



HANDS &
VOICES™

Georgia Hands & Voices Meeting Athens, GA

Saturday, March 20, 2010: 1:00pm-5:00pm

What:

Georgia Hands & Voices, a state chapter for the national organization, providing advocacy and support to families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing without a bias around communication modes or methodology, is hosting its first Athens, GA. event to introduce resources and opportunities to families and professionals in the region.

Our Day

- Welcome
- **GA Hands & Voices: Supporting Families without Bias.** - Terri Patterson, parent and Director of Georgia Hands & Voices
- **Introductions:** 10 parents, 18 professionals, 3 students, 3 Deaf or Hard of Hearing community members, 3 childcare volunteers...and 10 kids!
- **Break** - refreshments donated by Dennis Curry, the Manager at Athens Pointe Publix; Fred Bell, the Owner of Bell's Food Stores and Jane Seaton in Athens.
- **The Deaf Child Bill of Rights.** What Do Parents Need to Know in GA? - Dr. Frank Nesbit, Consultant for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services with the Dept. of Education.

- **Resources: Special Guests:** Thank you to the information and resources provided by:
- **Henry Carter** with GACHI and the Georgia Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (GATEDP) <http://www.gachi.org/gatedp/index.htm>
- **Kenney Moore**, the School Director for the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf: <http://www.aasdweb.com/>
- **Donna Duff**, Assistant Director of Support Services at the Georgia School for the Deaf: <http://www.gsdweb.com/>
- **Kinga Rose Sherrill**, Co-Director of G.R.E.A.T.D.A.Y, Inc. (GA Resources, Education, Advocacy & Treatment for Deaf Adult & Youth, Inc.): <http://www.greatdayinc.net/>
- **Dana Pass**, Shared Services Director, Northeast Georgia Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA)
- **Luanne Frantz**, Nationally Certified Cued Language Transliterater, LFrantz3348@comcast.net

- **Next Steps: Membership, goals, upcoming events-** Yolanda Head, parent and BOD

How:

Childcare was provided by three fabulous UGA students. And a great big thank you to our 4 wonderful volunteer Sign Language Interpreters: **Becky, Karen, Ginny and Ilona.**

The Mission of GA Hands & Voices: *GA Hands and Voices is dedicated to supporting families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing **without a bias** around communication modes or methodology. We're a statewide parent-driven, non-profit organization providing families with the resources, networks, and information they need to improve communication access and educational outcomes for their children. Our outreach activities, parent/professional collaboration, and advocacy efforts are focused on enabling Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing children to reach their **highest potential.***

For any questions please contact:

Terri Patterson at terri@gahandsandvoices.org -or- Frank Nesbit at fnesbit@doe.k12.ga.us

Please visit our website at www.gahandsandvoices.org or check us out on Facebook!