



## Relationships are the Foundation of What We Do

Rosemary W. Diaz  
Executive Director

The rumor mill has started and I am glad/sad to say that this time the rumor is true. Yes, I have submitted my resignation as Executive Director of DHHSC and my last day will be June 30, 2007. I know that even after I leave that my heart and mind will still be here at DHHSC. Please know that there is only ONE reason why I have decided to leave and that is because of my daughter, Rashelle Raissa, (who just turned 1 in October).

Becoming a mother has changed my life and my priorities. Right now my #1 priority is to be with my daughter. Of course my impending departure makes me think back over the last 6 years that I have been here with DHHSC (Can you believe it has been 6 years!!!). One word comes to mind as a way of explaining the tremendous success that we have had here at DHHSC and that word is RELATIONSHIPS! Our foundation, our triumphs, our accomplishments, and our journey has been marked by establishing relationships with various organizations, agencies, businesses, foundations, donors, community members, and more. I would like to share some specific examples:

In October, DHHSC has the honor and opportunity of sponsoring the Central Valley Mayor's Committee Conference and Luncheon by providing interpreting services. This sponsorship came out of a relationship that has been built with this committee over the last several years and specifically with Chairperson John Lloyd. DHHSC also was able to partner with the Center for Independent Living in Fresno during a recent visit from Secretary of State Bruce McPherson as he shared with us the new Voter's Guide in ASL and the new accessible voting machines located throughout Fresno County. The relationship with CIL has become very strong with the new Director, Robert Hand. Also in October, DHHSC has the privilege of working alongside several partners in hosting the first Annual Disability and Employment Awareness Event in Fresno County. This effort was led by the Department of Rehabilitation and included several others including Fresno County Office of Education, Center for Independent Living-Fresno, Valley Center for the Blind, Fresno State's Rehab Counseling program and more. Again, our relationships with these partners have allowed tremendous new programs and success to be attained and we are very grateful. Another example is current progress being made to establish a program for Adult Basic Education for deaf or hard of hearing individuals living in Central Valley at the Fresno Adult School. More information about this can be found on page 4. This process has come about because of strong relationships with Fresno County Office of Education, Fresno Unified School District, Fresno Adult School, and Clovis Unified School District. Without these elements in place who knows if this very exciting program would have ever been established.

It is the relationship that we have with each of you, our readers, our supporters, our friends, who have allowed DHHSC to make its mark, to have a place on the map, to be the successful organization that it is today. DHHSC will continue to be successful, even through the upcoming changes, because of the relationships that we have with each of you. Thank you for making a choice to support DHHSC – you make us shine!

Last but not least, I would like to thank the DHHSC Staff, Board of Directors, and volunteers who have made it their life's work and commitment to further the mission and vision of DHHSC.

***We believe in you, through empowerment and support, success is possible!***

*Rosemary W. Diaz*



**Show your Support for**

# Women's Conference was Successful

Michelle Bronson  
Case Manager

The Fourth Annual Deaf Women's Conference took place at DHHSC on November 4, 2006, and it was a successful and fun event. We had approximately 75 women at the conference and a terrific line-up of presenters who shared a wealth of information. The topics covered at the conference included Women and Depression, Forgiveness, Five Love Languages, Personality Types, and Leadership & Communication Styles. Through presentations, participants were taught that a better understanding of oneself and others is essential to emotional well-being. The event's presenters were LaRonda Zupp, Lisa Painter, Lisa Catron, Kathy Yoshida and Lorraine Peters Wilson. Each presenter did a fabulous job of conveying complex concepts into concrete, applicable steps we can implement to improve our quality of life. Thank you to each of our honored presenters for attending our conference and making a positive impact on our lives, emotional health, relationships, and marriage.

The conference was made possible by a terrific team of sponsors, staff, interpreters, SSPs, and



volunteers. Thank you to Sorenson for sponsoring our conference, this special annual event anticipated by our local Deaf and Hard of Hearing women in our community. We would also like to thank Starbucks and Jamba Juice for providing a delicious breakfast, DiCicco's for providing lunch, and Marie Calendar's Restaurant & Bakery for providing dessert; we are grateful for each of the restaurants' generous donations. After a filling lunch the afternoon was spent learning more about our personalities. We then had the purse raffle/auction, and after some very animated bidding, we sampled Michelle Montelongo's delicious scones while shopping at the booths.

We would like to thank the donors for providing purses and donations for our purse raffle/auction. Coleen Buckley designed beautiful and classy jewelry to be included in some of the purses, and Judy Eberwein and Karen Balske donated some wonderful purses for our conference. We are grateful for everyone's involvement to make this raffle/auction an entertaining fundraiser for DHHSC. We had such a wonderful array of purses containing different toiletries, jewelry, personal care kits, candles, passes to local businesses, etc.

We would also like to thank all the vendors involved for sharing their products with the community. Booths are a



wonderful way to expose the community to different local enterprises run

by women who initially decompressed (released stress) by making products, whether it be jewelry, crafts, or candles. When a certain homemade product becomes successful, the person has the option of making it into a business to support oneself and family. Hobbies oftentimes lead to successful ventures, so we wanted our Deaf and Hard of Hearing women in the community to see how these women got started. We learn from each other, and it can be rewarding to see others enjoy a product that one has invented or made.

The Fourth Annual Deaf Women's Conference was a special event put together by a great team of women. We appreciate each one of you, and please keep an eye out for our Fifth Annual Deaf Women's Conference next November!

*DHHSC would like to thank the following sponsors and donors for helping to make the women's conference possible:*

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Anne Ogden                   | Kimmy's Nails & Beauty      |
| Big Dog Co.                  | Marie Calendar's            |
| Big 5                        | Michelle Montelongo         |
| BM Moon                      | New plate designs           |
| California Kitchen           | Orchard Supply Hardware     |
| Coleen's Creations           | Oweta Wicks                 |
| Country Critters             | Rogers Jewelers             |
| Di Cicco's at West & Herndon | Scarlet O'Hara              |
| D & L Roses                  | Sharper Image               |
| Grace at Fashion Fair        | Sorenson                    |
| Jamba Juice                  | Starbucks at West & Herndon |
| Kaitlin Rickerd              | Target                      |
|                              | X-press Gym                 |

# Elder Abuse Can Be a Daily Terror

Ron Hults  
Senior Community Service  
Officer, Fresno Police Dept.

It would seem unimaginable that any person would take advantage of an elderly person, however elder abuse is more common than you think. Many elders do not understand that this can be a problem and are unaware of the existing danger.

Could it happen to you or an elder friend, relative or neighbor? YES, too often an elder victim, living alone, has lost contact with others and may not be "looked in on" regularly by concerned family members. Criminals often target the defenseless and unaware, vulnerable elders.

You can make a difference in the life of an elder who may have become an unwitting victim of financial abuse or who is virtually being held captive in their own home by

person(s) who are exploiting the elder for their money. In some cases elders have been forced to transfer title of their home to a "caregiver" who has established control over the elder.

California State law classifies a person as an elder when they become 65 years of age. State Penal Code Section 368 protects both the elder and dependent adult 18-64 years of age. Crimes against elders and dependent adults are offenses that are either financial or physical in nature. Approximately 80 percent of the crimes committed against elders are financial and the majority of these crimes are committed in the elders' own residence. Sadly, too often family members, acting as "caregivers," are the responsible culprits.

Crimes against elders may be non-willful (unintentional) or willful (intentional) acts. Non-willful acts may include a

failure of a person to fulfill the individual responsibility of a caregiver, and the caregiver can be prosecuted as a result.

Willful criminal acts committed against elders are either physical or financial crimes. Physical crimes can include psychological or emotional trauma, active neglect, non-consensual sexual contact, and non-accidental use of physical force that results to bodily injury, pain or impairment.

Active neglect is the failure of a caregiver to provide the elder or dependent adult with the basic human necessities of life by withholding care and treatment or failing to properly administer prescribed medication, food or water.

Symptoms of abuse include changes in behavior, physical appearance and demeanor. Abuse often results in

depression, which stems from having been a victim of elder abuse, being victimized by a scam where a criminal has stripped the elder of their life savings. These events can leave an elderly person devastated, embarrassed, and afraid they will be deemed incapable of handling their own affairs in addition to the fear that they will be taken from their residence and put into an institutionalized home. Depression often follows.

A concerned person, neighbor, friend or relative does not need proof that abuse is present, only that abuse is *suspected*. If you think there might be a problem, turn it over to trained professionals. The truth will be determined by the authorities. To report abuse call the California Department of Justice sponsored elder abuse and dependent adult pre-recorded hotline at, 1-888-436-3600.

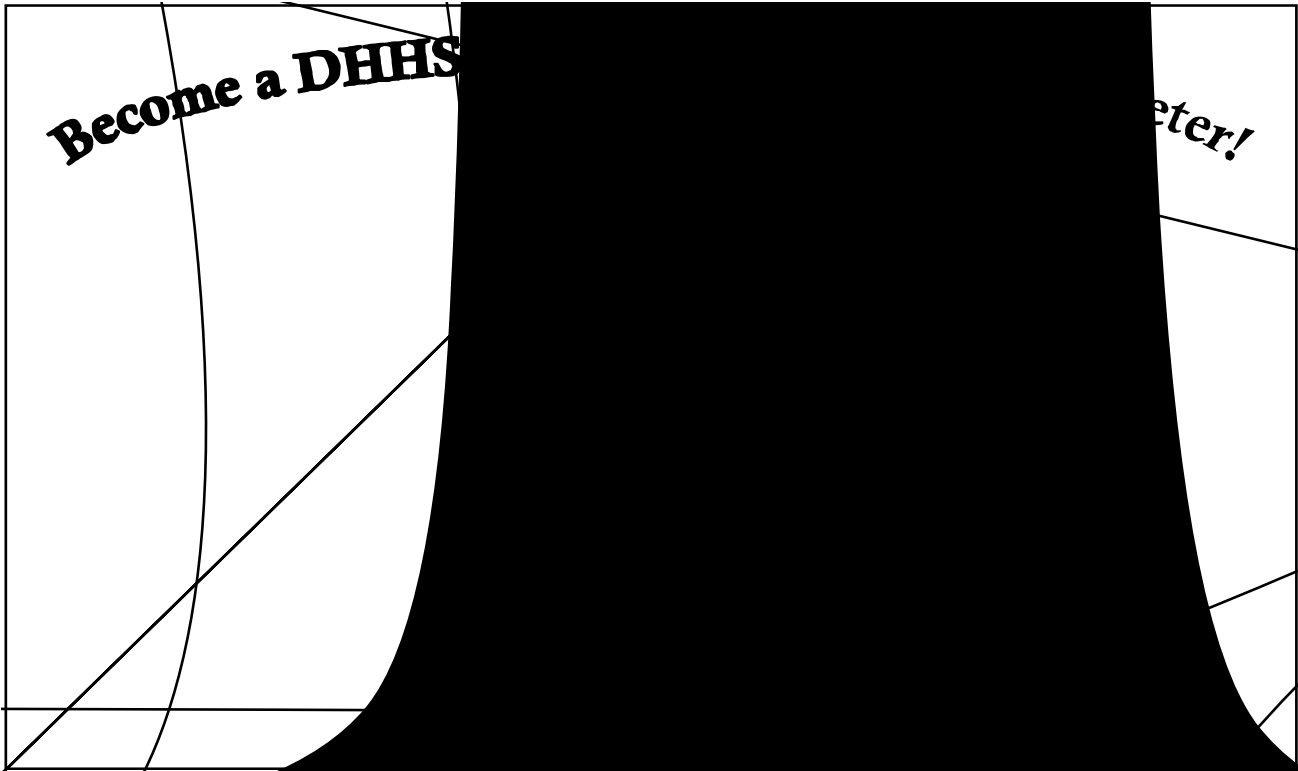
*This article reproduced in part from the Senior Guice Magazine with the permission of the author.*

## Tips for Preventing Elder Abuse

- Carefully select roommates and living location; live with people you trust.
- If looking to hire a caregiver, check the "caregiver registry." Check all references and background of people before hiring to be your caregiver.
- Keep all private documents (financial and personal) out of sight of the caregiver.
- *Do not share personal information!* Do not give credit card, debit card or bank account information, personal identification numbers (PINs), social security number, your mothers' maiden name or your date of birth with others unless required by law.
- Conduct business with valid business people who are properly licensed and whose reputation and business record can be checked.
- *Get a third opinion* from a lawyer or another professional person before you sign any contracts that can affect financial affairs in your life.



**If you suspect elder abuse, call 1-888-436-3600 to report it**



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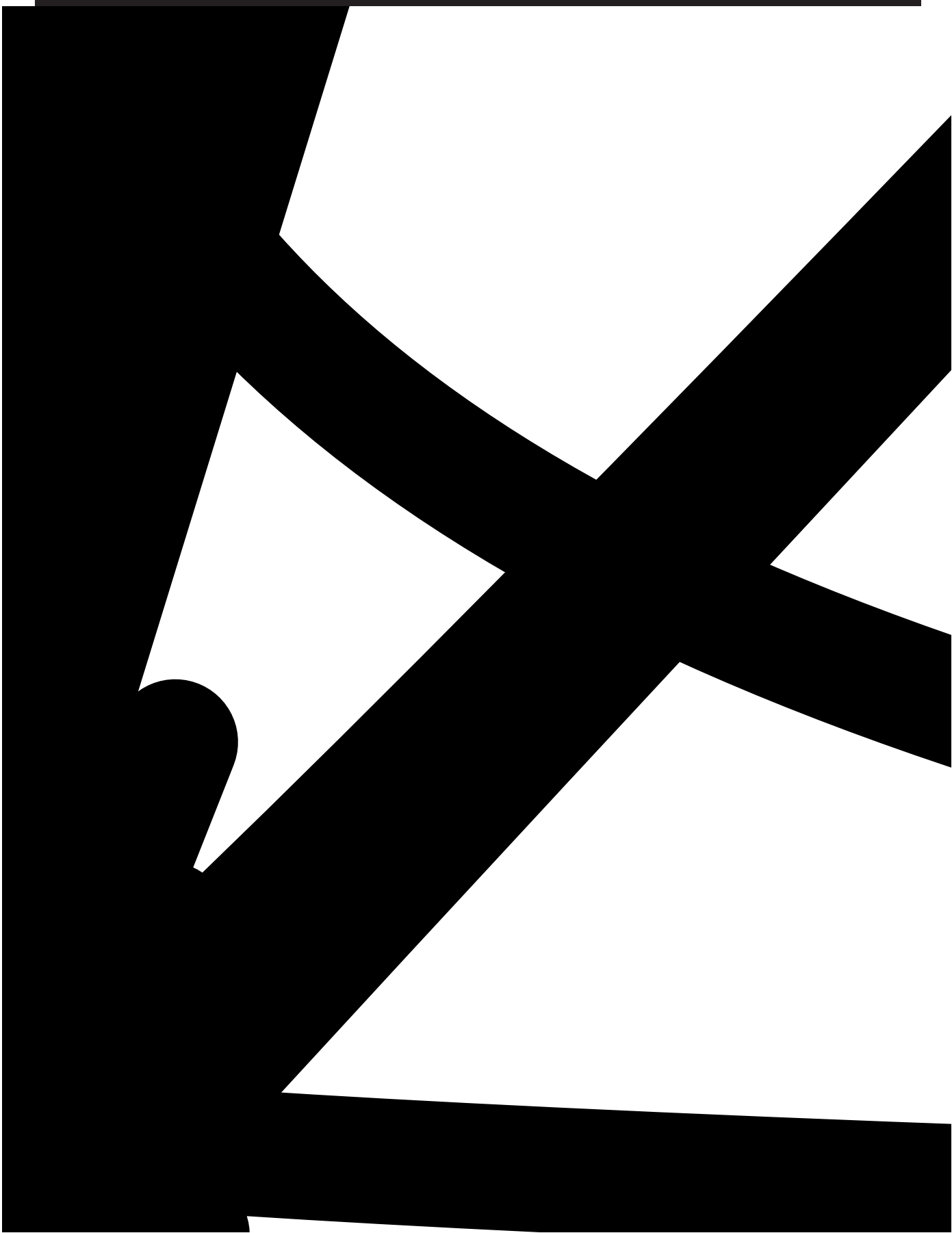
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## Upcoming Workshops and Events

DHHS - Merced Outreach Office will be having several exciting and informative events set up for the months to come! We took a survey and counted votes on what the community wanted a few months ago. In an effort to have events and workshops on the choices you all made, we will work hard to make these things happen. We hope you will all come to what we plan and if you think of other events, socials, or workshops you may be interested in, please let us know and we will do our best to do those events.

- Safety Workshop to learn how to make your home a safe place for your children. You can also prepare for the event of a disaster in our area, know how to make a safer place for older people and other useful information.



- Employment and Americans with Disabilities Act workshops, including information on how to get an interpreter when you need one.



- In March, DHHS will be the host for the Chamber of Commerce March Mixer. Come join us for fun and food on March 15th and meet some of the Chamber members. Introduce yourselves and let them see what a wonderful community we have, with people like you in it.

### Staff Changes, New Additions

Mai Nou Vang is our new Department of Rehabilitation Employment Specialist, who will be assisting clients with job searches and preparing to go to interviews and much more. If you are interested in finding a job, ask us how you can get these services. Matthew Mackenzie will now become our Independent Living Skills Specialist. He will be able to help anyone who would like to become more independent. Ask Matthew about the services he has to offer you. Let's welcome them to their new positions.

On a personal note, Matthew became the proud Daddy to Caden Clark Mackenzie on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Matthew and his wife Cheryl! Caden is very cute and we hope to see him in person soon.

### More In Merced

*Terry Welch  
Coordinator of Client Services*

We have a library in our office. You are welcome to come see what is available in the library anytime during our working hours. You may have family or friends who are interested in learning more about Deaf or Hard of Hearing -related subjects, and they are welcome to use our library too. Books and videos can be checked out for two weeks at a time. We encourage you to come see what we have!



Our computer lab is open from 8:30-12:00pm and 1:00 to 4:30pm. If you need assistance on the computer, please call and make an appointment with one of our staff. If you want to do job searches, apartment or home searches, homework for school, or just get on e-mail, you are more than welcome to come in and use our lab.



Did you know we have a book store here at MOO? It is small, but we can order items from a catalog we use. If you want to buy some cute gifts or have a friend with a birthday coming up and you have no idea what to get them, come check out our store. Maybe you will find that perfect something here!!

We hope that 2007 will be a prosperous and healthy year for you all!!



### Want to Get Events Fliers?

Merced Outreach Office (MOO) sends out bi-monthly fliers. This means that for January and February you will get the fliers and a calendar of events, days we are closed and other important information. At the end of February you will receive the fliers for the months of March and April. If you know someone who wants to receive our fliers, please have them contact us and we will add them to our list.



# Central Coast Chitter Chatter

Patty Killough

Case Manager of Children's Services

Dina Toschi

ILS Specialist

We have been busy here at the Central Coast Outreach office!! This year has flown by so far and we are sure it will keep collecting momentum. Wayne's presence has been missed, not only by staff members but also by his faithful Hard of Hearing and Deaf clients in the community who often stop in to see him. In the mean time, we eagerly await Wayne's return!

Our Community Comments/Picnic was a hit! We had several Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Hearing community members join us for a BBQ and story telling. We all had a blast and really enjoyed all of the input we got from our dedicated community. Check the DHHSC website for more events to come on the Central Coast.

Patty has been hard at work with her new Family Focus Meetings. The first meeting went incredibly well which has set a stage for future meetings. Each session will have a specific focus for parents and their children to benefit from. Patty is

working hard to meet the needs of her various clients and has done a great job of addressing topics of interest. Children, parents and volunteers are also welcome to express themselves through story telling at the end of each meeting. Games and activities are incorporated to ensure a fun, friendly environment is maintained. Please contact Patty at [patriciak@dhhsc.org](mailto:patriciak@dhhsc.org) for more information if you or someone you know would be interested in joining the Family Focus group.

ILS services are still going strong as Dina's clients continue to utilize DHHSC as needed. Peer counseling, document assistance and assistive technology seem to be the areas of greatest interest. Researching new information and making local contacts keep Dina on her toes when she is in the office! As always, information and referral play a great part in both Dina's and Patty's busy schedules.

Contact us for more information on any event or service...or if you just

want to say hi!! 831-753-6540 (V) 831-753-6541 (TTY) or by email Dina Toschi ([dinat@dhhsc.org](mailto:dinat@dhhsc.org)), Patty Killough ([patriciak@dhhsc.org](mailto:patriciak@dhhsc.org)), or Wayne Johnson ([waynej@dhhsc.org](mailto:waynej@dhhsc.org)).



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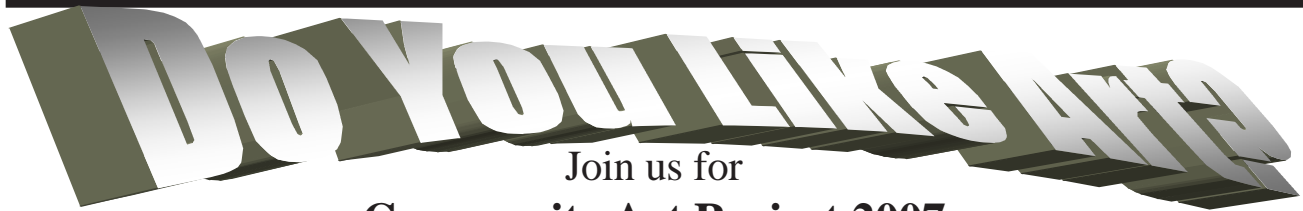
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Join us for

## Community Art Project 2007

### Calling all local artists in our community!

On Saturday, January 20, we will do a Community Art Project for our South Valley Outreach Office. We are going to do a large 3-panel painting to display on the wall in our library room. If you are interested in helping, we want you to be involved!

**We will have the design all ready on that day, we just need you to help paint!**

**When you sign up, we will give you a time of the day to come on January 20th, 2007.**

**The number of people will be limited due to space.**

**To Sign Up for this event, contact the South Valley Outreach Office**

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# SVO Staff Interpreter Becomes Deaf

*Shannon Simonelli  
Deaf Bee Editor*

If you have visited the South Valley Outreach Office in Visalia, chances are that you have met Victoria Graves, a DHHSC staff interpreter since 2003. Recently though, she has not been interpreting. What is the reason for this change? Victoria is now Deaf.

In September of 2005, Victoria first began to notice a difference in her hearing, as she explained, "I realized I was having to ask several times for people to repeat what they said, and was having a tough time understanding what was being said. I blew it off the first time, but when it happened a second time I went and had my hearing tested." Tests confirmed that she did indeed have a substantial hearing loss, and by May of 2006 she was unable to continue interpreting.

Her interpreting career began in 1978 as a result of the encouragement from a friend who interpreted for a deaf couple at her church. "I felt a real tug to learn ASL, but didn't want to because of [misconceptions I had] about deaf people...I put it off for several weeks, until I couldn't sleep, it bothered me so much." Eventually she started learning ASL and within six months she was interpreting, a whim that became a lifelong career.

For Victoria, her journey from interpreter to Deaf person has been an

interesting one. One of her greatest challenges is "having to use an interpreter. I'm not yet comfortable with having to have someone in the middle of the conversation. But, according to my daughter, people should have pity on the interpreters, not me—she says SHE wouldn't want to have to interpret for someone with two certifications!!" Having been on the

**"As an interpreter, I really wasn't able to help affect change in a person, but in my new role [As Coordinator of Client Services] I am able to see people's lives change for the better. That's quite rewarding."**

**- Victoria Graves**

"other side" of the interpreting process Victoria recognizes the importance of appreciating interpreters who allow communication to truly happen.

Her deafness has also evoked some changes within her family. Most of her children know a little sign language, having grown up with an interpreter mom - now they are signing more than ever. Recently her husband,

Kurt, and youngest son decided that they want to learn more ASL to ease communication and have taken steps to immerse themselves into the Deaf community by joining a Deaf congregation. Victoria commends her family for their efforts. "They are committed to making sure that communication happens, but it is a growing process...My husband is sweet, though - when we are driving, and the radio is on, he will interpret (as best he can) the songs for me." Victoria and her family have learned through this process to not take communication for granted and to insure that they truly understand each other.

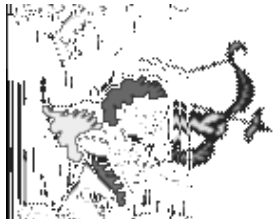
Now after 28 years of interpreting Victoria has had to allow her certifications to lapse and enter into a new career as the Coordinator of Client Services in Visalia. Her new job entails working directly with clients in the areas of advocacy and independent living skills, as well as continuing her duties as office manager. Most clients have been surprised to learn of her new status as "Deaf." Victoria noted that "some have 'welcomed me to this side of the fence,' some have been saddened, some are happy...also some of the folks forget that I'm no longer hearing and can't interpret for them. But I can say in all honesty, everyone has been very supportive!"



# January 2007



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Closed for New Year's	2	3	4	5 Closed for Staff Development Meetings	6
7	8	9	10 Brown Bag Lunch (see pg 7) 12pm-1:30pm Living with Hearing Loss, 1:30pm—4pm	11	12	13 DFG Movie night 7pm-9pm Parenting Workshop 10am-12p (see enclosed flier)
14	15 Closed for Martin Luther King Day	16	17	18	19	20 Board Meeting 10a-12pm, @ CIL— Fresno Conference room, 3008 N. Fresno Street, Suite 2490
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Parenting Workshop 10a-12p (see enclosed flier)
28	29	30	31			



# February 2007



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Closed for Staff Development Meetings	2 Closed for Staff Development Meetings	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Closed for Lincoln's Birthday <b>Board Meeting</b> 6:30pm, DHHS C	13 5 Love Languages Workshop 10a-12p <i>(see enclosed flier)</i>	14 Brown Bag Lunch <i>(see pg 7)</i> 12pm— 1:30pm Living with Hearing Loss, 1:30pm—4pm	15	16	17
18	19 Closed for President's Day	20	21	22	23	24 Parenting Workshop 10a-12p <i>(see enclosed flier)</i>
25	26	27	28			



# March 2007



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Closed for Staff Development Meetings	2 Closed for Staff Development Meetings	3 Martha's Vineyard in the Valley, 10am— 1pm (see enclosed flier)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Board Meeting, 6:30pm, DHHSC	13	14 Brown Bag Lunch (see pg 7) 12pm— 1:30pm Living with Hearing Loss, 1:30pm—4pm	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Closed for Cesar Chavez Day	31



# April 2007



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Closed for Staff Development Meetings	7 BBQ & Ping Pong tournament 10a-4p (see enclosed flier)
8	9	10	11 Brown Bag Lunch (see pg 7) 12pm— 1:30pm Living with Hearing Loss, 1:30pm—4pm	12	13 Rummage Sale— For Deaf Community only 12pm—6pm (see enclosed flier)	14 Rummage Sale— All welcome, (see enclosed flier)
15	16	17	18 Community Resource Fair, 9am—12pm	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Board Meeting, 10am-2pm, 20 W. Pacheco Blvd., Los Banos (across from Pizza Hut)
29	30					

**DHSC Building Fund List of Donors June 2002 to November 2006**

“Friends of DHSC” - Thank you to each and every one of our donors!!

To find out how to get your name on this list, contact any DHSC office TODAY!!

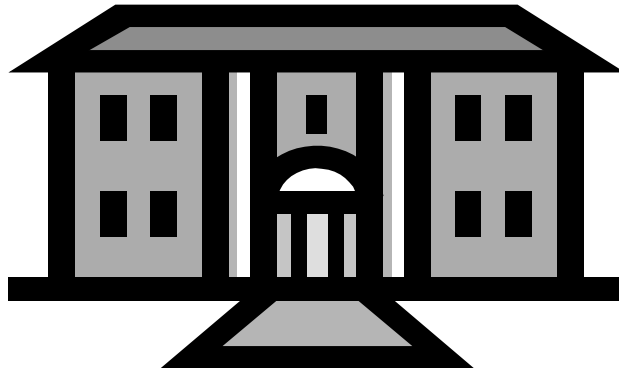
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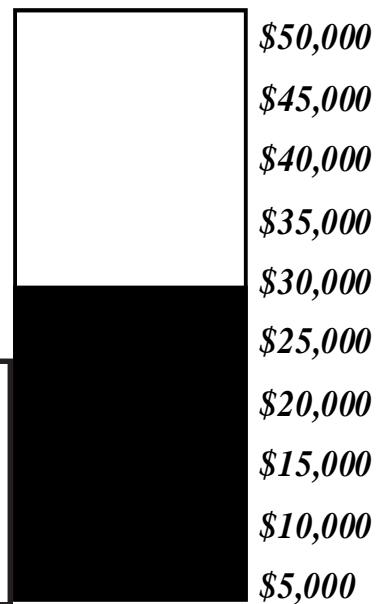
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**We've raised \$28,000.00 so far!**  
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*Additional support for our "Live with DHSC and Rosa Lee" event has been provided by the following people and businesses:*

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| Central Valley Internet                     | Red Robin  | Sorenson                             |
| Doghhouse Grill                             | Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory at Fashion Fair | Subway                               |
| Elephant Bar                                |  | TGI Friday's                         |
| Jamba Juice                                 |  |                                      |



## DHHSC Board of Directors Needs You

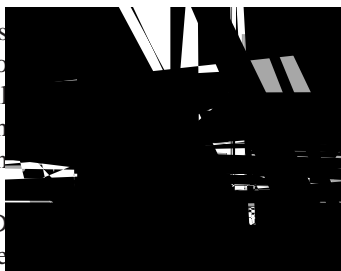
Helen Porter  
*Board of Directors, Secretary*

The current Board of Directors hopes that all of you have seen our schedule of meetings. We LOVE seeing visitors at our meetings, and each time you show up it brightens our day! Visitors mean that we get to talk with concerned members of the Deaf Community, the very same group of people that we aim to serve with the decisions we make in our meetings!

There are now 5 core Board members left: Dave Smith, Christy West, Helen Porter, Patty Parker, and Dorsey Chany. Sadly, two of those members will no longer be able to serve by next summer because their terms will run out! Dorsey Chany has been on the Board for 6 years and Helen Porter has been on the Board for 5 1/2 years! No Board member can stay on the Board for more than 6 years, according to term limits as specified in our bylaws. Every Board member must take 1 year off and then he/she can join again for

6 more years if it's agreeable to everyone. So we will need to replace both Dorsey and Helen SOON.

**WE NEED YOU!** If you have ever thought that you would like to make decisions about how DHHSC is run, if you have ever thought that you would enjoy spending time with a group of your friends and fellow Deaf Community members, if you appreciate DHHSC and would like to support what the agency does for all people in Central California, then there is a spot on the Board for YOU! The Board has enough spaces for 12 people total. So we need 7 more people to join now! After Dorsey and Helen have to leave we will have 9 spots on the Board!



To join the Board you need to come to 3 meetings within 4 months and then fill out a brief application which the Board will review. The night you plan to join, the current Board members will interview you. It sounds like you are

applying for a job, however, you are volunteering your time. The application and interview are simply procedures to help us get to know you before you join and to make sure that we have people on the Board who are truly interested in serving DHHSC and the Deaf Community.

I hope you will come see us at our next meeting (see calendar pgs 14-17). You can come and tell us your ideas or complaints or compliments; there is time for everyone to speak for a few minutes during the meeting. Will we see you there? You would be welcome!

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#### Board of Directors

President: David Smith (Deaf)  
Vice-President: Christy West (Hearing)  
Secretary: Helen Porter (Hearing)  
Treasurer: VACANT

#### General Board Members

Dorsey Chany (Deaf)  
Patty Parker (Late-Deafened)

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*South Valley Outreach:*  
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To sign up for DHHSC Outreach Office News please contact:

Central Coast Outreach **Wayne Johnson**  
Merced Outreach Office **Terri Welch**  
South Valley Outreach **Victoria Graves**

### Advertise your Business in the Deaf Bee!

#### Fees for Non-Profit Business

Business card size (2" X 3 1/2")	\$50.00
1/4 page size (3" X 4 1/2")	\$100.00
1/2 page size (7 1/2" X 5")	\$150.00
Full page size (7 1/2" X 10")	\$200.00

#### Fees for Profit Business

Business card size (2" X 3 1/2")	\$75.00
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1/2 page size (7 1/2" X 5")	\$175.00
Full page size (7 1/2" X 10")	\$225.00

Fax or e-mail your advertisement to the attention of The Deaf Bee. Be sure to include the advertisement size you prefer. DHHSC will send you an invoice for the cost. If you have any questions please give us a call at DHHSC -

Fresno Headquarters.

**DeafBee@dhhsc.org**

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Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Center's mission is to advocate, seek equality, and promote self-determination through empowerment for those who seek our assistance, and to enhance the awareness and understanding of the Deaf Culture and the unique communication needs of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals