



Hand-N-Hand of Northeastern Wisconsin, Inc. provides support and resources for families who have children experiencing hearing loss. Our vision is 'In NE WI all babies and young children who are identified with hearing loss will have a centralized resource creating a regional alliance with other agencies that provide services for children with hearing loss'.

# Happenings

UNIQUELY PROVIDING SUPPORT AND RESOURCES SINCE 2002

## Did You Know...

- ✚ Annually, in Wisconsin, roughly **110** children enter the world with a permanent hearing loss (WE-TRAC).
- ✚ Every year in the United States, **2 to 3** of every **1,000** children are born with hearing loss (CDC).
- ✚ Hearing loss is one of the most common congenital birth defects, yet nearly all parents of children with hearing loss have typical hearing, and no experience with the implications of hearing loss (CDC, 2010).
- ✚ Higher levels of family involvement in promoting children's communication are associated with enhanced child language outcomes (Watkin et al., 2007).
- ✚ The expertise of the provider, including knowledge and skills that are specific to working with children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families, is widely recognized as a key component of providing quality services (JCIH, 2013; Moeller et al., 2013).

## Why Support Hand-N-Hand?

- ✚ **2021** kicks off our **19<sup>th</sup>** year of providing specialized support and resources for families with children experiencing hearing loss.
- ✚ Hand-N-Hand is the only volunteer-driven nonprofit organization of its kind in Northeast Wisconsin.
- ✚ Hand-N-Hand served **11** of **17** Northeast WI counties in **2020**.
- ✚ Approximately **90%** of the funds necessary to operate Hand-N-Hand are raised from generous donors.
- ✚ Approximately **70%** of funds are directly spent on Hand-N-Hand Educational Programs and Services.
- ✚ Hand-N-Hand is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN: 20-0679489).
- ✚ Every donation counts! Our annual contribution goal for the **2021** campaign is **\$75,000**; and through a funding mix of revenues, grants, gifts, and sponsorships, we will ensure sustainability for our cause.

## When To Give?

- ✚ Hand-N-Hand's **Early Deaf Ed Campaign** is our every day, every week, every month, all-the-time fundraising effort. Hand-N-Hand operates year-round and has many "[happenings](#)" to support families and children.

## How To Give?

- ✚ **Please support Hand-N-Hand by making a gift of \$50, \$150, \$300 or \$500.** Or, consider a **Sponsorship gift of \$1,000** or more. [Sponsorship benefits](#) available.
- ✚ **At your convenience, gifts can be made online at [www.hnhnew.org](http://www.hnhnew.org) or sent by mail.** Many employers offer matching gift programs that double or triple the amount you give. Complete your employer's matching gift form and return it with your contribution. We'll take care of the rest!

Your generosity will make a difference in our community by helping us fulfill our mission of providing support and resources for families with children experiencing hearing loss in Northeast Wisconsin.

**THANK YOU** in advance for your generosity!

*Jenny Geiken*

Jenny Geiken  
Founder & Director, Hand-N-Hand of Northeastern Wisconsin, Inc.  
Teacher of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing  
Early Intervention Consultant

## Director's Message



I recently heard the phrase, "The road makes the ride." ...what a ride the past year has been. Hand-N-Hand's 2020 road trip was paved with twists, turns, and traffic lights. In March 2020, we came upon a red light which stopped in-person programs due to Covid 19.

In January 2021, we got a green light to re-open in-person services and currently we are proceeding under a flashing yellow light...I'm happy to say our 2021 road trip has been more enjoyable thus far!

As we enter our 19th year, Hand-N-Hand continues to be a stopover for many families as they navigate their hearing journey. We aim to make their ride a simple one!

Thank you for taking a moment to read the Hand-N-Hand Happenings Newsletter and we look forward to your support through our Early Deaf Ed Campaign.

Make a Great Day,  
Jenny Geiken

## Relevant Resources

### Birth to 3 Program

Wisconsin's early intervention program that supports families of children with delays or disabilities under the age of three.

For information on *Eligibility and Best Practices for Infants and Toddlers with Hearing Loss* [www.infantheating.org/stateguidelines/Wisconsin/wisconsin\\_info.html](http://www.infantheating.org/stateguidelines/Wisconsin/wisconsin_info.html)

View their digital [brochure](#) and [postcard](#).

### Supporting Success for Children with Hearing Loss

'Go-to' site for professionals and families seeking information about learning and social issues for children with hearing loss and what you can do to support their success. [www.successforkidswithhearingloss.com](http://www.successforkidswithhearingloss.com)

### Apps for Kids with Hearing Loss

List of recommended sign language apps for kids (and adults) to use on iDevices. <http://bit.ly/VOEtWp>

### H&V Virtual Waiting Room

Information, resources, and connections for families who are receiving services through technology or "telehealth." <https://handsandvoices.org/virtual-waiting-room/index.html>

### Hearing Aid Check

Online tool to check hearing aid performance: [www.cochlear.us/hearingaidcheck](http://www.cochlear.us/hearingaidcheck)

### Wisconsin Lion's Camp

The Wisconsin Lions Camp provides quality camp experiences for Wisconsin youth and adults with disabilities

#### 2021 Summer Camp Schedule

Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing July 25-29, or August 1-5; *currently restricting the program to 100 attendees per week and to campers who will be ages 10-17 at camp time.* Click [here](#) to apply online.

*The most important role for the family of an infant who is deaf or hard of hearing is to love, nurture, and communicate with the infant..... This experience can be enhanced when families choose to become involved with parental support groups, people who are deaf or hard of hearing, and/or their children's deaf or hard-of-hearing peers. ~ JCH 2007*

*"This is the only place where I don't feel different, everyone is just like me and nobody looks at me funny. I can always have fun and be myself."*

*~ 6-year-old Hand-N-Hand member*



## Hand-N-Hand Educational Programs, Outreach & Early Support

As a family & community resource, Hand-N-Hand fosters relationships, promotes language, early literacy, and social & emotional development for children who are deaf and hard of hearing and their families. Hand-N-Hand also supports providers and helps families identify and access services throughout Wisconsin.

### DHH Playgroups

A fun, social and learning environment where deaf and hard of hearing infants, toddlers and their families have full access to communication through visual and auditory communication systems.

### Parent and Community Education


Discover a broad range of perspectives on hearing differences and related topics, learn sign language and learn about Deaf culture.

### Early Support Services (ESS)

Early Intervention and therapy services, consultations, family and community education. ESS offer regular office hours, specialized one:one and small group sessions to promote on-time development, and may be provided in combination with Birth to 3 services.

### Outreach

Community education and awareness to promote early intervention and education for young children and teens, build capacity and connections within our community and statewide, offer scholarships to support families with hearing related events, and a lending library.

To inquire about specialized support for your young child who is deaf or hard of hearing or have questions about Hand-N-Hand programs or outreach, contact Jenny Geiken at [jlgeiken@hnhnew.org](mailto:jlgeiken@hnhnew.org). For detailed information or to register for events, please visit [www.hnhnew.org](http://www.hnhnew.org). 

**Check Us Out!**

View the [video](#) which embodies the heart of Hand-N-Hand



## Join us and GET INVOLVED

Are you interested in giving back to your community?

Hand-N-Hand offers special volunteering experiences which provide amazing role models for the children and memories for all involved!



*To our volunteer Maddie, you left your handprint on many hearts, RIP.*

We welcome individuals to give their time and share their talents. Get involved and join our Board of Directors, a committee, or a become a group volunteer.

Contact Jenny Geiken at [jlgeiken@hnhnew.org](mailto:jlgeiken@hnhnew.org) or go to [Get Involved](#) at [www.hnhnew.org](http://www.hnhnew.org). We look forward to meeting you!



## In the News...

[Face masks hamper communication for deaf members of community...](#)

**Honored to support our friends at Hand-N-Hand**

GREEN BAY – Because hearing is so important to a child’s early development, [BayCare Clinic Ear, Nose & Throat](#) is pleased to provide financial support for a local nonprofit organization offering specialized programs to deaf and hard-of-hearing children and their families.

BayCare Clinic Ear, Nose & Throat applauds the role Hand-N-Hand of Northeastern Wisconsin plays in providing specialized support and facilitating resources for area families that have children experiencing hearing loss.

“It’s important that the great work done by Hand-N-Hand is supported by medical providers that are specialized in the medical and surgical management of ear issues,” says Dr. David G. Grossman, an otolaryngologist with BayCare Clinic Ear, Nose, and Throat. “That includes easily treatable conditions like ear infections and wax build-up, and more challenging conditions like balance issues, cholesteatomas and hearing loss.”

Concerned that your child might have hearing loss? Consult an ear, nose and throat specialist and watch for these common signs:

In babies:

- Isn’t startled by loud noises.
- After 6 months of age, the baby still doesn’t turn toward the source of a sound.
- By age 1, the child hasn’t said single words (like “dada” or “mama”).
- The baby turns his or her head when you enter the line of sight but not when you call out his or her name without the baby seeing you.

In children:

- Speech is delayed or unclear.
- Doesn’t follow directions.
- Often says, “huh?”
- Turns the volume too high on television, computers, headphones, earbuds or other media.

Some types of hearing loss can be corrected through medications or surgery. That’s why it’s vital for children suspected of having hearing loss or related issues to be evaluated by an ear, nose and throat specialist.

“Make an appointment with your ear, nose, throat specialist and he or she will evaluate your child’s ear health and determine an individualized course of action for treatment or for long-term management,” Gossman says.

Audiologists offer valuable expertise as well.

“When it comes to determining the proper hearing devices with the best functionality and satisfaction for children, audiologists can help,” says Dr. Andrea Federman, an audiologist with the Hearing Center BayCare Clinic. “We work in close partnership with ear, nose and throat specialists to provide comprehensive care for hearing issues.”

*Submitted by David Gossman MD, FACS, a board-certified otolaryngologist with BayCare Clinic Ear, Nose, and Throat.*

**About BayCare Clinic**

BayCare Clinic, [baycare.net](#), is the largest physician-owned specialty-care clinic in northeastern Wisconsin and Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. It is based in Green Bay, Wisconsin. BayCare Clinic offers expertise in more than 20 specialties, with more than 100 physicians serving in 16 area communities. BayCare Clinic is a joint partner in Aurora BayCare Medical Center, a 167-bed, full-service hospital. Follow BayCare Clinic on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

**About BayCare Clinic Ear, Nose & Throat**

[BayCare Clinic’s Ear, Nose & Throat](#) doctors, also known as doctors of otolaryngology, diagnose and treat a wide range of head and neck disorders. They are board certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology. They provide medical and surgical treatment for children and adults and specialize in tonsillectomies, nasal and sinus disorders, head and neck cancers, ear problems and hearing loss.



**THANK YOU Sponsors!**

Hand-N-Hand is thankful for the 2020-21 donations and grants.

The generosity of our community goes beyond words...particularly in these difficult times!

**Champion \$5000+**

- BayCare Clinic Foundation and BayCare Clinic Ear, Nose & Throat
- Tracey Anton and Douglas Brejcha
- Dominion Kewaunee Power Station

**Partner \$2500+**

- Primum Bonum
- Supporter \$1000+**
- Galloway Company
- Apple Family Foundation
- Logicalis, Inc.
- Anonymous Supporter
- Anonymous Supporter
- Associated Bank
- Zach & Anna Pierce
- Thrivent

**Friend \$300+**

- American Foods Group, LLC
- Total Comfort, LLC
- Kerber Rose
- Bank of America
- Capital Credit Union
- WI Hands & Voices
- Dennis Brinkman
- Charlie Nickel

