

What Is Hands & Voices?

We are parents, family members, professionals, D/deaf and hard of hearing adults, and others who are connected through caring about children who are D/deaf and hard of hearing. We are a grassroots organization, and rally around the need to improve educational outcomes for our children, communication within families and communities, and to enhance socialization no matter the choice of communication methodology.



We believe that families can make the best choices for their children if they have access to good information and unbiased support. Our philosophy means we are dedicated to working with and connecting families and their children, birth through high school, as well as the professionals who serve them. Hands & Voices is a safe place for all to explore options, get unemotional support (although we can be emotional about it!), learn from one another and share what we have in common.

We value diversity and honor the role of family as the single greatest factor in raising well-adjusted, successful children. We also strive to be meaningfully involved at both the local and national levels. Our organization is family focused, but highly collaborative with D/deaf and hard of hearing adults and various professionals related to our missions. Be a part of this dynamic movement — connect with Hands & Voices today!



**HANDS &
VOICES**

State Chapter Information:

Vermont Hands & Voices
PO Box 1164
Montpelier, VT 05601

Phone: (802) 552-0222
Website: vthv.org
Email: hello@vthv.org
Facebook: fb.me/vthandsandvoices

National Information:

Hands & Voices

PO Box 3093
Boulder, CO 80307
Phone: (303) 492-6283
Email: parentadvocate@handsandvoices.org
Website: www.handsandvoices.org

*Hands & Voices is a non profit
501(c)(3) organization*



**HANDS &
VOICES**



*Non-biased support
for families of children
who are D/deaf and
hard of hearing*

*What works for your child is what
makes the choice right™*

Parent Support and Advocacy for Children Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Our Mission:

Hands and Voices is dedicated to supporting families with children who are D/deaf or hard of hearing without a bias around communication modes or methodology. We're a parent-driven, non-profit organization. We strive to provide families with the resources, networks, and information they need to improve educational, social, and emotional outcomes. We believe communication should be accessible for children, no matter the modality choice. Our outreach activities, parent/professional collaboration and advocacy efforts are focused on enabling D/deaf and hard of hearing children reach their highest potential. Our social activities are designed to bring fun and fellowship between like minded families in a comfortable environment.



What People Say About Hands & Voices:

"Hands & Voices supported my personal decision about my son and how he would learn to communicate with the world as a deaf person. Hands & Voices did not judge, but supported my choice."

Shirley Swope,
parent and advocate, Colorado

"For too long we have debated what communication mode is best, rather than work to provide the variety of options necessary to meet the diverse needs of deaf/hh children. The broad vision of Hands & Voices comes at exactly the right time."

Lawrence Siegel, Esq.
National Deaf Education Project

Hands & Voices Areas of Focus Include:

- Parent-to-Parent support
- D/HH educational reform
- "Medical Home" initiative
- Full and effective communication access
- Hearing aid coverage by insurance companies
- Parent/professional collaboration
- D/HH adult mentoring
- Parent education and support
- Bill of Rights for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children
- Least restrictive environment
- Communication choice making
- Meaningful parent involvement
- Educational advocacy and training

National Hands & Voices Resources Include:

- The Resource Guide for Parents
- Quarterly publication, *The Communicator*
- www.handsandvoices.org
- Lending library
- State chapters affiliate support
- "We Are Hands & Voices" video
- Statewide workshops
- Legislative advocacy
- Parent perspective representation on statewide/national issues
- D/HH adult role models
- Observe, Understand, and Respond: O.U.R. Children's Safety Project
- Public Speakers Bureau
- Research/survey opportunities
- Resources available in Spanish and Russian

About Vermont Hands & Voices

Started in 2011, VTH&V began a resurgence in 2018, when we increased our outreach and number of events each year. Our current areas of focus are fellowship and networking, bringing together families of D/deaf/hard of hearing children throughout our state. We also strive to give families up-to-date information on equipment, literacy, the various modes of communication, and many other topics through email, our Facebook page, educational workshops, and social events. We sponsor many events across the state throughout the year — please join us for fun, learning and community as we grow and support the needs of families in our state!



Tell Us Who You Are

We invite you to become a member of Vermont Hands & Voices! Your membership benefits include: *The Communicator* quarterly Hands & Voices newspaper, invitations to D/deaf/hard of hearing family-friendly activities happening throughout the state, and information on varying topics relevant to Vermont families.

To join Vermont H&V, just fill out the form at vthv.org/membership to be added to our mailing list.