



NOVEMBER 2006

The Family Support Connection FOCUS

—News from Minnesota Hands & Voices—

Technology, teamwork, creativity help child with hearing loss join in the game

The benefits that come from a child's participation in organized sports are well documented. Kids learn important skills such as problem-solving, self-discipline and teamwork — in other words, they learn to be “good sports.”

For kids who are deaf or hard of hearing, the path to becoming a good sport can be especially challenging when they play on a team with hearing peers. In sports like basketball and volleyball, hearing teammates shout commands to each other while keeping their eyes on the ball. So how does a kid who might miss those shouts join in the game? Technology, teamwork and a little creativity go a long way to make sports accessible to kids who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Technology in the form of hearing aids or a cochlear implant can help a child with hearing loss hear some of a coach's or teammate's shouts during a game. But, during fast-moving games like basketball, there's just too much noise to decipher.

“We learned that if we used an FM system (borrowed briefly from our clinic) set only on the coach's voice my son did much better with attending and following directions,” said Kris Hemstock about her 8-year-old son's performance during basketball practice. “Without the FM, I might see him over in the corner bouncing the ball against the wall by himself during practice. With the FM, he would be in line with the other children attending to the coach and participating in the team drills. It was like night and day.”

Kids who wear aids or implants have the added burden of trying to keep them on or protected from sweat during play. Sweat, like rain, can get inside aids/speech processors and damage the batteries or short the system. Donna Marzolf has used a product that has helped her active son.

“We found a product called ‘Hearing Aid Sweat Bands,’ which are

like socks that go over the hearing aid and absorb the moisture, so it doesn't get into the hearing aid itself,” Donna said. “We purchased these through our hearing aid dealer for about \$17 a pair. This has helped somewhat, although after lengthy periods of play, the bands get wet and eventually, the moisture does reach the hearing aid.”

These also are available for the BTE (behind-the-ear) portion of a cochlear implant. They are made by VanB Enterprises and come in several colors. See www.vanbenterprises.com, but shop around because the prices online can vary. Ear Gear is a spandex covering for hearing aids. See www.gearforears.com

Some kids have worn sweatbands or headbands both to control moisture and to keep the aids or attachments in place. Girls can wear bobby pins, clips or barrettes, but be aware that high school sports often restrict those. Simply pointing out the special need for wearing those to officials and the other team's coach can clear the way. For contact sports, a helmet not only protects the child's head, but also helps hold a hearing aid or implant in place.

Kelly Tuomala's 5-year-old son wears a helmet for T-ball, hockey and biking.

“For each activity, we have found a helmet that fits just right,” Kelly said. “Sometimes just adjusting the straps and/or repositioning the foam padding inside has made it work.”

Kids who rely on manual communication should be provided with an interpreter or transliterator during sports. Even still, it's not possible to interpret everything during a fast-moving game. That's where it helps to teach teammates to use visual signals to “call out” plays and get each other's attention. After all, it's difficult for everyone to hear in a noisy gym or on a huge soccer field. Using “team codes” moves the focus of communication away from the child with hearing loss to something that the whole team works on together.

Younger kids, especially, find it fun to create and use secret team signals.

When a child relies on a combination of listening and lip reading, it helps to tell a coach to face that child when giving directions. Coaches usually appreciate knowing how they can help every child participate in the game.

“We always discuss privately with the coaches the fact that our son will not be able to hear some of the things said while the game is in play,” Donna said. “Coaches have been wonderful about making special efforts to communicate with our son, allowing him to compete just as any other child would.”

As kids who are deaf or hard of hearing get used to playing sports with hearing teammates, they often find their own ways to compensate for their hearing loss.

“I see him coping in many ways to keep up,” Kris said. “He watches, watches, watches others. He is not afraid to try and be wrong. He looks at people when they speak, and he practices, practices, practices when he is alone.”

All her son's extra efforts pay off for him, Kris said.

“I know he will not catch everything the others do, but already his life has been so enriched by his sports experiences, the friends he has made, and the opportunity to fulfill this important part of himself,” she added.

Donna said that participating in sports has had a big impact on her son's life, too.

“It has been great in increasing his confidence about everything in life,” she explained. “The greatest side effect of his participation in sports is that he has made friends from all over our school district, not just within his elementary school. He has a whole circle of friends who already know him, know all about his hearing aids and have accepted him just as he is. We really hope this will help him as he transitions into middle and high school.”



What's Happening Around Town

Wednesday,
Nov. 8

Minnesota North Star Academy hosts an academic bowl with students from Coon Rapids High School, Highland Park High School, and Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf. The school is located at 1669 Arcade St. in St. Paul.

Saturday,
Nov. 11

A Holiday Open House from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at WoodLake Lutheran Church, 7525 Oliver Ave. S., Richfield, features Deaf Consultants for a variety of companies including Discovery Toys, Stampin' Up!, Tupperware, Creative Memories, and the Pampered Chef. For information, contact Marla at MKohl10423@aol.com.

Saturday,
Nov. 11

Minnesota DeafBlind Association hosts its 27th Anniversary Banquet from 4 to 9:30 p.m. at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, 1669 Arcade St. in St. Paul. Dinner runs from 5 to 6:30 p.m., followed by a program and Silent Auction. Cost is \$15 for members; \$20 for others. Reserve by Nov. 5 at mdb@deafconnect.com or 651-647-6564.

Saturday,
Nov. 11

Hang out with friends at Deaf/Hard of Hearing Teen Night at Minnesota North Star Academy. Kids ages 12-18 gather for open gym, games and movies from 6 to 10 p.m. at the school, 1669 Arcade St. in St. Paul. Cost is \$2.

Sunday,
Nov. 19

CSD and St. Paul Parks and Rec offer Family Bowling plus door prizes at 3 p.m. at Midway Pro Bowl. Cost is \$7 for 3 games and an optional \$7 for pizza and pop. Register by Nov. 13. For a registration form, e-mail Mary.Livingston@ci.stpaul.mn.us or call 651-266-6366 (v), 651-266-6378 (tty).

Tuesday,
Nov. 21

Practice Cue Clutch meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Java Jacks, 818 W. 46th St. in Minneapolis. Directed activities increase cueing fluency. For more information, contact Katherine Burns-Christenson at 952-929-3965 or e-mail kbc29@aol.com.

Thursday,
Nov. 30

A Branson-style Country Christmas at Celebration Church in Lakeville is ASL-interpreted at 7:30 p.m. with more than 70 performers. Discount tickets are \$12. Contact 952-898-7200 (v), or -5310 (tty) or e-mail info@celebrationchurch.net.

Friday,
Dec. 1

Family swim night moves to a new location: Arlington High School, 1495 Rice Street in St. Paul from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$4 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under, and \$1 for spectators. This pool has areas for diving, swimming and wading. For more information, e-mail Mary.Livingston@ci.stpaul.mn.us or call 651-266-6366 (v), 651-266-6378 (tty).

Saturday,
Dec. 2

The St. Paul Public Library presents Deaf Storytime with Estella Bustamante at 10:30 a.m. at the Merriam Park Branch Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. For details, call 651-642-0385 (v) or 651-298-4184 (tty).

Sunday,
Dec. 3 &
Thursday, Dec. 7

An ASL-interpreted tour of Holiday Traditions in the Period Rooms begins at 2 p.m. in the Bell Decorative Arts Court, third floor of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. **Holiday Traditions at the Purcell-Cutts House** is at 3:30 p.m. (Shuttle bus is available from the MIA to the house.) Another interpreted tour of the Period Rooms begins at 7 p.m. on Dec. 7. For details, call Visitor and Member Services at 612-870-3131 (v) or 612-870-3132 (tty) or e-mail dhegstro@artsmia.org.



ASL-Interpreted Performances

Antigone

Nov. 8, 2 p.m.; Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Mention the VSA Offer for \$13 tickets.
Children's Theatre Co., 2400 3rd Ave. S.,
Minneapolis; 612-874-0400;
www.childrenstheatre.org

Narnia

Friday, Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m.
\$8, \$4 for seniors/students
Fred Moore Middle School Center for the
Arts, 1523 5th Ave. S., Anoka; 763-506-
3667; www.anoka.k12.mn.us/fmms

Boats, Circles and Ogres: Stories for Young Ones

Saturday, Nov. 18, 2 p.m.
\$15, \$12 for seniors/students
Walker Church, 3104 16th Ave. S., Mpls.
www.paulino.info

25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Sunday, Nov. 12, 1 p.m. ASL offered if re-
quested in advance: 612-373-5639 or 5655;
State Theatre, 805 Hennepin Ave. S., Mpls.,
www.hennepintheatredistrict.org

The Miser

Sunday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m.
Theatre de la Jeune Lune, 105 N. First St.,
Minneapolis; www.jeunelune.org

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Saturday, Nov. 25, 7:30 p.m.
Park Square Theatre, 408 St. Peter, St. Paul;
651-291-7005; www.parksquaretheatre.org

Irving Berlin's White Christmas

Friday, Dec. 8, 8 p.m. Ordway Center,
345 Washington, St. Paul; 651-224-4222;
www.ordway.org/services/access.asp

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Our mission is to build better lives for children who are deaf or hard of hearing by providing parent-to-parent support.

Newsletter Editor: Audrey Alwell

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In Your Corner

By Candace Lindow-Davies,
Family Support Coordinator

I hope our newsletter finds all of you enjoying Fall activities and looking forward to another festive holiday season. With the trick-or-treating, harvest parties and huge influx of sugar behind us, I know I am already making plans for Thanksgiving.

I am so grateful to our Southwest Parent Guide, Kris Hemstock, who coordinated the cover story for this month's newsletter with help from Northeast Parent Guide, Kelly Tuomala. Last month, our Metro Parent Guide, Melissa McNamer, spearheaded the cover story on childcare. These amazing parents shared their experiences, gathered others' stories and then fed them to our editor, Audrey Alwell, who through her own magic has created wonderful cover stories month after month. In this month of giving thanks, I cannot tell you how appreciative I am of the people I have the pleasure to work with. If I have done anything right, I have surrounded myself with incredibly smart people.

Here are a few updates from the Family Support Connection/MN Hands & Voices:

- This year's version of our Resource Directory will be available on our website shortly. Please visit: www.familysupportconnection.org/html/directorystart.htm to download the document.
- The date set for our annual Roller Skating event at the Roller Garden in St. Louis Park. Mark your calendars for Jan 28 when we have the rink all to ourselves to enjoy some food and fun. See the attached flyer for details.
- We are in the middle of planning ahead for 2007. If you have ideas about what workshops or events you would like to see, please give us a call. And, if you have any contacts for potential funding for our activities/efforts, we would really welcome the opportunity to talk to you more about that. As many of you know, we have great ideas for what families might want, but are often limited by the money to do it. We have some great information about web casting our educational workshops around the state. I have to trust we can find some sponsorship to provide parents valuable information so everyone has the tools needed to support their child, no matter how remote the community.

Have a great November.



Leader of Family Support receives award

Candace Lindow-Davies, the Family Support Coordinator, has received the 2006 Annual Betty Hubbard MCH Leadership Award for statewide leadership and advocacy on behalf of mothers and children in Minnesota.

The Commissioner of Health and the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Advisory Task Force will present Candace with her award at a ceremony Dec. 1.

This award is named for Betty (Elizabeth) Hubbard who was a long-time advocate for the health needs of mothers and children and an original member of the MCH Advisory Task Force. It has been offered annually since 1990.

In nominating Candace, Penny Hatcher of the Minnesota Department of Health said, "Just as Betty Hubbard was, Ms. Lindow-Davies is a parent of a child with special needs, is an advocate for the health needs of mothers and children, and is a guiding force in the parent advocacy movement. She believes strongly in and works tirelessly to promote parent empowerment. She has developed successful and innovative programs to serve children with hearing loss and their families..She is an excellent candidate to receive the 2006 Betty Hubbard MCH Leadership Award."

Candace, congratulations for this well-deserved recognition of your hard work and dedication to families!

Free workshops offer insight into deafness

People who want to learn more about how to get along with someone who is deaf or hard of hearing can attend a free workshop offered monthly through Metro Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services.

"Putting the Pieces Together: Working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing People" covers topics such as Deaf culture, hard of hearing issues, communication tips and working with interpreters. Participants will experience simulated hearing loss to give them a better understanding.

The workshop runs from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Minnesota Department of Human Services, 444 Lafayette Road N. in St. Paul. The next workshop is Nov. 15. For a brochure listing other dates and registration information, e-mail dhhs.metro@state.mn.us.

Apply now for summer internships

College students: now's the time to apply for a summer internship through the American Association of People With Disabilities (AAPD). Apply by Dec. 1 at www.aapd-dc.org.

Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation-AAPD Congressional Internship is an 8-week paid summer internship providing first-hand knowledge of the legislative and political process by working in Congressional offices in Washington, D.C. The program will provide the eight selected participants with a \$1,500 stipend, transportation expenses to and from Washington, D.C., and free accessible housing.

Microsoft-AAPD Federal IT Internship is an 11-week paid summer internship in Washington, D.C., that offers real-world work experiences to enhance employment opportunities and information technology skills. The 10 selected participants will receive a \$2,500 stipend, transportation expenses to and from Washington, D.C., and free accessible housing.



The View from Here

Northwest:

A social for families that have children who are deaf or hard of hearing is Saturday, Nov. 11 from 1 to 3 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 619 Broadway in Fargo. Contact Shawnda Mickelson at tmickelson@usctruss.com or 701-298-7667.

East/West Central:

An ASL-interpreted performance of "Yes You Can, Just Do It!" will be at 2 p.m. Nov. 4 at Central Lakes College in Brainerd. This new musical exploring life's diversities. For tickets or information call 218-855-8202.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services - East Central presents a **free training Friday, Dec. 8 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** "Dispelling the Myths: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Trends" is for anyone who deals with people who have hearing loss. Participants will experience simulated hearing loss and learn about Deaf culture, hard of hearing issues, communication tips and working with interpreters. For location and registration information, call -800-456-3690 or 320-255-3502.

2006 Reason For Hope Retreat will be Nov. 10-11 at the Holiday Inn-St. Cloud. Registration accepted through Nov. 5. See www.reasonforhoperetreat.org.

Southwest:

Barnes & Noble in Mankato hosts **ASL Storytime** at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 4 in the children's book section.

See the list of workshops at right for one in your area.

Scholarship honors students with hearing loss

Since it was established in 2004, the Iversen/Lions Scholarship for deaf or hard of hearing students graduating from White Bear Lake Area High School has helped five students with post-secondary education.

A former Family Support Connection staffer, Laura Himes Iversen worked with the local Lions Club to create the scholarship program to honor high school seniors who have a hearing loss. The degree of loss and the method of communication students use are irrelevant to the scholarship selection process, Laura said.

"What matters is that the student has a hearing loss, is involved in community service, has a GPA of 2.5 or above, and has been accepted into a two or four year college," she explained. "Through my own son and his friend (one who is hard of hearing, the other is Deaf), I have seen firsthand how challenging school can be. It means a lot to me to honor these kids—they sometimes struggle but they also achieve much success through perseverance, good attitudes, hard work, lively personalities and intelligence."

Laura is willing to offer suggestions to other parents who want to set up scholarship programs in their child's school. To reach her, call 651-779-0374 or e-mail piversen0374@comcast.net

Gallaudet Board reconsiders president

Gallaudet University's Board of Trustees voted Sunday to terminate the appointment of the school's controversial incoming president. The vote came after several months of protest by students and faculty following the appointment of Jane Fernandes, the school's former provost, last May to take over when I. King Jordan retires in January.

The protest at first seemed to be that Fernandes was not "deaf enough" to lead a university that many view as the center of Deaf Culture in this country. Fernandes, who is deaf, was raised orally and did not learn to sign until her 20s. However, in the past month, protesters, which included many alumni and parents, focused on problems created during Fernandes' tenure as provost. University faculty voted this month, 82 percent to 18 percent, for Fernandes to resign or be removed. Fernandes had refused to resign, saying it would hurt the university to allow protests to determine the school's leadership.

In a statement, the Board said trustees regretted the decision to reverse course on Fernandes' appointment, but they were looking for a way to heal the strife at the University.

Protesters also influenced the presidential selection the last time Gallaudet's presidency changed hands. In 1988, students demanded the board appoint a "Deaf President Now." Then-president Elisabeth Zinser resigned after about a week in the position, and I. King Jordan was appointed.

To learn more about the protests and the search for a new president, see www.gallaudet.edu.

Workshops prepare parents for advocacy

PACER Center is holding workshops throughout the state to encourage parents of children who have disabilities to become advocates for special education public policy.

In "Got any great IDEAs?" participants will learn skills and techniques to communicate with elected officials, how to be involved in policy making, and potential issues facing Minnesota's special education system. Workshops run from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the following locations:

St. Paul—Wednesday, Nov. 8
 Minnetonka—Thursday, Nov. 9
 Rochester—Thursday, Nov. 16
 Mankato—Monday, Nov. 20
 St. Cloud—Thursday, Nov. 30
 Crookston—Wednesday, Dec. 6
 Virginia—Thursday, Dec. 7

To register online, go to www.pacer.org, click on "Workshops," and click on "Advocacy." Or, call 952-838-9000 (v), 952-838-0190 (tty) or toll-free 800-537-2237.

Download or order a CD of the latest version of IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004) at www.edpubs.org/webstore/Content/search.asp. Type in Publication ID: ED002468C. Information also is available online at the government website: www.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/idea2004.html.

Tutor, mentor sought for kids in Mpls. schools

Use your signing skills to tutor and mentor students who are deaf or hard of hearing in the Minneapolis Public Schools through AmeriCorps.

This part-time position requires 25 hours per week and pays approximately \$480 per month (before taxes). Complete your term of service and receive an Education Award in the amount of \$2,362.50 to go to college or pay off qualified student loans.

The job involves tutoring 7-10 students during the school day, mentoring one student through lunchtime or after-school meetings, and leading two or more activities that link academics to enrichment opportunities. It may include helping with field trips, school events and fundraising.

Job candidate must pass an Academic Skills Assessment and be fluent in ASL. Contact Jennifer Valley, City of Lakes AmeriCorps, at 612-668-4193.

Site lists groups serving deaf

A new website lists organizations from across the country, including the Family Support Connection and Hands & Voices, that serve people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The site, www.deafCensus.org, provides a national database of organizations. The list can be accessed alphabetically or by category or geographic location. Each organization listed is displayed by their geographical location, along with a profile and link to their website. Users need to register before accessing the information.

Future plans for the site include adding a calendar of events and statistical information on topics related to deafness and/or hearing loss. DeafCensus also plans to add a user-friendly map that shows each state's services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals at the state, county and city levels.

Teachers of deafblind surveyed

Professionals who work with students who are deafblind are being asked to complete an online survey for a research project.

Dr. Amy McKenzie of Florida State University is studying literacy media used by students who are deafblind. The survey is at www.coe.fsu.edu/CERDS/DBsurveywelcome.html.



A Little Grin

By Kris Hemstock

In talking to other moms about how their kids with hearing loss are doing in sports, I heard one mom talk about her son's first experience playing soccer.

Her son, who wears hearing aids, came home from his first soccer practice really excited. He explained to his mother all about "nibbling" the ball. Of course, what he meant was "dribbling" the ball, but he had heard "nibbling." Now that would make the game more interesting!

When his mother tells this story, she sees the humor in the mix up, but also feels the potential embarrassment had her son said this to his teammates and not to her. She says some of the things that help her son participate in sports are keeping the same coach for more than one season and making sure the coach looks at him when speaking.

For more tips on helping a child with hearing loss succeed in sports, see the front page story.

Foundation helps needy get hearing aids

Families with limited financial resources can apply for help obtaining hearing aids through Hear Now, a program of the Starkey Hearing Foundation based in Eden Prairie.

Hear Now is a national non-profit program to help deaf and hard-of-hearing US citizens get hearing aids for as little as \$100 per aid. Hearing professionals volunteer their services through the program, which also accepts monetary donations.

An application for hearing aids is online at www.sotheworldmayhear.org, click on "Hear Now." For more information, call 1-800-648-4327.

Hear Now recycles used hearing aids. Donations are tax deductible. See the Starkey website for details.

Santa signs, cues for deaf, hard of hearing children

Santa is coming to town to note the wishes of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Santa will sign with kids at the following locations:

Ridgedale Center

Monday, Dec. 4

6 to 9 p.m. &

Monday, Dec. 11

6 to 9 p.m.

Burnsville Center

Tuesday, Dec. 5

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

HarMar Mall

Wednesday, Dec. 6

6 to 8 p.m.

Burnsville Center

Tuesday, Dec. 12

6 to 9 p.m.



Kids who cue can tell Santa their wishes at a party Saturday, Dec. 2 with the Cued Speech Association of Minnesota. The party will be from 1 to 3 p.m. at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, 5760 Portland Ave. in Minneapolis. Activities include games, holiday crafts and gingerbread houses. RSVP to Katherine Burns-Christenson at 952-929-3965 or e-mail kbc29@aol.com.

Book helps families understand hearing loss

Families dealing with a child's hearing loss have a new resource:

"Children with Hearing Loss—A Family Guide."

The book gives practical advice about dealing with the emotional impact hearing loss has on the whole family. Excerpts from the book are online at www.hearingproblems.com/index_4Summary.htm.

In addition to psychological aspects of hearing loss, the book also covers educational issues, rights, legislation and the latest technology available, including assistive listening devices, hearing aids and cochlear implants. It is written by David Luterman, D. Ed, a professor at Emerson College in Boston and director of the Thayer Lindsey Family Centered Nursery for Hearing Impaired Children.

See for yourself how Cued Speech works. Visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=plPw4H-ZsMg.



Off the Shelf

By Melissa McNamer

If you're looking for ways to help your child participate in sports while using a cochlear implant or hearing aids, try going directly to the manufacturer for suggestions. The site, www.cochlearamericas.com/Support/365.asp, for the maker of Nucleus CIs, offers tips on protecting all parts of the implant during athletics.

The Family Support Connection library has several resources for parents of younger children who are not ready yet for organized sports. "Kid Friendly Parenting with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children" offers "a treasury of fun activities toward better behavior." I reviewed it, and, while not directly related to sports, it does have a social skills section that could help prepare a child for activities such as sports.

Another publication in our library is "Listening Games for Littles." Again, while not sports-related, it offers hundreds of fun games, stories, and crafts for children under the age of 5.

If you look at our November 2005 FOCUS issue (www.familysupportconnection.org/pdf/FOCUS-Nov05.pdf), we list several websites and contact numbers on Page 4 regarding ADA and advocating for your child should you incur any accessibility issues or have questions about accommodations.

As always, to request library materials go to www.familysupportconnection.org or call us at 651-265-2373 or toll-free 866-DHOHKID.

DeafDigest recognizes athletes who are deaf and mainstreamed who play varsity sports for their high schools. See www.deafdigest.com/mainstream.htm.

Deaflympics' tickets available, websites detail games

Tickets are on sale now for the 16th Winter Deaflympics taking place Feb. 1 through 10 in Salt Lake City. A dozen athletes from Minnesota will be competing for the United States.

Earlybird prices are available online until Nov. 30 at www.2007deaflympics.com. The website also lists the schedule of events and venues, many of which were used for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.

The Deaflympics were founded in 1924 to give athletes from all countries who have hearing loss a fair playing field. The original name of the international competition for deaf athletes was the International Silent Games. In 1967, the competitions were renamed World Silent Games and later the World Games for the Deaf. By 2001, the name Deaflympics, which combines "deaf" and "lympics" from "Olympics," was adopted.

This Deaflympics will feature nearly 600 athletes from a total of 22 countries. The major categories of events are alpine skiing, cross country skiing, snowboarding, ice hockey and curling. Minnesota is well represented on the US team. Five athletes from Minnesota are on the US Curling team, the hockey team includes another five, one alpine skier is from here, and so is one snowboarder. Kids can learn about these and other US athletes on the Web at 2007.usdeafsports.org.

Teachers who want to use the Deaflympics as an educational tool can get lesson plans from the website clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/deaflympics. (Look under "Educators' Lounge.")

Kids can learn more about the history and value of Deaflympics at the Clerc Center website: clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/deaflympics.

The next Deaflympics will be held in the summer of 2009 in Taiwan.

Deaf2Work helps qualified job seekers find employment

Deaf2Work, a collaborative jobs program, is making news having recently placed 15 workers who are deaf or hard of hearing in The Home Depot® stores around the Twin Cities.

Deaf2Work is a collaboration between the Rehabilitation Services Office of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, the Minnesota Employment Center for People Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Minnesota WorkForce centers and Home Depot. The project's methods include converting Home Depot's application questions to American Sign Language. Deaf2Work specialists conduct initial application and employment assessment, identify qualified job candidates and provide on-site support for them while they learn their job.

These services are available through all of the 47 Minnesota WorkForce centers across the state. Minnesota WorkForce Center's toll-free phone line is 1-888-GET-JOBS (v) or 1-800-657-3973 (tty). Job seekers need to go through one of these centers rather than applying directly to Home Depot to receive these services.

Grants provide more captioned, described media

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) is working with CaptionMax to increase the amount of accessible media for visually impaired, deaf, and hard of hearing students. This collaboration, funded by grants from the U.S. Department of Education, will result in several hundred additional DVDs, videos and Internet streaming per year for classroom use.

CaptionMax will create captions (text of dialog and sound effects) and video description (verbal description of key elements) for non-broadcast educational media. The NAD will administer distribution of materials through its expanded Captioned Media Program, which is now the Described and Captioned Media Program (DCMP).

The DCMP is a nationwide source of free-loan accessible educational media. Its website is www.dcmp.org. The new website has expanded search options and enhanced delivery methods, which include downloading and streaming via both Real Player and Windows Media Player. The site also offers separate student accounts, which allow students direct access to the DCMP under the monitoring of teachers and parents who can determine which subject areas are accessible. Users also can request a printed catalog of library resources. To request a catalog off-line, call 800-237-6213 (v), 800-237-6819 (tty), or 800-538-5636 (fax).

Family Support Connection Roller Skating Event

*For Families with Children who are
Deaf or Hard of Hearing*

Sunday, January 28, 2007

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

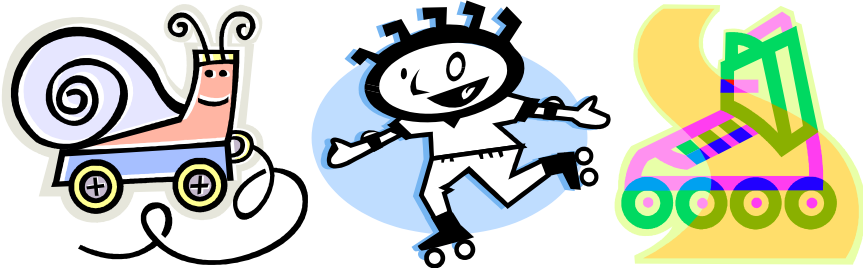
(We have exclusive use of the rink!)

Cost: FREE!

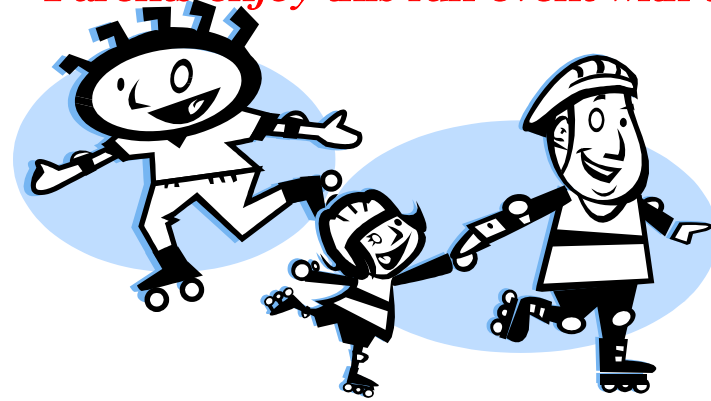
(Donations are welcome at the door)

You will also receive a coupon for a
FREE Hotdog, bag of chips and pop!!!

The Roller Rink will be **closed to the general public** so this is a great way to get out there to test your skating feet, socialize with all of your friends and meet new friends!! It is a lot of fun for the entire family.



Parents enjoy this fun event with their children



Directions:

From the North: Take Hwy 100 south to Minnetonka Blvd. Exit. At the end of the exit (stop sign), take a left. Go straight through the lights. Roller Gardens is on the right side of the road next to Marathon Gas station. (You will see a dinosaur on the roof of the Roller Rink)

From the South: Take Hwy 100 North to Minnetonka Blvd. Exit. At the end of the exit, take a right. Go over the bridge. Take a left at the lights on Lake Street. Roller Gardens is on the right side of the road next to Marathon Gas Station. (You will see a dinosaur on the roof of the Roller Rink)

Questions on Directions? Call Roller Garden at 952-929-5518
5622 W. Lake Street
St. Louis Park. MN 55416

Questions on the event?

Call Family Support Connection/MN Hands and Voices at:
651-265-2435(v), 651-265-2379 (TTY)
or e-mail: fsc@lifetrackresources.org

RVSP's appreciated.

