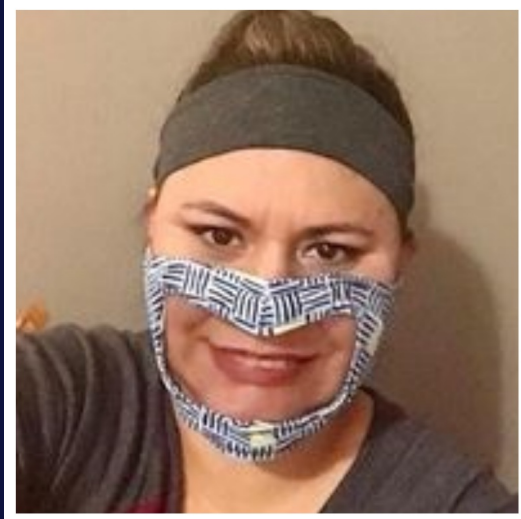


September Newsletter



Why Clear Masks Make a Difference

As the world continues to adjust to the new norms of staying six feet away from each other, cleaning their hands, and hosting virtual meetings, Deaf and Hard of Hearing are facing a new challenge in the form of masks. They are also part of the new norm and are designed to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Along with your wallet and cell phone, masks are a must-have essential before leaving the house. Wallet? Check. Phone? Mask? Check.

However, for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) individual, masks are a hindrance for communication as they cover up a large portion of the face, completely stumping the most proficient lip readers. While not all D/HH individuals rely on lipreading, they do rely on facial expressions, social cues and mouth morphemes to convey emotions on faces. This is an obstacle for D/HH individuals during their daily errands and routines. Cashiers ask questions at checkout and random strangers approach you, talking up a storm, and your only evidence of what they are saying is a slight movement from their masks – but that could be just them breathing, too.

GCDHH has been working to raise awareness of the importance of clear masks and with generous donations from multiple sources, were able to accumulate 300 of the masks in various sizes. The [free clear masks distribution event](#) will take place on Saturday, September 12th in the parking deck of GCDHH's office. The goal is to restore facial language for D/HH community while still maintaining safety guidelines. Not only will these clear masks provide easier language access, it will also raise

speculations from the public. Let this be your opportunity to educate them on why your clear mask is important. The more that D/HH individuals do this, the more likely the public is to make changes in adopting clear masks.



GCDHH PRESENTS:

FREE CLEAR MASK DISTRIBUTION EVENT



*Masks are not medically certified.

GEORGIA CENTER OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING WILL BE DISTRIBUTING 300 CLEAR MASKS. FIRST COME FIRST SERVE.

Where: The parking deck of 2296 Henderson Mill Rd. NE Atlanta, GA 30345

When: Saturday, September 12 from 9am to 12 pm.

We ask you to show up in your PPE and respect our social distancing rules. In addition to masks distribution, we will have several vendors offering resources for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community.

We thank Janeth Barahona for her generous donation making this event happen.



GCDHH Spotlight

Martha Timms has served on the Board of Directors and a portion of her time at GCDHH as secretary since 2014. She was involved in multiple projects throughout the years such as creating a trademark for the Camp Julienna logo, monitoring and improving the website, and helping to pass several bills including Senate Bill 100 that allowed wireless equipment to be distributed via the state program. In addition, she received the 2019 President Award for her tireless dedication to the center.

However, her proudest moment is being part of the driving force that changed the non-profit's name. Formerly known as Georgia Council for the Hearing Impaired (GACHI), Martha worked hard with a team to revitalize the non-profit to be more

politically correct and up to date. We are now known as Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (GCDHH) from her valuable contributions.

When asked about her time at GCDHH, she stated “I enjoyed getting involved and helping out when I could.” She added, “I watched GCDHH grow and become more involved in the community. We have stronger relationships with outside resource focusing on mental health, vocations, and education than we did before.”

Executive Director, Jimmy Peterson states she was one of the board members that GCDHH could depend on for volunteer time and will be sorely missed. Martha’s parting words from GCDHH are: “I want our readers to know how much we’ve changed. To attain our evolving goal, we need more volunteers. We are a great team”

Thank you, Martha Timms, for your time and volunteer work for GCDHH.



Lynn Platt and our EDP Specialist , Nancy Davis.

GCDHH still does some in-person outreach following strict social distancing rules. We recently had an event for the Pierce County Senior Center and Pierce County Food Bank on August 19th.

GCDHH CLIENT TESTIMONIAL:



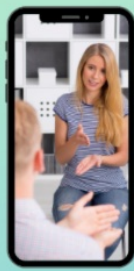
Ricky Haywood recently got hired at a permanent position at Amazon with the help of Employment Support Services at GCDHH. Part of his job search with GCDHH included developing a resume and doing mock interviews. Once ready, the program assisted him with job applications where he eventually landed a position at Amazon. Since working, Mr. Haywood expressed gratitude for the assistance from the program and learned the importance of self-advocacy. Mr. Haywood's primary language is American Sign Language which brought on past challenges for his job search before he received service at GCDHH. The service was made possible via virtual meetings during COVID-19. Extremely satisfied with the service, he strongly recommends any one with hearing loss to use Employment Support Services to provide tools on job search.

What's New at GCDHH?



GCDHH received the grant from the Foundation to purchase 50 Weather Alert Radio. The weather alert radio is free to qualified clients that approved by GATEDP. The weather alert radio will only work with GATEDP's Home Aware clock alert. You can APPLY NOW or stop by our Free Clear Mask Distribution on Saturday, September 12th from 9 AM to 1 PM at GCDHH's parking lot.

ASL ONLINE CLASSES



American Sign Language is the 3rd most common language in the U.S. and a beneficial skill for everyday life. It is a rich & visual language used by the Deaf community. Don't just learn ASL, open your eyes to a whole new culture-Deaf culture!

AGES 14+ ARE WELCOME TO ASL VIRTUAL CLASSES!

LEARN FROM YOUR SMARTPHONE, TABLET, LAPTOP FROM HOME!



VIRTUAL ASL CLASSES : \$80



VIRTUAL SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS

ASL I 10AM-12PM EST

ASL II 2PM-4PM EST

ASL III 10AM-12PM EST

SEPTEMBER 12, 19, 26

OCTOBER 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

THIS IS A NON-CREDIT 2 HOUR COURSE FOR 8 SESSIONS, PLEASE CHOOSE YOUR CLASSES TO REGISTER

DEADLINE: SEP 9 WEDNESDAY @ NOON
LIMIT: 10 SPOTS EACH CLASS- FIRST COME FIRST SERVE

HIGHLIGHTS OF THESE COURSES



ONE-ON-ONE ATTENTION TO EACH STUDENT

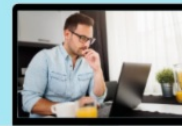


INTERACTIVE ONLINE COURSES



GAIN ACCESS TO AUTHENTIC SIGNERS

Register today!



GOT A QUESTION?



CONTACT ANDREA ALSTON
AALSTON@GCDHH.ORG



GEORGIA CENTER OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Registration is now open for American Sign Language (ASL) classes.

Register Now!

GCDHH is still hosting Camp Juliena Journey, an online opportunity to

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR PETS

WITH SAVANNAH LEFORS



VIRTUAL ON ZOOM
SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 19, 11:00 AM

Hosted by Georgia Center of
the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
Like us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/gcdhh



take Zoom field trips
from the comfort of
your couch! Our
class this month is
**How to Care For Your
Pets with Savannah
LeFors on September
19th at 11am.**

[Register Now!](#)

Literacy FRIDAY



GCDHH is hosting "Literacy Friday"
every second Friday of the month
starting this month. There will be a new
children's story posted to GCDHH's
Facebook page and Kid's Zone. Be sure
to check them out!

[GCDHH
Facebook](#)

[GCDHH Kid's
Zone](#)

[View Email as Webpage](#)