

GCDHH NEWSLETTER



Winter 2021

Deaf-Blind Access of the South is Now Partnered with GCDHH!

This November, Deaf-Blind Access of the South (DBAS) and GCDHH had a meeting to vote on a merger between the two organizations. It was unanimously decided that the two will now partner to better serve the Deaf-Blind community in the state of Georgia as well as the whole Southeast. DBAS provides a nature retreat for Deaf-Blind adults every two years to get together with other Deaf-Blind people and have Support Service Providers (SSPs) to enable effortless communication. Some examples of activities at camp include Paddle Boats/Canoeing, Hiking, Horseback Riding, Arts & Crafts, and much more. The next retreat is still being planned, but will potentially be in Warm Springs, Georgia in October 2022.

GCDHH recently interviewed DBAS Director Anne McQuade to ask her some questions about DBAS and the new partnership. She says she enjoys being involved with DBAS because she can work with great people, learn new skills, have an essential purpose, and know that her efforts are important and appreciated. She is excited about the partnership with GCDHH because DBAS will be able to focus on serving the Deaf-Blind community more now that GCDHH will take care of administrative tasks.

The GCDHH board and staff are excited about the new partnership and looking forward to increasing our services to the Deaf-Blind community here in Georgia!



DBAS members and their SSPs celebrate the motion of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) being passed.

If you are Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing/Low-Vision and would like to participate in the 2022 retreat or if you are interested in volunteering to be a Support Service Provider (SSP), stay tuned for more information from us at GCDHH and on DBAS' website: <https://www.dbascamp.org/>.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Jennifer with GCDHH executive director Jimmy Peterson

Congratulations to Jennifer Frew for being named GCDHH's Employee of the Year!

Jennifer has worked here since 2017 and was nominated by the staff at GCDHH who recognized her hard work being the "in-house IT" person for the office and always helping with technology issues. She is a natural leader and cares deeply about this program and the Deaf community. When the office had to close because of COVID, Jennifer kept a positive attitude and spread joy throughout the staff. She is always friendly and patient with everyone and helps other when needed. The staff also noted that she brings delicious food whenever she can.

Our Executive Director Jimmy Peterson agrees that, "Jennifer deserved the 2021 Employee of the Year honor recognized by the staff. With the pandemic and some changes in staffing, Jennifer is always there to support us to make our transition smooth. She has good patience and is always helping others, especially with our database and spreadsheet reports. She is a valuable employee to the agency."

Thank you Jennifer for all that you do, we love and appreciate you!

SPOTLIGHT

GCDHH Student Volunteers

Rylee Cochran and Taylor Fortenberry are both seniors in the Georgia State

University ASL Interpreting program that started volunteering at GCDHH in September.

Taylor has been working on sorting photos from the past 30 years of Camp Julienna retreats and Rylee has been creating detailed instructions on how to operate the different equipment offered by our TEDP and ICC programs.

Rylee said she started volunteering at GCDHH to get involved in the Deaf community and meet new people. She enjoys how welcoming the staff is and the opportunity to get to know Deaf people in the community and work on her ASL skills. She is looking forward to volunteering more as she works towards becoming an interpreter.

Thank you Rylee and Taylor for all your hard work!

Do You Have this Vintage Caption Machine?



Sears Telecaption Device from 1980

Did you know that we have a small 'museum' of Deaf technology in our office? We are looking for the first Telecaption machine made by Sears in 1980 to add to our collection. If you have one, please consider donating it to us so we can proudly display it in our office!

If you do, please send us an email at info@gcdhh.org !

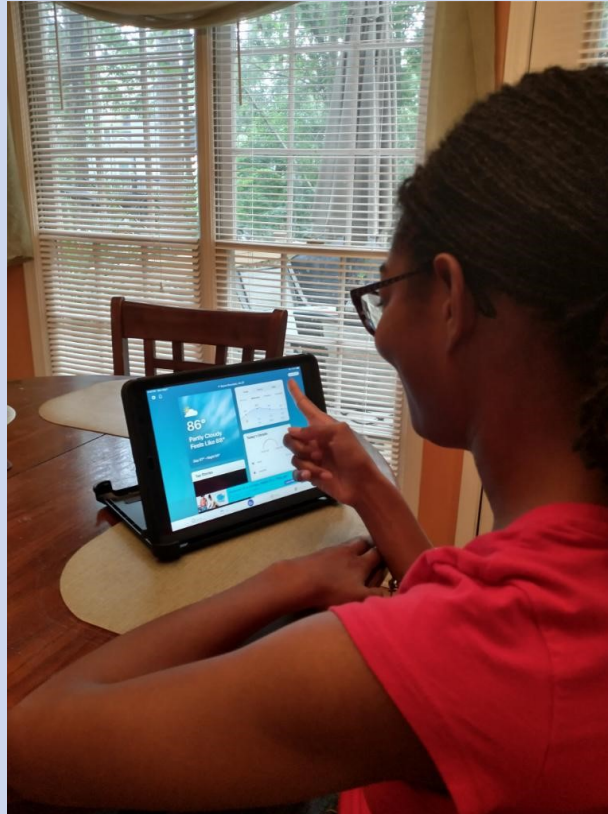


**CLIENT
TESTIMONIAL**
Vanessa Williams



"I have enjoyed my equipment for years and am really pleased with GCDHH for following up after so many years and supplying me with the newest, most modern equipment."

- Vanessa Williams



Vanessa enjoying her tablet from GCDHH

Interested in getting equipment for yourself? Click the button below to learn more about our TEDP program!

[TEDP](#)

DeafNation Expo

ATLANTA | MAY 7, 2022

Come join us at the annual DeafNation Expo in Atlanta on Saturday, May 7, 2022, 9am – 5pm at the Georgia International Convention Center! The Expo aims to connect Deaf people by sharing culture, language, and information. GCDHH will have a booth there along with many other companies, organizations, and businesses. Admission is free and the event is open to the public. We hope to see you there!

Silent Fingers Christmas Party

This month, Silent Fingers - a local group of Deaf Senior Citizens - held a Christmas celebration at the GCDHH office. They enjoyed good food and good company and wanted to thank GCDHH for the continued support. If you are interested in joining Silent Fingers, contact them through their [Facebook](#).



Silent Fingers members and GCDHH staff at the Christmas lunch

Do You Have Hearing Loss?



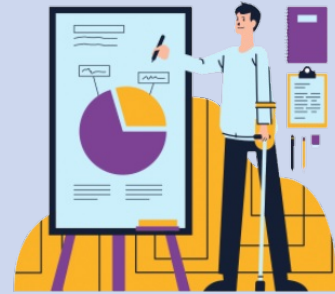
We've got you covered! You may qualify for no-cost equipment from [Georgia Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program](#).



GCDHH Vocational Rehabilitation

The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) through GCDHH provides many services for people with disabilities including:

- Trainings to prepare for employment
- Customized and Traditional job placement
- Job coaching, to maintain long term employment
- Independence skills trainings via Self advocacy



Need assistance with resume building? Do's and Don'ts when on the job? Job placement? Interested in becoming a job coach?

Contact Ericka Lipscomb-Capel at elipscomb@gcdhh.org



UPCOMING EVENTS | 2022

Check out some of our events scheduled for 2022!

- March 25 - ASL Day at the Atlanta Hawks
- April 16 - ASL Day at the Atlanta History Center
- April 30 - ASL Day at the Atlanta Zoo
- May 15 - ASL Day at the Atlanta Braves

More events will be announced as the year goes on. To stay updated on our events follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

Panasonic KX-TGM430



The Panasonic KX-TGM430 is an amplified cordless telephone that can work through a landline or a cell phone. Some notable features of this phone are:

- **Slow Talk:** Slows down the speed of the speaker so that the conversation can be more easily understood.
- **Volume Booster:** Drastically increase the volume of the speaker while on the call.
- **Tone Control:** Choose from 6 different tones or create your own custom tone to hear the speaker more clearly.
- **Vision Accessibility:** This phone can read out names and numbers and has enlarged buttons for easier viewing.

This unit is compatible with hearing aids and can be linked to your cell phone using Bluetooth. The Panasonic KX-TGM430 is ideal for someone with mild to moderate hearing and/or vision loss.

For more information on the Panasonic KX-TGM430, [click here](#).

If you think you might qualify for our equipment program and are interested in this phone or another type of assistive equipment, email akemp@gcdhh.org or visit our [website](#).

ASL CLASS



Registration Now Available!

Virtual ASL classes are now available for registration! The deadline to register is January 14, 2022. Below is the schedule for upcoming classes:

Tuesdays (Jan 25 - March 15)

ASL I: 6pm - 8pm EST
ASL II: 6pm - 8pm EST
ASL III: 6pm - 8pm EST
ASL IV: 6pm - 8pm EST

Saturdays (Jan 22 - March 12)

ASL I: 10am - 12pm EST
ASL II: 1pm - 3pm EST
ASL III: 3:30pm - 5:30pm EST
ASL IV: 6pm - 8pm EST

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

[Register for Tuesdays Here](#)

[Register for Saturdays Here](#)

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 with 8 - one hour sessions. We also offer private ASL classes one-on-one for a separate fee.

At the end of the semester, a Certificate of Attendance will be given to those who participated. This is only for the proof of participation in ASL course and does not count as certification to be a Sign Language Interpreter. If you want to become a certified interpreter, you would need to take Interpreting courses at any college/university that offers them.

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 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 Lwhitfield@gcdhh.org. Your company can make a difference in language accessibility for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community!

[Fill out Questionnaire](#)



GPSTC MEETS WITH LOCAL DEAF ORGANIZATIONS TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY

Recently, the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) met with GCDHH, the Georgia Association of the Deaf (GAD), BRIDGES and the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)'s Office of Deaf Services to create an 8-hour curriculum that will teach ASL Basics for First Responders. These classes will help improve communication accessibility for emergency services. The first in-person classes should start in early 2022. We are looking forward to seeing these positive changes for our community!

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:

Phone: 404-207-9362

Email: eequests@gcdhh.org



**Interpreting
Services**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

From the Staff at GCDHH

GCDHH Holiday Door Contest

This year, the staff at GCDHH had a holiday door decorating contest. Check out some of our doors!



Jennifer's Minion Santa Door



Nat's "Do Not Feed Reindeer" Door





Jimmy's Snowman Door

Happy Holidays from us here at GCDHH! We will see you again in 2022!

UPDATE: Our newsletter is now quarterly. Our next issue will be Spring 2022.

Follow us on Social Media!



[View Email as Webpage](#)