10:00 am-12:00 pm, 1210 N. Galleria Dr. Nampa. Play center at Nampa Gateway shopping center. Owner Linda Rutledge used to work at ISDB! We can get a group discount of \$5.00 for ages 4 and up, \$4.00 ages 1-3, adults free.

Magic Valley Hands & Voices: Lorna and Beth are back on the ball and have scheduled our usual summer activities. We'll have a picnic at Dierke's Lake Monday, July 21, at noon (bring beach toys and swimsuits, chairs or blankets, your own sandwich and beverage and something to share--chips, fruit, dessert, etc.) We'll nab a table close to the wading area. Come to Story Book Park in Burley Saturday, August 23, at 4:00 pm--we'll try to find a table near the unique playground equipment in the southeast corner of the park. Hands & Voices will provide the chicken, beverage and table

service (please RSVP to Beth); you bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. Watch for a flier with more information, or contact Lorna (324-7544) or Beth (961-1782) for more details.

Roaring Springs Water Park Deaf Awareness Day Saturday, July 19, 2014, 11:00 am – 8:00 pm \$15.99+tax per person plus special deals on food. No outside food or drink allowed into the park. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult. In partnership with the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; contact the Council at schreinc@dhw.idaho.gov or call 208-334-0879 to get an electronic copy of the flyer, which must be presented at the ticket booth in order to receive the discounts.

Idaho Parents Unlimited Webinars are offered the 4th Tuesday of each month, at three different times of the day. You can just listen in, or join the discussion and ask questions, all from your home computer. The July 29 topic is "Getting and Keeping the First Job." Participants will learn about the importance of employment for all and its particular impact on people with disabilities. The critical role of families and engaging youth in career planning as well as maintaining high expectations of youth are included, along with basic job search activities as well as skills that help youth with disabilities keep the jobs they get. Times are MDT:

10:00 - 11:00 am <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/476035598>

1:00 - 2:00 pm <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/110858334>

6:00 - 7:00 pm <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/145689582>

The August 26 topic is "IDEA and Getting Organized-Creating a Home File." Learn the steps in the Special Education process and the six guiding principles of IDEA. Parents also learn how to set up and maintain a filing system for their children with disabilities and special health care needs.

10:00 - 11:00 am <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/756336102>

1:00 - 2:00 pm <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/885348998>

6:00 - 7:00 pm <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/896836582>

Idaho Shakespeare Festival - Call the box office at 208-336-9221 and request seats in the Deaf/Hard of Hearing section on nights below for great seats at a huge discounts for your party! These particular performances are interpreted into American Sign Language. Whether you are a signing family or not, these are optimal seats for up-close understandability of dialogue. While Signing Shakespeare started out as a "signing" set of annual events, it has been embraced by a wider Deaf/Hard of Hearing audience, and welcomes families with cochlear implants, and families who communicate orally.

Death Trap - Tuesday, July 16th (for all ages)

Les Miserables - Tuesday, August 5th (for all ages)

Merry Wives of Windsor - Tuesday, August 19th (for all ages)

Steel Magnolias - Wednesday, September 10th (for ages 14 and up)

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That Sinking Feeling

by Rachel Grimes

Learning to trust ourselves is one of the big challenges of becoming parents. Even when newborn screening and early intervention go well, a parent may be the first to "know" when something's not quite right. Here's a perspective from one of our members:

"She's too smart to be deaf" they said. "She's autistic" they said. "She's just slow to talk" they said. "You're a first time mom and you are overreacting" they said. For three years I listened to "what they said", while I ignored that motherly sinking feeling (as I have come to call it!) I knew something was not right with my daughter, but the professionals told me otherwise. Finally, I reached my breaking point. After a blow up in the doctor's office I finally got a referral to a specialist 300 miles away from our small town. Within five minutes of the examination I heard the specialist say, "I can already tell your daughter has a moderate to severe hearing loss." From age 0-3, the most crucial time in language, my daughter was hearing little to nothing. Sure, I could have been angry at our primary care giver. I could have been angry at the multiple speech and developmental pathologists that worked with her for three years. I could have been angry with our small town hospital using bells as a newborn hearing screening. But, guess who I was the angriest at?!?

Myself! I had that motherly sinking feeling from the beginning and I shoved it down further and further with every professional that told me otherwise.

As a teacher, I was trained to identify issues with children. After my daughter's diagnosis, I had multiple people in my profession come up to me and blatantly say, "How did you not know?" "Isn't it obvious?" "Shouldn't you have known about this?" It's amazing how once a child gets an official diagnosis everybody in the world seems to come out of the woodworks to tell you all about it, but they said nothing up until that point. That was the hardest thing for me, not only finally accepting that my daughter was plum-near deaf, but hearing all the "you should have known" comments. They had no idea how much I had tried and cried...and yet no one would listen.

At three years old my daughter received her first pair of hearing aids. She then reverted to the years I feel she missed. She started to make traditional baby sounds, instead of just shrieking. At three and three months she went through the terrible twos (realizing for the first time the power of "no" and "I won't"!) and her behavior continued to go off the charts from there. She was kicked out of three different daycares for "acting too young for her age." It was a long, hard, heartbreaking road of trying to catch up.

Fast forward five years. My daughter is now thriving! She is above her grade level in reading, has a stable level of behavior, and is the most outgoing, energetic, humorous, fun loving child who is not afraid to talk to anyone! She's a master at reading lips and has an outlook at life that will make even the toughest of folks soften up. I finally thought that my daughter and I had found our place in this world and everything was leveling out... and then...

In come the regular, horrid, migraines, along with that all too familiar motherly sinking feeling. But this time, I'm ready. When the doc tried to tell me it was nothing and just wanted to medicate her, I put my foot down. I know this drill. Upon my insistence, my daughter received an MRI, which resulted in a diagnosis of Chairi, a condition where the cerebellum sits lower than usual, coming in contact with the spinal nerves.

And so we begin again. As parents/guardians of our children with greater needs, we know how hard they have to fight. However, if we ever give up even a smidgen of our parental fight, what do they have to fight for? As parents, we are their everything (whether they want to admit it or not!), and the strongest child comes from the even stronger parent(s).

You know those sleepless nights. You know those parental sinking feelings. You've exhausted your body, your mind, your emotions, and your soul on your child to try and fill those needs they are lacking. But you don't give up. The times that we feel that our strength has been sucked out of us, it's because we have given it all to our children. Which is worth it beyond words.

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We end this newsletter with a nifty idea for introducing classmates to "ear gear," from Cortney Peters, IESDB Educational Specialist in the Coeur d'Alene area:

In May I was able to get a loaner Cochlear Implant demonstration kit to show to middle schoolers how a Cochlear implant worked and the ways that it was different from a hearing aid. Spokane ENT provided me with demo CI, Baha, and hearing aids. The middle school students were really engaged and asked lots of questions. The student that was in their classroom with a CI was able to explain how his worked. It helped the student feel more comfortable in his classroom and the students had the chance to get to know him more rather than having him be identified by his Cochlear Implant. Without this demonstration kit, I wouldn't have been able to show the students exactly how the internal device works with the external parts to provide sound.

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Do you have a story to share? Please send newsletter submissions (we welcome book and product reviews, helpful hints, personal stories, amusing anecdotes, links to resources, etc.) to Lorna Irwin at niwri2@msn.com. She can't do this newsletter without you! Have writers' block? She will interview you, write your story, and send it to you for review.