

GCDHH NEWSLETTER



Spring 2023

DEAFestival Coming Soon



DEAFestival logo

DEAFestival, Georgia's first biannual festival celebrating Deaf art, culture, and history is coming to Atlanta on April 1st. There will be booths, performances, giveaways, and more all at no-cost for admission!

We will be having performances by Beautiful the Artist, Kathleen Brockway, and Terry Dahlgren as well as over 35 booths for you to peruse as you walk through the festival.

Join us at the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf (AASD) on Saturday April 1st from 10am - 4pm.

[More Information](#)

Meet Darnita

We are excited to introduce Darnita Williams - our new Outreach Specialist who will be serving the metro Atlanta and West Central counties.

"I first got involved with GCDHH when I was a volunteer through the interpreting training program at Georgia State University. I am a CODA, so connecting with the deaf center made me feel like it was a privilege to serve the Deaf community.

My favorite thing about working with GCDHH is not only getting to serve the Deaf community but Seniors as well. Spreading the word about resources that will benefit them and keep them connected to their loved ones through the equipment we offer is rewarding.

GCDHH operates in excellence with how they treat their employees and volunteers. I am blessed to be a part of this wonderful organization."

If you live in metro Atlanta and know someone who could benefit from our equipment program - contact our center! Darnita would be thrilled to assist you.



headshot of Darnita smiling at the camera

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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Did you know that we have multiple social media accounts? We post updates on community news, events, and more on our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, as well as videos about the center, Deaf Culture, and History on TikTok. Follow us to stay updated! [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#).

New TEDP Equipment



The BeHear SMARTO in front of a white background.

We are now approved to distribute the BeHear SMARTO personal amplifier as part of our no-cost equipment distribution program. The BeHear SMARTO connects to your smart phone using Bluetooth allowing you to hear your phone calls better. It also has a built in microphone for you to place near the sound source and amplify.

If this sounds like something you or someone you know could benefit from, contact us today to fill out an application

Visit our website gcdhh.org/tedp for more information on our program and to download an application. You can also contact our office directly.

Educational Youth Programs

This summer, GCDHH is hosting three youth programs for Deaf and Hard of Hearing youth and teens. Registration is now available for all three programs taking place this summer. Apply online using the buttons below.

STEM Hands (High School Students)

- **June 11 - 16, 2023**
- STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. This week-long program sends high school students interested in college degrees related to STEM to stay and sleep at Georgia State University in Downtown Atlanta. Students take part in classes, field trips, and hands-on activities to learn about the various branches of STEM and work towards finding their goals for their secondary education.

[Learn More](#)

G.R.O.W. (High School Students)

- **June 25 - July 1, 2023**
- G.R.O.W. (Getting Ready for Opportunities in Work) is also a week-long program intended for high school students. GROW focuses on getting students ready for employment after high school. The camp works closely with the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) to prepare students for work by giving them opportunities to learn soft skills, self-advocacy, resume building, and more.

Learn
More

Camp Julienna (ages 6 - 13)

- **July 16 - 21, 2023**
- Camp Julienna is a week-long residential camp for children ages 6-13. This year, the camp will be in LaGrange, Georgia. Campers will do arts and crafts, outdoor activities, and bond with the other campers throughout the week.

Learn
More

Georgia Youth Day



Panelists: Jessica Costner, Brian Leffler, DeAnna Swope, Niarchos Wright sit on stage and sign with students in the audience.



Lara and Ericka from GCDHH present about Self-Advocacy.

On March 17, our staff organized an event for local Deaf and Hard of Hearing high school students to learn more about supported employment, socialize with their peers, and engage in mock interviews.

The students saw presentations from GCDHH staff about supported employment services and interacted with a panel of Deaf professionals to discuss post-graduation plans and self-advocacy when going into the workforce. The event promoted both post-secondary education and vocational careers as potential options for life after high school.

Thank you to our staff, panelists, and students from Atlanta Area School for the Deaf, Georgia School for the Deaf, and Clarkston High School for their participation and hard work to make this event a success.

For more information on our Supported Employment services, please visit our website: gcdhh.org/employment-support and/or email our Employment Specialist: Ericka Lipscomb-Capel at elipscomb@gcdhh.org

Client Testimony

"My husband and I just finished our ASL 1 class. Our teacher was Chad. He was excellent and we both have learned so much while taking the class with him. I really appreciate these classes being available to take. I am hard of hearing as is my Mom. Our hearing loss is gradual and will continue to deteriorate as we get older. My husband and I have been wanting to learn sign language for awhile now so that we can communicate with sign as my hearing deteriorates.

We have signed up for in-person ASL 2 and look forward to learning even more about signing.

Chad really made learning so much easier because he is so patient and by the way he interacts with his class. I would highly recommend taking a class with him to anyone who wanted to learn sign language. He is a knowledgeable and excellent teacher. He made everyone feel welcome and was so supportive of questions and accomplishments as we all progressed in learning sign. I would take a class with him anytime.

Thank you again for your time and thank you to the center for offering a way to learn sign."

Elizabeth

ASL Day at the Atlanta Braves

Get ready for another ASL Day with the Atlanta Braves! Back by popular demand, ASL Day with the Braves this year will be on Sunday, April 23rd at 1:30pm. Come join us as we watch the Braves take on the Astros. The special ticket package for this year includes the game ticket, a one-of-a-kind ASL Braves hat, and a donation to support GCDHH.

Tickets are going to sell out fast so get yours today!



ASL DAY

AT THE ATLANTA BRAVES

SUNDAY, APRIL 23 @ 1:30

Special ticket package includes game ticket, ASL Braves hat, and a donation to GCDHH.



REGISTER TODAY



Graphic with a blue background advertising ASL Day at the Atlanta Braves

Get
Tickets

Become an SSP

Are you interested in working with the DeafBlind community? Become a Support Service Provider (SSP) with us!

A Service Support Provider is responsible to communicate effectively with the DeafBlind person to whom they are assigned, to act as sighted-guide, and to provide visual/environmental information.

Duties include but are not limited to the formal SSP program, that is, the agency occasionally sponsors or supports community events in which DeafBlind



people participate and for which they will need SSPs.

Illustration of a blind person with a white cane standing next to a sighted person holding a book.

SSPs will:

- Convey and describe visual information (what you see).
- Provide casual interpreting.
- Act as a Sighted Guide.
- Provide information with which the DeafBlind person is able to make independent decisions.

If you are interested, please contact us at info@gcdhh.org.

DeafBlind Access of the South Retreat

Every 2 years DeafBlind Access of the South (DBAS) offers adults who are DeafBlind (or Hard-of-Hearing/Low-vision in any combination) a rare chance to get together with others like themselves and have Support Service Providers (SSPs) to enable them to communicate effortlessly.

Participants at DBAS Retreat will have the opportunity to create an individualized schedule of activities based upon their interests. The daily schedule starts as early as 7:30 am and can continue until 10:00 pm or later (all depending on the camper's preferences)!

Here is a sample of some of the types of activities provided:

Paddle Boats/Canoeing
Swimming (Pool)
Arts & Crafts, Adapted Games
Educational Workshops
Field Trips (Many different places)
Hiking/Walking trails
Horseback Riding
Motorcycle rides (Passengers)
And so much more!



graphic of a tent in the mountains

Transportation to and from the airport can be arranged and transportation at the camp is provided. There are basketball courts, Wi-Fi, and lots of gathering areas to make lifelong friends.

Accommodations are rustic but comfortable. The rooms are temperature controlled, clean linens are supplied, and the walkways between buildings are easily navigated.

This year's retreat will be on **October 3 - 8** at Camp Twin Lakes in Rutledge, Georgia. Visit dbascamp.org for more information and to sign up.

If you are interested in becoming an SSP for DBAS' 2023 retreat - please fill out a form on DBAS' website at dbascamp.org/forms

GCDHH

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Did you know that GCDHH partners with Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) to provide Drivers Education test prep sessions?

During sessions, students can focus on learning:

- Road Rules
- Road Signs
- English Translation of test materials

With these sessions, students will be set up for success. We have a high percentage rate of students that pass the test post-class.

If you are interested in acquiring these services, please contact:

Ericka Lipscomb-Capel: elipscomb@gcdhh.org



Interested in employment? GCDHH and GVRA has got you covered. The phases in the employment process include Intake, job development and placement, workplace readiness, and self-advocacy. Additionally, a job coach is provided for comprehension and communication access. If you are looking for employment support – reach out to us!

Ericka Lipscomb-Capel
elipscomb@gcdhh.org

ASL CLASS



Registration Now Available!

ASL Classes for this May are now available! We offer classes from beginner to advanced with both online and in-person options. The deadline to register is May 12, 2023. Below is the schedule for upcoming classes:

Virtual

Tuesdays (May 16 - July 4)

ASL I: 6pm - 8pm EST

ASL II: 6pm - 8pm EST

ASL III: 6pm - 8pm EST

Register

Saturdays (May 13 - July 1)

ASL I: 10am - 12pm EST

ASL II: 10am - 12pm EST

ASL III: 10am - 12pm EST

Register

In-Person

Saturday ASL 1 (May 13 - July 1)

10am - 12pm EST

12:30pm - 2:30pm EST

Register

Saturday ASL 2 (May 13 - July 1)

10am - 12pm EST

12:30pm - 2:30pm EST

Register

For more information or to register for one of the classes, visit our Eventbrite page by clicking the buttons above.

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 ASL classes for children younger than 14 years old with 8 - one hour sessions. We also offer private ASL classes one-on-one for a separate fee.

If you have questions, please email Lara Whitfield at: Lwhitfield@gcdhh.org

[Visit our website](#)

Did you know you can sign up your workplace for 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 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 Lwhitfield@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 to book an interpreter:

requests@gcdhh.org

[View Email as Webpage](#)