

## ***A Rallying Cry: We Need All Your Hands & Voices***

If you or your child/student talk or sign... if you talk and sign, or cue, or care, we need you. If you are directly, indirectly, or potentially involved with children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families, we need you. We need to be united by our hands and our voices. We are parents, professionals, adult mentors, consumers, and others who are in so many ways connected to a cause and to each other through the community of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. We are Hands & Voices.

Our philosophy of unbiased support makes Hands & Voices unique among Deaf/HH organizations. There are many wonderful organizations that provide support and information about methods and modes of communication, but at Hands & Voices, we rally around the need to improve educational outcomes for our kids, and to enhance their quality of life.

Our organization is parent-driven, but highly collaborative with professionals who are represented on our advisory board, and make up approximately one third of our membership. We work at both the local and national levels. Our state chapters provide local and regional support consistent with the Hands & Voices non-biased philosophy and mission. In addition to family support, we strive to be meaningfully involved at the systems development level.

Whether we're at work locally or nationally, Hands & Voices continues to be driven by the need to improve the educational outcomes and quality of life for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Be a part of this dynamic movement...become a Hands & Voices member today!



*"As I learned of my son's hearing loss it helped to have Deb so close by. I could call her when I needed to talk to someone about my feelings, what they did next, etc. When Deb and I heard about Hands & Voices we felt that Wyoming could really benefit from this kind of parent support network."  
Wendy Hewitt, Co-Director,  
Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices*

### **Wyoming Chapter Contact Information:**

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### **Hands & Voices National Information**

PO Box 371929  
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[www.handsandvoices.org](http://www.handsandvoices.org)



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Parent Information Center (PIC)  
5 N Lobban Ave. Buffalo, WY 82834  
1-800-669-9742  
[www.wpic.org](http://www.wpic.org)

Early Hearing Detection Intervention (EDHI)  
1-307-721-6212



**HANDS & VOICES**

Wyoming Department of Education  
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Outreach Services  
1-307-777-6376

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



**HANDS & VOICES**

***Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices***



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

***Non-biased support for families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing.***



# Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices



## Our Mission:

Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices is a parent driven, non-profit organization that provides unbiased support to families of deaf and hard of hearing children to assist them in reaching their fullest potential.



## Hands & Voices Family Support Activities:

**Kid Connection**—A statewide pen pal program for children who are deaf and hard of hearing. This program can be done through the home or the school.

**State Activity**—Once a year we will hold a family activity in cooperation with the Department of Ed. We hope to include deaf and hard of hearing adults from around the state to serve as mentors.

**Advocacy Assistance**—We are involved in helping parents learn to advocate for their children, which in turn teaches children to advocate for themselves as they grow.

**Members receive**— The quarterly Hands & Voices National Newspaper, THE COMMUNICATOR; quarterly Wyoming State Newsletter; reduced fees to attend workshops; advocacy assistance priority.

**Unbiased Support**— Support is provided to all families regardless of communication modes or methodology.



## Value of Parent to Parent Connections

*"Parents were asked about their contacts with other parents and with adults who were deaf. The results indicated that parents who had many contacts with other parents of children who were deaf or hard of hearing and with deaf adults reported less isolation and showed greater emotional bonds with their child and improved responsiveness during interactions."* Hintermair (2000)

*"...studies suggest that parent-to-parent support encourages parents and provides parents with role models as they discover their capabilities as parents and families with a deaf/hard of hearing child."* (Eleweke & Rodda, 2000; Jackson, Becker, & Schmitendorf, 2002)

*"We don't accomplish anything in this world alone...and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something."* Sandra Day O'Connor

Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices has been developed through the support and collaboration of Parents, Wyoming Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI), Wyoming Department of Education Deaf/HH Outreach, and the Parent Information Center (PIC).

*-EHDI is a program for identifying children with hearing loss, and guiding them to early intervention services.*

*-Outreach Services assists children and their families regarding intervention and educational support from birth to age 21.*

*-PIC provides information, support and referral to families of children with disabilities to help them become active partners in their children's education for greater student success and independence in life.*



*We invite you to become a member today!  
Fill out and mail the form below or apply on line at [www.WyHandsAndVoices.org](http://www.WyHandsAndVoices.org)*



## Annual Membership Dues

Sign up for:	Price:
<input type="checkbox"/> Family member of deaf/hh person*	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Deaf/HH adult*	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional	\$40.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization/Agency	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donation	_____
<b>*Scholarship available for family member and Deaf/HH Adult</b>	no charge
Total:	_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Ages (deaf/hh & siblings) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Method of Payment—Circle One

**Check** (payable to Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices)

**Scholarship**-Family Member or Deaf/HH adult       **Money Order**

Check here if you do not want your information made available to PIC, EHDI, or Deaf/HH Outreach

**Send to:** Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices  
PO Box 114 Robertson, WY 82944