

GCDHH NEWSLETTER



July 2021
GCDHH's 32nd Anniversary Celebration

GCDHH Is Celebrating Its 32nd Anniversary

Check out our photos throughout the years!



Grand opening of 4152 Memorial Drive location.



Children at Camp Julienna playing tug of war.







And here are some of our old newsletter below!

GACHI Communicator

GACHI, Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Georgia

Executive Director's Corner

Fall is here now and the Winter Holiday Season will soon be here before we know it.

The economy has affected all of us. By the time this newsletter goes into print, we will have a new president. Change is usually good. It forces us to re-evaluate what we now have and how we can best provide quality services at GACHI for all deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened and deaf-blind residents of Georgia. GACHI is now more dependent on members of the community like you for its continual support. GACHI is no longer a membership organization and is open to everyone who can benefit from this service. Our newsletter will now be on our website to allow everyone the opportunity to access it and learn about our programs, the pressing issues we are facing in Georgia, and forthcoming workshops throughout



*Thomas Galey
Executive Director*

For more community news,
plus a calendar of events,

Please visit

www.gachi.org

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the state. The Board of GACHI is very active, and they are exploring options on how we can best raise funds in order to continue to expand our programs and provide the sorely needed services that we now face. Since we now know that we cannot depend on legislation this coming year to fund us with increased funds due to the poor economy, we need all of you to help us contact our local legislators to continue the same funding for GACHI so that all deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened and deaf-blind Georgians can lead independent and productive lives. We take extreme pride in the fact that we are a one of a kind agency in the state and embrace the fact that we provide services to empower others to lead productive lives.

During the holiday season and throughout the year, the greatest gift you can give to GACHI is your continued support in terms of walking in the halls of the Capitol making yourselves visible to legislators, monetary contributions, volunteering to help us with fundraising events, organizing some deaf awareness events, joining the board and so forth.

Take pride that you are the stakeholders of GACHI, and it is here for you.

Happy Holidays to all of you!

G.A.C.H.I.

ANNUAL
REPORT
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GEORGIA COUNCIL FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED, INC.
SERVICE CENTER FOR THE DEAF & HEARING IMPAIRED

Message from the Director

Last year, I dedicated the first annual report to our legislators. They have been, and continue to be, our allies, our primary funding support, and my political mentors. I called upon them and their assistants for advice and feedback and they have always taken the time to show me which ropes need to be tied, how to tie them and how to pull them. I have learned much from them and the bureaucratic processes that confronted us.

This year was a tumultuous one: a roller coaster ride filled with a variety of emotions and responsibilities. In just one year, there was a great deal of pain, sorrow, and frustration. But there was also a great deal of comfort, support and joy. With every birth comes challenges; some of which grow beyond our comprehension and expectations. This all comes with the administrative responsibilities I assumed when I became the executive director. In just a short time span, so many changes took place in addition to the continued growing demand for our services. And while trying to juggle them all, no matter how difficult some of those times may have been, I knew I was not alone.



The Executive Officers and the entire Board of Directors have worked by my side as the Service Center emerged from a dream. This governing body has immersed itself in the entire process since our inception. In all of my 25 years in working with Boards, I have never felt so much love, support, commitment and respect. It did not stop there.

Three months ago, we were faced with another crisis: The Budget Crisis. While the Division of Rehabilitation Services proposed to eliminate the Service Center, you – the community, the grass roots, the membership, the recipients of services – responded to our needs. All of you exhausted the Georgia Relay Center's lines and made contact to the legisla-

tors. Someone from GAD took it upon herself to start a petition and took it to the Governor and his staff. How much more can I possibly ask for?

Your love, support, and respect sustained me and the staff during the summer months. We were comforted because we knew you cared.

We have many new and exciting events that will take place in the near future. The Alcoholics Anonymous group will commence on October 28 and November 11, a Battered Women's group and Rape Crisis group will begin in the winter. The Deaf men's support group will continue and more seminars relating to mental health needs and consumer credit needs will be made available in the future.

I welcome any ideas, suggestions, or changes that you think needs to be considered and hope that you will bring them to my attention. Please stay involved as we all need each other.

Thank you very much!

Respectfully,

Marcia Samuels Gitter
Marcia Samuels Gitter, MSS

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Inside This Issue:

- ▲ Q&A
Questions That Have Been Raised To The Director
- ▲ Program Services and Need
- ▲ Financial Statement
- ▲ Our Staff
- ▲ Goals Accomplished

Client Testimonial

Phuong-Loan Tran



iCC Consumer, Phuong-Loan Tran is excited to receive her new devices to accommodate her vision and hearing loss. She's pictured here with our iCC trainer, Jackie.



If you know anyone that has dual vision and hearing loss, they may qualify for iCC.
www.helpinghandsforthedeaf.org
www.gcdhh.org/icc

Do You Have Hearing Loss?

We've got you covered! You may qualify for no-cost equipment from Georgia Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program.



Prior to COVID-19, Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (GCDHH) offered American Sign Language (ASL) Courses in-person at the center. When the pandemic started, GCDHH took a new approach with virtual classes for ASL to respect safety concerns. Today, remote classes are available for the community (age 14 and up) and businesses. Below are *upcoming* available courses:

ASL I - Beginner

ASL II - Intermediate

ASL III - Advanced

ASL IV - Advanced+

*There will be eight two-hour-long classes each semester.

The textbook is highly recommended for all ASL units- **A Basic Course in American Sign Language (Second Edition)**. This can be ordered via Amazon. GCDHH offers online ASL classes for children younger than 14 years old for one hour for eight sessions. We also offer private ASL one-on-one for a separate fee. At the end of the semester, a Certificate of Attendance will be given for those who participated. This is only for the proof of participation in ASL course and this does not count as certified for Sign Language Interpreter. If you wanted to become a certified interpreter, you would have to take Interpreting courses at any college/university that offers them.

If you are interested to learn American Sign Language, price inquiry or have questions, please email Community Coordinator, Andrea Alston at:

Aalston@gcdhh.org

404-381-8448

**Visit our
website**

Did you know you can sign up your workplace for virtual American Sign Language Classes?

GCDHH offers customized ASL classes for businesses and workplaces. With a flat

rate (prices are negotiable), your company can pick the hours and multiple dates for virtual ASL classes. You and your co-workers will take sessions and practice together on learning a new language. If interested, you can bring this available course to the attention of your management and contact us at Aalston@gcdhh.org. Your company can make a difference in language accessibility for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community!

Fill out Questionnaire



GCDHH has its own interpreting service!

Whether it's in-person or virtual interpreting, we will make the process easy for you.

Contact us for more questions or book for an interpreter:

Phone: 404-207-9362

Email: Requests@gcdhh.org



Center for Assessment of Sign Language Interpretation (CASLI)

Did you know that GCDHH is the only location in the state of Georgia that offers on-site CASLI testing?

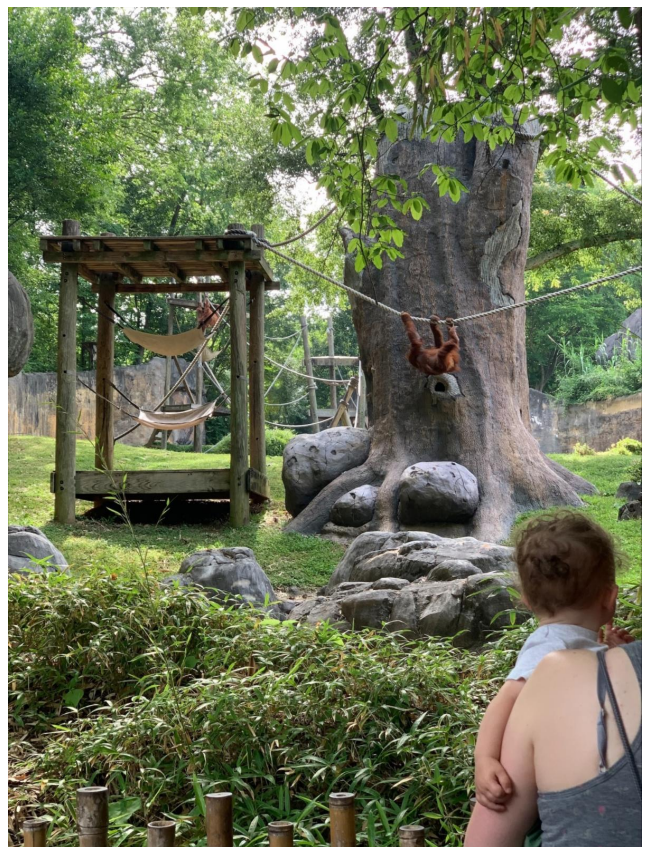
What is CASLI?: It is a performance exam to test your interpreting skills.

After purchasing a token from CASLI.org, contact request@gcdhh.org to schedule the date and time.

ASL Day at Atlanta Zoo

Enjoy these photos from our recent ASL Day at The Atlanta Zoo





GCDHH UPCOMING EVENTS

**GCDHH 32ND
ANNIVERSARY**

COME CELEBRATE WITH US!!!

THURSDAY, 15 JULY

Shorty's Neighborhood Eatery
3701 Lawrenceville Hwy
Tucker, GA 30084

Cost Per Person 37.10 (tax included)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/georgia-center-of-the-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing-37653085611>

Get Tickets for GCDHH's 32nd Anniversary

August 28th, 3:30pm - Atlanta United
October 9th - Six Flags

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[View Email as Webpage](#)