2019 DeafCAN! News

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First Deaf Refugee Conference in Rochester, NY:

Wow! Just back (June 2019 from the first Deaf Refugee Conference to be held in the United States. It was a tribute to the work being done with those in need in various corners of our country for this doubly-isolated population. The conference was fantastically run by Deaf Refugee Advocacy & held at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, NY. Agencies serving Deaf refugees, health clinics, educators and advocates from around the US attended three days of heartfelt sharing.
All those attending were dedicated skilled people, mostly Deaf themselves and committed to this very important work. Three of our staff and four of those we work with attended and 'team-presented' about our work in the Greater Phila area. We were then treated to a final night performance by local Deaf immigrants & refugees. They acted out their various journeys from oppression, isolation, hunger and war in their home countries and refugee camps, to their new lives in the US - leaving very few dry eyes in the house. Their journeys are still being made possible and much easier by the 100 plus volunteers at Deaf Refugee Advocacy who assist them with everything from food and shelter, learning American Sign Language, English and obtaining accessible healthcare. Perhaps most importantly, they were met here by Deaf people, much like them, who understood being isolated and shut out, but who had also learned how to 'come out, affirm their beauty, fight back and access the same opportunities that others had. Wow / PAH!!

Deaf Refugee Conference Presentation with Bhawani Dangal, Deaf refuge & dual Sign interpreter from Bhutan, with a Deaf/ hearing team of interpreters, and two screens, powerpoint & live captions – it takes a Deaf village!

Save the Date Oct 19 for our "Deaf International Fest" & Signs from Around the World

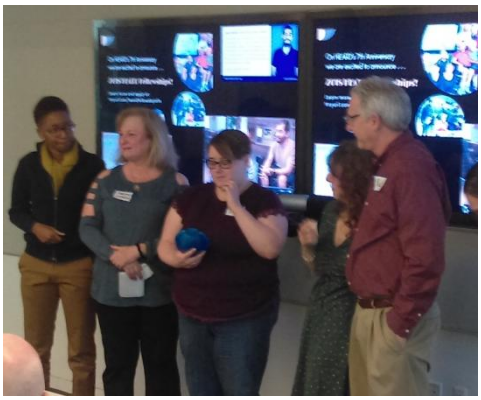
DeafCANI will be carrying on the energy from the Refugee Conference with our own Fall Deaf International Fest. There, many of those we work with in our three weekly classes will present their stories, display their crafts.... & hands will show their power & hope.

July 13 Ushers Syndrome Conference (vision & hearing loss)

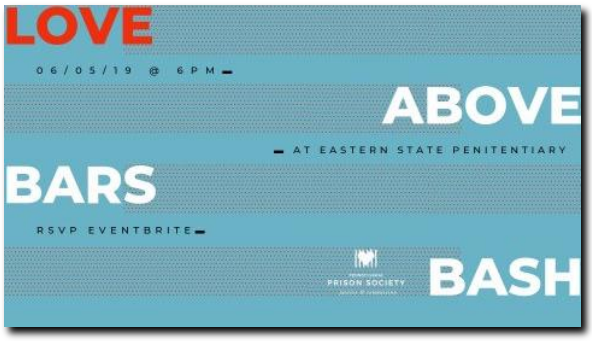
DeafCAN! was selected to provide SSPs for individuals who are DeafBlind and attending the first International Ushers Syndrome Conference held in Philadelphia July 13.

Criminal Justice

With the help of HEARD (Helping Educate to Advance the Rights of Deaf Communities) and others, we drafted a Model of Accommodations & working with, or reaching out to, the PA Dept of Corrections, Federal Bureau of Prisons, mental health forensic units, such as Norristown State Hospital, & regional county jails to enhance conditions, while continuing our visits & advocacy for Deaf/hard of hearing inmates & returning citizens in this region.



HEARD Staff giving Awards at their 8th anniversary



In June we attended the "Love Above Bars Bash" annual meeting of the PA Prison Society 'PPS' in Philadelphia. We collaborate with PPS to identify Deaf inmates throughout PA. "Founded in 1787, this is PPS's 232nd year of advocating to "insure humane prison and jail conditions" in Pennsylvania.

DelCo's Deaf Community - Barriers & Bridges

On May 23, DeafCAN! held a workshop in Delaware County for service providers, educators, and families to listen to and ask questions of a very diverse group of 10 Deaf individuals from the area who have faced many challenges and crossed many bridges.

Barriers & Bridges Participants, Interpreters & CART

New Part-Time Staff at DeafCAN!

We recently hired three new part-time staff: Heather Pringle, Donna Larsen, and Rachel Kubus. Heather has worked with us as an intern since last September helping with each of our programs. Donna and Rachel join as our newest SSPs. Welcome to all three!!

DeafCAN! Class of individuals from Bhutan, the Philippines, Colombia, Syria & Liberia visit the 100th anniversary celebration of the ACLU.

Universal Measures of Humanity

from all Major Faith & Nonfaith Traditions

First - Are you Humble? Kind? and Honest?
Second - Do you feed the hungry? House the poor? Visit the prisoner?
Finally - Do you apply your unique skills for the benefit of others?