

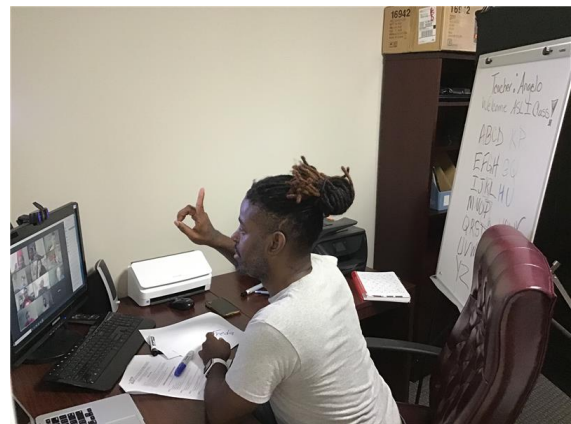
# GCDHH NEWSLETTER



September 2021

Gone But Not Forgotten.

Angelo Butler-Ricks Leaves His Imprint in Our Community



## Gone But Not Forgotten. Angelo Butler-Ricks Leaves His Imprint in Our Community

Known for his striking blue eyes and friendly demeanor, Angelo Butler-Ricks left a huge hole in our community. His recent passing made us realize how much he contributed to the Deaf community and here at GCDHH. Born and raised in Orange Park, Florida, Angelo was known by many of his childhood friends as Mike or Micheal. In 2005, he moved to Atlanta to find his creative freedom. Here, he became well known as Angelo, the dancer, chef, poet, entrepreneur, Deaf interpreter, ASL instructor and activist.

Most people met Angelo through his long-standing ASL Jams Night, a monthly gathering for people to watch his poetry performances and sometimes partake in it. With his facial expressions and hands, he captivated audiences on subjects that were personal to him such as gun violence, romance, and acceptance. Angelo was an extraordinary choreographer where he went above and beyond. One of his most memorable performance was at IKOU11 where he danced in orange

powder, his body swaying harmonically, lifting his hands in the air as he was waiting for someone to lift him up toward the sky. No one took their eyes off him that night.

He was also a devoted friend. At his memorial, we learned that Angelo has individually impacted people for the better. People are better interpreters because of him. People are now living and recovered from mental health crisis because of him. People went after their dreams when he encouraged them. All because of Angelo. His good energy was infectious, and it was obvious he was a shining light in whatever room he walked into.

Above all, Angelo considered his daughter his biggest pride and joy. He gushed about her when he spoke to friends. It was clear that she was always on his mind and dearly loved her.

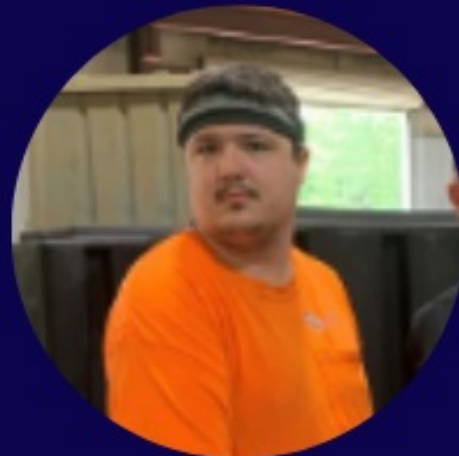
Despite his positive energy, Angelo was vocal about unjust issues such as Black Lives Matters, LGBTIQ, and Deaf issues. You would often see him making vlogs expressing his feelings. Angelo would also find himself at protests to unite with others about the inequality of the system. His passion to help the community benefited GCDHH when he presented ideas of how we can provide better services. He pointed out an audience we could greatly impact. He wasn't just about doing his job, he made sure he was going beyond.

He might be gone, but his memory lives on forever. Next time you see a person dancing on the street or if you see a random smile from a stranger, think of Angelo. It just might be him working his magic to make your day a little better. Rest in Peace Angelo Butler-Ricks.

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## *Client Testimonial*

**Wilson Mask**



“I appreciate the support that I get from GCDHH. Ms. Ericka Lipscomb makes sure that I am comfortable on the job site, and maintain a relationship with my supervisor and colleagues, and that I understand everything with HR and reporting my salary to benefits. Working with Ms. Ericka as job coaching makes me really like working”.

-Wilson Mask



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## September 20-26 is International Week of Deaf People!

Deaf Awareness Week/International Week of Deaf People is a week celebrating Deafness which happens every year on the last full week of September. The whole week focuses on promoting positive aspects of Deafness, raising awareness of organizations that support the Deaf community, and overall social inclusion of Deaf people.

Here are some great resources to get involved and do your part in spreading Deaf awareness.

[National Association of the Deaf - International Week of the Deaf](#)

[Deaf Awareness Month - 10 Things To Know About Being Deaf](#)

[CSD - Deaf Awareness Month 2021](#)



**INTERNATIONAL WEEK  
OF DEAF PEOPLE**

**September 23 is  
International Day of Sign Languages!**



## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SIGN LANGUAGES

Learn all about it and how you can participate here by visiting [wfdeaf.org/iwdeaf2021/](http://wfdeaf.org/iwdeaf2021/)

*Do You Have Hearing Loss?*

We've got you covered! You may qualify for no-cost equipment from Georgia Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program.



Prior to COVID-19, Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (GCDHH) offered American Sign Language (ASL) Courses in-person at the center. When the pandemic started, GCDHH took a new approach with virtual classes for ASL to respect safety concerns. Today, remote classes are available for the community (age 14 and up) and businesses. Below are *upcoming* available courses:

**ASL I** - Beginner

**ASL II** - Intermediate

**ASL III** - Advanced

**ASL IV** - Advanced+

\*There will be eight two-hour-long classes each semester.

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 online ASL classes for children younger than 14 years old for one hour for eight sessions. We also offer private ASL one-on-one for a separate fee. At the end of the semester, a Certificate of Attendance will be given for those who participated. This is only for the proof of participation in ASL course and this does not count as certified for Sign Language Interpreter. If you wanted to become a certified interpreter, you would have to take Interpreting courses at any college/university that offers them.

If you are interested to learn American Sign Language, price inquiry or have questions, please email Community Coordinator, Andrea Alston at: [Aalston@gcdhh.org](mailto:Aalston@gcdhh.org)  
404-381-8448

## Virtual ASL Classes

Deadline- September 10<sup>th</sup>, Friday at NOON

**Every Saturday (2021)** - September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & November 6th

**ASL I (Beginner)**- 10 AM- 12 PM EST

**ASL II (Intermediate)**- 1 PM-3 PM EST (Pre-Requisite- ASL I)

**ASL III (Advanced)**- 3:30-5:30 PM EST (Pre-Requisite- ASL II)

**ASL IV (Advanced +)**- 6 PM- 8 PM EST(Pre-requisite- ASL III)

Eventbrite for Saturdays (Virtual): <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/165250246937>

**Every Tuesday (2021)** - September 21, 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26, November 2 and 9.

**ASL I (Beginner)**- 6 PM-8 PM EST

**ASL II (Intermediate)**- 6 PM-8 PM EST (Pre-Requisite- ASL I)

**ASL III (Advanced)**- 6 PM-8 PM EST (Pre-Requisite- ASL II)

**ASL IV (Advanced +)**- 6 PM-8 PM EST (Pre-Requisite- ASL IV)

Eventbrite for Tuesdays (Virtual): <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/165251300087>

## IN PERSON CLASSES GCDHH Location 14 Spots (First Come First Serve)

Deadline- September 10<sup>th</sup>, Friday at NOON

**Every Saturday (2021)** - September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & November 6th

**ASL I (Beginner)**- 9 AM- 11 PM EST

**ASL II (Intermediate)**- 12 PM-2PM EST (Pre-Requisite- ASL I)

**ASL III (Advanced)**- 3 PM-5 PM EST (Pre-Requisite- ASL II)

Eventbrite for Saturdays (In Person): <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/165328170007>

Visit our  
website

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**Did you know you can sign up your  
workplace for virtual 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 virtual 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 [Aalston@gcdhh.org](mailto:Aalston@gcdhh.org). Your company can make a difference in language accessibility for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community!

[Fill out Questionnaire](#)

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## **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 book for an interpreter:

Phone: 404-207-9362

Email: [Requests@gcdhh.org](mailto:Requests@gcdhh.org)

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## **GCDHH UPCOMING EVENTS**

# WANT TO WALK, RUN, OR HIKE? JOIN US!



  
GEORGIA CENTER OF THE DEAF  
AND HARD OF HEARING  
[www.gcdhh.org](http://www.gcdhh.org)

**GCDHH is excited to announce our very first virtual race, Follow the Sign! From September 19-25th, your participation will give back to the community. Whether it's a 5K or a full marathon, you can get involved by signing up here!**

[www.charityfootprints.com/followthesign/](http://www.charityfootprints.com/followthesign/)

Follow the Sign is a virtual race where you can choose to run, hike, or walk at your own pace from any corner of the country! September 19th-25th, 2021 is National Deaf Awareness Week, so put on your “e-running shoes” and join us to celebrate! Register here at [Charity Footprints](http://Charity Footprints) and you can create your own team, run by yourself, or just donate money towards the cause.

After registering, you can join a team, create your own team (corporation, school, organization, mascot, color, other) to help raise funds and meet the goal of the team's miles.

The overall goal of the race is to raise \$20,000 dollars in funds that will go to help GCDHH's programs including Camp Julienna, funding for equipment, and its service to consumers. The race offers three different levels of participation, \$20 for the race, \$30 for the race and a t-shirt, and \$40 for the race, t-shirt, and unique medal with the Follow the Sign logo. The logo was designed by a Deaf artist that resides in Florida named Juan Estrella.

So sign up , then get ready to walk, run or hike at your own pace during the week!

## October 9th - Six Flags

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UPDATE: Our newsletter will be quarterly instead of monthly in October.  
So be on the look out for our Fall quarterly newsletter.

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## Follow us on Social Media!



[View Email as Webpage](#)

