

## Looking Forward...

As I look back over the past, I am amazed at how far the deaf and hard of hearing community has come in terms of making changes that have impacted the world as a whole. For example, how many hearing families are able to enjoy Christmas with one another without actually being in the same state? Deaf and hard of hearing individuals have embraced technology, brought it into their homes, and can now visit one another in person through videophones. Slowly but surely, hearing individuals are utilizing video technology and realizing the benefits. Technology has not only opened doors for our community but has impacted the general population. That's what it takes to make things change, the realization that something will benefit the greater good.

Flashing lights can be used for many purposes other than notifying us that the phone is ringing or someone is at the door. Years ago a deaf woman applied for a job at a well known cheesecake establishment. This particular restaurant did not want to hire her because they felt that she would not be able to hear the timer on the big ovens. A percentage of burnt goods were allowed from each employee (10%) and they felt as though her deafness would lead to a higher percentage than their hearing employees. After some discussion with the manager, we were able to convince them to install a visual alert signaler that would flash a light when the timer went off. Much to the amazement of management, the flashing lights helped everyone notice the timer over the loud din of other kitchen appliances and the burn rate for all staff was

reduced to four percent!

As many of you know, we worked with the Kentucky State Police (KSP) to develop a Visor Card utilized to assist citizens stopped by police officers for traffic violations. This program has become so popular that the KSP will adapt it to be used with consumers who speak a variety of languages other than English.

The idea of emergency notification through the use of wireless devices is quickly spreading around the globe. Not only for deaf and hard of hearing individuals, but for anyone that needs a way to receive information and communicate when there is no electricity for television and radios. Do you see the trend here? The needs of the deaf and hard of hearing population are now starting to spill over and benefit everyone. Our fight for equal access becomes much easier if we can show the impact the change will have on the population as a whole.

"Take time to realize the impact you make."

Virginia L. Moore

As we move forward into the 2010 legislative session, we plan to advocate for captioning in movie theaters, better education for our children, access to mental health services and provision of comprehensive information to parents of newly identified infants with a hearing loss. To accomplish these goals we must link them to a benefit for all citizens of the Commonwealth, not just our community. As each of us struggles to survive in tough economic times, and we as an agency continue to deal with budget cuts, we must be creative in how we approach change and ensure it will meet the needs of the greater good if we are to succeed. So as this year comes to an end and we all look forward to 2010, let us also think of



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**David Bayersdorfer**  
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Representative

## **Pancake & Sausage Bazaar**



On the 20th of November the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) hosted a Pancake and Sausage Bazaar. Booths offering information, technology, and crafts for sale were available and KCDHH participated.

Commissioner Melody Bock-Freeman, who teaches math at KSD, gave students and attendees a brief description of what KCDHH does for deaf and hard of hearing consumers and spoke about her background and hearing loss. Virginia Moore, Executive Director of KCDHH, spoke about the goals that KCDHH has for the future and asked for input from the community regarding what is needed.

Students participated in a storytelling competition fashioned after the popular show American Idol and judges provided input and scored each contestant. Ms. Moore announced that the winner of the competition will earn an all expenses paid trip to next year's DeaFestival on September 4, 2010 in Horse Cave Kentucky, and will perform on the SpotLights stage.

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how we can make a difference in the lives of others as we move to change our lives and our community.

For most, the holiday season tends to arouse nostalgia. We often experience sentimental recollections of individuals or events from our past that leave us with a mixed bag of feelings. One such event happened to me and has made a difference in my perception of life as a whole. I was stopping for a bite to eat at McDonald's and a homeless man approached me asking me to purchase him a sandwich. "Just one fish sandwich" he said, and "five minutes of conversation if you will please." I thought to myself, "No way....I don't have time to talk." Yet something led me to buy him the sandwich and sit with him to eat. He looked at me and said, "You know, I haven't always been this way. I was once a chef in a famous New Orleans restaurant, I had a home and a family, I just want you to know that." I had to leave shortly and as I did I reached out my hand to shake his and he straightened up a little bit and smiled. The whole incident lasted no more

than half an hour and yet the impact will last my entire lifetime. When I made the decision to purchase a sandwich I thought I was helping a homeless man, but in reality he did something for me. He gave me the inward understanding that we can all do good if we take time to listen and to try. He made me look at him as human again, not just a worthless nobody who could do better with his life. If we all look to the greater good we can make such a difference in this world, not just for our community, but for all human beings.

May you each be warm, safe, well fed and surrounded by those you love during the holiday season.

### **Commission Staff**

#### **Virginia Moore, Executive Director**

Anita Dowd, Information Office Supervisor  
Derek Drury, Interpreter I  
Rowena Holloway, Internal Policy Analyst III  
Craig Lemak, Information Program Coordinator  
Rachel Morgan, Executive Staff Interpreter  
Rachel Payne, Interpreter Referral Specialist  
Leslie Ricketts, Executive Secretary II  
Jim Rivard, Network Analyst II  
Wilma Wright, Administrative Specialist II  
Cole Zulauf, Document Processing Specialist III  
vacant, Information Program Coordinator  
vacant, Executive Assistant



# DeaFestival-Kentucky is going to Horse Cave!!

**D**eaFestival-Kentucky is taking a vacation and heading out to visit the beautiful cave country in central Kentucky. Our free, one-day festival will take place on Saturday, September 4, 2010, in downtown Horse Cave. Our cherished SpotLights program will take place in the Kentucky Reperatory Theatre right on Main Street while the Childrens program, Visual Artist Gallery and other features will be set up in the immediate surrounding area.

You definatly don't want to miss the down home feel of this charming town! Oh, and did we mention the Hidden River Cave right next door? Or how about Kentucky Down Under? Mammoth Cave National Park? Guntown Mountain? Dinosaur World? Go-Carts? Alpine Slide? All of this within five miles.

So, pack up your family and plan to make it a full weekend get-away!! This may just be the best DeaFestival yet!!

♥ If you are interested in being a performer, visual artist, vendor or volunteer...applications are online now!

♥ Be sure to bookmark our website

[www.deafestival.org](http://www.deafestival.org)

so you can watch for  
new information!!

♥ To see information about the attractions in  
the area visit

[www.cavecity.com](http://www.cavecity.com)

**SEE  
YOU IN  
SEPTEMBER!!!**





**KCDHH**  
632 Versailles Road  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

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Happy Holidays  
from the  
KCDHH Staff

