

*“I was blank with a question about my challenges and obstacles I face, not because I have none, but plenty. One thing I want to say is that our formal form of communication does not work any more when our child with deaf learns and uses ASL. Learning English is already a great challenge for us. I don’t know if I can learn ASL.” —A Hmong immigrant*

## Immigrant children with hearing loss present challenge for schools

While not a direct measurement of the number of recent immigrants, a look at the Minnesota Department of Education’s statistics for the previous school year shows that more than 10,000 students in St. Paul Public schools came from homes where Hmong was the primary language. Another 3,500 identified Spanish as the primary language at home. Nearly 600 used Somali. In Minneapolis, there were nearly 2,000 Somali, 5,000 Spanish and more than 3,000 Hmong. Outside the Metro also has a growing number of households where English is not the primary language. In Rochester, a fifth of the students come from homes where a language other than English is used.

We all know how much it takes to help our children who are deaf or hard of hearing make it through school—attending meetings, advocating for services and monitoring almost constantly to make sure they don’t fall behind. Now imagine trying to do all that in a foreign language in a setting that is totally alien to anything you’ve ever known, when, really, you are more concerned about where your family is sleeping and how you’re going to get food. This is reality for the growing number of immigrants to Minnesota and one of the challenges facing many local schools.

The teachers and school staff who work with deaf or hard of hearing students from immigrant families face unique challenges ranging from the basic—the parents have no transportation to get them to meetings or doctor appointments—to the more profound such as when cultural perceptions of hearing loss have meant a child of 15 has never been educated.

Kathy Arnoldi, the Lead Resource for K-12 Deaf/Hard of Hearing Programs in the St. Paul Public Schools, recalls one little girl with severe behavior problems who was believed to be cognitively impaired. With time and language development, this little girl showed she wasn’t cognitively impaired at all, Kathy said.

“The parents were amazed at what she became,” Kathy added. “And, they were so very grateful for the help.”

In most cases, schools are educating parents as well as their kids. Staff members are helping families connect with community resources, often going way beyond their job descriptions to

ensure immigrant families have help.

“Getting the services, materials and resources these new students and their families need is a huge job, but the payoff is just as great in seeing them develop the communication and academic skills they need to live productive lives in their new country,” Kathy said.

In St. Paul, most immigrant students have been coming from Thailand (the camp that was just closed), but a significant number have come from Africa (primarily Somalia, Liberia, Ethiopia and Nigeria) as well as from Mexico. Most of these kids are hard of hearing and attend school throughout the district. However, five students who are deaf were added this Fall at Humboldt Secondary—a significant number to that program since it only has 21 students.

Getting new immigrants at the high school level is especially challenging, according to Humboldt’s Vincent Allia.

“The vast majority of the immigrant children we see have had no formal communication with their families except for gestures,” Vincent explained. “We’re starting at ‘ground zero,’” he added. While some of these kids can learn to read English, others just need to learn basic communication and self-care skills, Vincent said. They exempt these children from standardized graduation tests and keep most until age 21.

“One of the biggest challenges is to convince parents that their children can do more than be at home,” Vincent said. Humboldt staff work closely with the Minnesota Employment Center at Lifetrack Resources to help students transition to work when possible, he added.

## What's Happening Around Town

Friday,  
Jan. 13

**Apple Valley High School offers ASL interpretation for "The Crucible"** at 7:30 p.m. The service must be requested by Jan. 12 by contacting Gail Kramer at 952-431-8203 or 952-431-8737 (tty). Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors.

Tuesday,  
Jan. 17

**"Cue Clutch"** meets at Java Jacks, 46th & Bryant in Minneapolis from 6:30 to 8 p.m. for anyone who wants cueing practice. For more information, contact Katherine Burns-Christenson at 952-929-3965 or e-mail kbc29@aol.com.

Friday,  
Jan. 20

**CSD and St. Paul Parks and Rec host a Winter Sports Sampler Party** from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Como Ski Chalet for families with members who are deaf or hard of hearing. Try cross country skiing, down-hill skiing or snowboarding for \$8, or pay \$3 to sled and join a private party with cocoa and cookies in the chalet's upstairs. Make reservations by Jan. 13 by contacting Mary Livingston at 651-266-6366 (v) or 651-266-6378 (tty) or mary.livingston@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Saturday,  
Jan. 21

**Minnesota North Star Academy hosts Deaf/Hard of Hearing Teen Night** for kids ages 12- 18. The night includes open gym, games and movies from 6 to 11 p.m. at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, 1669 N. Arcade St. in St. Paul (use the south entrance with green doors). Cost is \$2.

Tuesday,  
Jan. 24

**"Record Keeping" is the topic for a free workshop** presented by PACER, the Family Support Connection, Metro Deaf School and Minnesota North Star Academy. The workshop runs from 7 to 9 p.m. at Metro Deaf School, 265 W. Lafayette Rd. S., St. Paul. To register, contact 651-2224-3995 (v), 651-222-0984 (tty) or contact.us@metrodeafschool.org.

Sunday,  
Jan. 29

**Join us for our annual party at the Roller Garden** in St. Louis Park. See the flyer for details or contact us at 651-265-2435 (v), 651-265-2379 (tty) or e-mail fsc@lifetrackresources.org.

Friday,  
Feb. 3

**Swim Night for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community** runs from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Oxford Pool, 1079 Iglehart, St. Paul. \$3 kids/\$4 adults. For more information, contact Mary Livingston at St. Paul Parks and Recreation, 651-266-6366 (v) or 651-266-6378 (tty).

Saturday,  
Feb. 4

**The St. Paul Public Library presents Deaf Storytime** with stories in ASL and voice interpretation at 10:30 a.m. at the Merriam Park Branch Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Assistive listening devices are available. For details, call 651-642-0385 (v) or 651-298-4184 (tty).

Sunday,  
Feb. 5

**The tour "Decorative Arts: Beauty in the Useful"** at The Minneapolis Institute of Arts is ASL-interpreted beginning at 2 p.m. at the round bench in the museum lobby. For more information, call Visitor and Member Services at 612-870-3131 (v) or 612-870-3132 (tty).



## ASL-Interpreted Performances

### ***To Kill a Mockingbird***

Friday, Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m.  
\$12, \$10 students/seniors, \$14 box seats,  
Lyric Arts, 420 E. Main St., Anoka;  
763-422-1838; www.lyricarts.org.

### ***Les Miserables***

Friday, Feb. 3, 8 p.m.  
\$40-\$65; 651-224-4222, 651-282-3100(tty)  
Ordway Center for the Performing Arts,  
345 Washington, St. Paul; www.ordway.org.

### ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***

Saturday, Feb. 4, 8 p.m.  
\$8-14: 612-624-2345/utheatre@umn.edu  
Rarig Center, University of Minnesota,  
330 21st Ave. S., Mpls.; theatre.umn.edu.

### ***Miss Nelson Is Missing***

Sun., Feb. 12, 2 p.m., Thur., Feb. 16, 10 a.m.  
\$14, \$11 children (age 2-17) & seniors  
Hopkins Center for the Arts, 1111 Main St.,  
952-979-1111; www.stagestheatre.org.

### ***Reeling***

Wednesday, Feb. 15, 10:30 a.m.  
Friday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.  
Reduced tickets: 612-874-0400  
Children's Theatre Co., 2400 3rd Ave. S.,  
Minneapolis; www.childrenstheatre.org.

### ***Little Women - The Musical***

Sunday, February 19, 1 p.m.  
\$26.70-\$68; Request ASL: 612-373-5639  
Historic Orpheum Theatre, 910 Hennepin Ave. S., Mpls.; www.hennepintheatredistrict.com/servicesd.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

We hope 2006 is starting off well for you and your family. A new year often means new challenges and plans. We are certainly gearing up for both here at the Family Support Connection.

We are hiring for several positions. One position is for an Administrative Assistant for our St. Paul location, 10 hours per week. The other openings are for six Regional Family Support Specialists, one for each of the six out state regions as defined by the service areas of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services offices. (See [www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/disabilities/documents/pub/DHS\\_id\\_002702.hcsp](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/disabilities/documents/pub/DHS_id_002702.hcsp) for boundaries.) We hope to hire the parent of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing who lives in the area for each of these regional specialists, since our program is based on parent-to-parent support. Please contact me at [candaced@lifetrackresources.org](mailto:candaced@lifetrackresources.org) for more information or to obtain a job description.

We are also gearing up for our first multidisciplinary Minnesota Summit on Newborn Hearing Screening on April 4. Our newly hired Family Support Specialists will attend a full-day training on Monday, April 3. So, we have a lot to accomplish in the next few months.

**This month, we are featuring a cover article about immigrant families who have children who are deaf or hard of hearing.** I have had the privilege of working with many immigrant families. I remember just this past year I was on a home visit along with an interpreter when the mother thanked me for coming to her home, saying through the interpreter that it meant so much "mother to mother." Her sentiment brought tears to my eyes.

The number of immigrants to Minnesota is on the rise and quite a few have children with hearing loss. With that in mind, we've created Parent-to-Parent support letters in Hmong, Spanish and Somali to reach these immigrant families. We hope to have these letters, and all our Parent letters on our website soon.

Don't forget to sign up for our roller skating event on Sunday, January 29! We have more volunteers than ever, ready to assist you and your kids for this fun, free family event. Hope to see you there.

## Congress supports Newborn Screening

In late 2005, the US Congress passed the Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bills for fiscal year 2006. The legislation allocates approximately \$10 million for Universal Newborn Hearing Screening.

These days, over 90 percent of all newborns are screened for hearing loss before they leave the hospital, up from an estimated 20 percent in 1999.

The legislation also allocates \$6.6 million to the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program.

## New laws benefit deaf/hard of hearing

Six out of seven legislative initiatives affecting people who are deaf or hard of hearing passed in the State's 2005 legislative session.

Legislation created a fund for real-time captioning of live news programming in Alexandria, Duluth, Mankato, Rochester and TPT's Almanac. One hour of real-time captioning of local news broadcasts now is available 365 days a year in 4 cities, plus 110 hours of live news on public television.

The Hearing Aid Consumer Protection Bill passed, extending the money-back-guarantee period by 15 days (from 30 to 45 days). The bill also helps consumers understand the deadlines they have to file a complaint or return hearing aids, allows consumers to request their old hearing aids back if they return new aids, requires audiograms to be provided to the consumer upon request, and sets the maximum amount charged for fitting and processing hearing aids, if returned, to \$250 (instead of 10% of the cost of the aid).

A new law requires Minnesota schools to follow acoustic standards on all new construction. Under the law, schools must show how they considered compliance with the American National Standard Institute's recommendation of a maximum of 35dB background noise and .6 to .7 seconds reverberation time.

An additional \$300,000 for the biennium was allocated to the Minnesota Employment Center For Deaf And Hard Of Hearing People (MEC) to offset cuts made in 2003. MEC helps deaf and hard of hearing people who have multiple disabilities get and keep jobs.

The Department of Commerce agreed to study interpreter shortages in health care settings. A report will be made with recommendations to the legislature before or during the 2006 legislative session.

Tuition assistance for deaf students passed. The tuition assistance program provides the remainder of the tuition for deaf students of any age who qualify for Pell grants.

Each of these initiatives was moved forward by the efforts of the Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People (MCDHH), a 15-member, governor-appointed group that advocates for the estimated 443,000 deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind people in Minnesota. The commission also worked with the Minnesota Association for Deaf Citizens to pass a tuition assistance bill for deaf students. MCDHH and the Coalition for Children with Disabilities were unable to restore funding that was cut to special education in 2003.

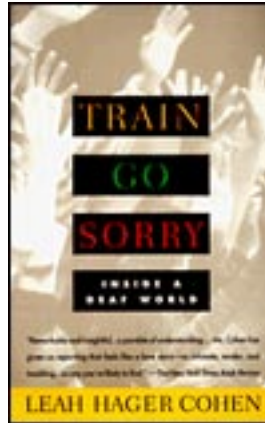
**Put your skills to work! We're looking for an assistant to work 10 hours a week in our office here in St. Paul. We're also hiring out-state mentors. Contact us for complete job descriptions: [fsc@lifetrackresources.org](mailto:fsc@lifetrackresources.org).**

## Book includes stories of deaf immigrants

The book "Train Go Sorry" offers a glimpse inside New York's Lexington School for the Deaf, but it also tells the personal struggles faced by immigrants who are deaf.

The author, Leah Hager Cohen, is the daughter of the school's superintendent. Although she is hearing, she grew up immersed in Deaf Culture. Her book chronicles several students at the Lexington School, including her immigrant grandparents who were deaf. She also tells the story of Sofia, a young immigrant from Russia, who bravely faces her new life in America while she prepares for her bat mitzvah by learning Hebrew in addition to English and American Sign Language (ASL).

"Train go sorry" is the ASL expression for "missing the boat." In her book, Cohen shows how missed opportunities and misunderstandings characterize many interactions between the Deaf and hearing worlds. The book was published in 1995 at the height of the controversy over the use of cochlear implants. "Train Go Sorry" looks at that debate from the standpoint of the implant's impact on Deaf Culture.



## Space Camp hosts week for deaf, hard of hearing students

The annual programs at Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama, for middle and high school students who are deaf or hard of hearing will run from April 30 to May 5. The deadline for applying for scholarships to cover the \$610 tuition is Feb. 4.

Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf sponsors the scholarships. For an application form, see [www.spacecamp.com/deaf](http://www.spacecamp.com/deaf).

Space Camp is a five-day program of activities such as simulated Space Shuttle missions, IMAX® movies, training simulators, rocket building and launches, scientific experiments, and lectures on the past, present, and future of space exploration. Another program offered at the same time for the same price, Aviation Challenge, offers training in aerodynamics, propulsion, aeronautics, helicopters, aviation weather, and more.

About 60% of the participants are deaf or hard of hearing during the week designated for these students. The Space Camp website offers more information about requirements and registration along with a photo gallery from Space Camp 2005.

## Gallaudet sponsors contests for high schools students

The Feb. 10 deadline for the art/essay contest sponsored by Gallaudet University and the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center is approaching.

The art contest is open to students under age 19. The essay contest is for students ages 15 to 19. Students will write or draw a response to the question: "What will I be doing when I'm 30 years old? How am I preparing for it today?"

Accepted media for the art contest include pen and ink, pastel, watercolor, mixed media, cut and paste, acrylic, crayon, or pencil. Winners will receive \$500 for first place, \$100 for second place, and \$75 for third place.

Essay place winners will receive scholarship money for the college or postsecondary training of their choice (\$1,000 first place, \$500 second place, \$300 third place, \$100 two honorable mentions). Scholarship awards will be doubled for winners who choose to attend Gallaudet.

Winning essay and art contest entries will be published in Gallaudet's periodical. In addition, every art contest entry will be included in an online art gallery. Viewers will be able to vote for their favorite works of art. The winning works of art will be exhibited at Gallaudet.

## Rules for captions change

The new year is here and with it comes the new requirements for captioning of TV programs—but don't expect to see everything captioned.

The requirements say that all *new* programs must be closed captioned. However, only 30% of reruns made before July 2002 need captions. Also, captions aren't required on the following: programs shown from 2 to 6 a.m.; locally-produced programs such as parades and school sports events; commercials of five minutes or less; instructional programs produced locally by public TV stations for use in grades K-12 or postsecondary schools; programs shown on new networks for the first four years of the network's operations; public service announcements; and, programs by providers with an annual gross revenue under \$3 million.

TV news programs also must provide 100% closed captioning as of Jan. 1. The networks and their affiliates must real-time caption their news in the "top 25" television markets, which includes Minneapolis/St. Paul. Non-broadcast networks (such as cable) which serve at least 50% of households subscribing to video program services must also real-time caption their news. All other news programs are allowed to caption with electronic newsroom technique, which is pre-scripted, creating gaps when the program has live news updates, ad libs, live interviews, sports and weather updates, and field reports.

If the captioning of a program is not what it should be, you can send a complaint to the General Manager of the TV station, cable or satellite company. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consumer Advocacy Network (DHHCAN) suggests including a reference to FCC rules at 47 CFR Part 79.1 and giving your full address, daytime phone or TTY number and e-mail address. Also, list the date, time and the specific captioning problem. DHHCAN would like a copy sent to: Jerald Jordan, 826 Locust Drive, West River, MD 20778.

The manager has 45 days to respond. If you don't get a response, send your complaint to the Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street S.W., Washington, DC 20554, Attn. CICD/CGB.

DHHCAN is a coalition including the American Society for Deaf Children, CSD, and the National Association of the Deaf.

## Event helps audience prepare for disasters

A Deaf Culture Salon focusing on disaster preparedness will take place Tuesday, Feb. 21 at the St. Paul College Auditorium.

Trudy Suggs will lead the discussion on how to prepare for natural or man-made disasters. Trudy, who owns T.S. Writing Services, works with Community Emergency Preparedness Information Network (CEPIN), a project funded by the Department of Homeland Security that focuses on emergency preparedness for deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened and deaf-blind Americans.

The Salon will include a drawing for an emergency kit. The event runs from 7 to 9 p.m. with registration starting at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$5. Parking tokens will be available at the registration table.

American Sign Language (ASL) is the official language of Deaf Culture salons. For more information, contact Mike Cashman at [mcashman@c-s-d.org](mailto:mcashman@c-s-d.org).

## Schedule of captioned movies listed on Web

Several theaters in the state now routinely show open-captioned movies. However, the schedule for showtimes changes frequently. To find out the current listings for open-captioned movies visit [www.mnocfilms.org](http://www.mnocfilms.org) or sign up to have listings e-mailed to you from Insight Cinema, the organization that does the captioning. You can register for their e-mail listings at [www.insightcinema.org](http://www.insightcinema.org). You can also register to receive e-mailed notices of upcoming open-captioned films from the theaters themselves.

Theaters that show open-captioned movies (with the captions right on the screen) include the Kerasotes theaters in Coon Rapids and in Inver Grove Heights, Marcus Theatres in Oakdale, the Regal Brooklyn Center Stadium 20, the CEC Cinema in Faribault, and the CEC Parkwood 18 in St. Cloud.

Several other theaters routinely offer rear-window captioning of new movies. These theaters include the Crown Block E in downtown Minneapolis, AMC Eden Prairie Mall 18, and the CEC theaters in Duluth and Hermantown. The movie listings for these theaters also are on the [mnoc](http://mnoc.org) website.



## A Little Grin

By Diane Wonchoba

When my three-year-old, hard-of-hearing twins learned we used to have a dog, they were very curious to know where the dog was. I explained the dog was in heaven.

"What????? How can that be?" they asked. So I went on a whole tangent about God and Heaven and faith, etc. They still did not get it.

I finally asked, "What don't you get? The dog died. He went to heaven."

Then one son went over and timidly opened the oven door while asking, "Mom, why would you put the dead dog here???"

Can you imagine?! For 20 minutes the kids thought our dog was in the oven!

*If you have a story about your child who has a hearing loss that makes you smile, please share it with us. E-mail [fsc@lifetrackresources.org](mailto:fsc@lifetrackresources.org).*

## New Youth Group for d/hh teens meets bimonthly

DeafTeen Quest is starting a Christian Youth Group for youth ages 13 to 21 who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The group will meet twice monthly on Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. at South Metro Vineyard Church, 13798 Parkwood Drive in Burnsville. The first meeting will be Jan. 17. Parents are invited to an informational meeting about the new Youth Group from 7 to 8 p.m. on January 17 at South Metro Vineyard.

For more information, contact the director, Laurie A. Johnson, at [COHDeafOutreach@aol.com](mailto:COHDeafOutreach@aol.com) or [ljinterpreter@tmail.com](mailto:ljinterpreter@tmail.com).

## Deaf student's design featured in ad campaign

An 18-year-old Minnesotan who is deaf has created a winning design in a competition for the Mall of America.

Alex Kern, a freshman at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), designed a wristwatch with a dragon on it that was one of 50 out of 500 chosen for the Mall's advertising campaign. His winning design is on billboards in the Twin Cities.

Alex is a 2005 graduate of St. Louis Park High School and the son of Richard and Terry Kern of Minneapolis.

## Speech therapy group open to d/hh kids who use Spanish

The University of Minnesota/Fairview is offering a language support group for Spanish-speaking kids who have hearing aids or cochlear implants.

Speech and language therapists will work with the kids, ages 1 to 6, and their parents to improve the kids' auditory skills and vocalizations. The group will meet from 3 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 11 to Feb. 22 in the Mayo Building on the University's East Bank.

To sign up, contact Kristina Blaiser at [kblaise1@fairview.org](mailto:kblaise1@fairview.org) or 612-273-0927.

An article in the Jan. 10 edition of the *Washington Post*, "Wired for Sound," highlights improvements made in cochlear implants and the number of people who could benefit from the technology. To read the article, see [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com) and search for **Wired for Sound**.



## Off the Shelf

By Robin Coninx, FSC Specialist

Happy New Year!

As we start off the year with the first 2006 issue of *FOCUS*, we are looking at the issue of immigration. I do not have any resources in my library to offer on this subject, so I went online to search out some resources there. I hope you have the time to visit some of these websites. I find it thought-provoking to try to understand what it would be like to be deaf and move to this country—there are so many issues to overcome.

Now I have found nothing that really has solved these issues as a whole, but there are a few articles that talk about community resources and people's experiences. CSD has a program that offers Citizen Training to refugees and/or immigrants with support in a language-accessible environment. The instructors use a variety of techniques to adapt and teach citizen concepts. (See [www.c-s-d.org/default.aspx?tabid=121](http://www.c-s-d.org/default.aspx?tabid=121).)

Using the topic "immigration," I inquired at the website [azlist.about.com](http://azlist.about.com) under the deaf and hard of hearing section and found 25 hits with the first few articles directly relating to education and immigration.

The resources listed here have been selected by the staff of the Family Support Connection but are not affiliated with us in any way. Please review them carefully as we cannot be responsible for their contents or claims.

For other resources regarding issues about deafness or hearing loss, remember to visit our website, [www.familysupportconnection.org](http://www.familysupportconnection.org), to view our library.

## Study shows benefits of getting implant at young age

New research on cats shows how young brains adapt to cochlear implants. The study was done at Hopkins' Center for Hearing and Balance and published last month in the online journal "Science" under the title "Restoration of Auditory Nerve Synapses in Cats by Cochlear Implants."

Researchers compared cats born deaf that received cochlear implants within four months, deaf cats that did not get the implants and a control group of cats with normal hearing. All the cats were exposed to three months of sound stimulation, during which the researchers played music and let the animals roam the lab.

To measure the animals' hearing development, the researchers subjected each deaf cat (including the kittens with implants) to a unique sound, such as a bell ringing, to indicate there was a food reward nearby. Within a week, the deaf kittens with implants responded eagerly to the new sound cue, rushing to collect the food, while those without implants did not.

Later, the researchers analyzed the brain tissue of the cats. Those with implants had developed regions called "synaptic connections" between auditory nerve cells that closely resemble those seen in cats with normal hearing. Those connections included large numbers of synaptic vesicles, reservoirs along nerve pathways that store chemicals needed to pass sound signals between nerve cells, and robust membranes that receive the signals. The deaf cats without implants lacked the reservoirs and the membrane regions were flat and withered in appearance.

"Auditory nerve fibers exhibited a recovery of normal synaptic structure in these cats. This rescue of synapses is attributed to a return of spike activity in the auditory nerve and may help explain cochlear implant benefits in childhood deafness," an abstract of the study concluded.

## Deaflympics ski, snowboard teams hold tryouts

Deaf or hard of hearing teens who enjoy winter sports may want to consider trying out for the US team for the Deaflympics, the world competition for athletes who are deaf. Tryouts are happening in March for the next Deaflympics, which will take place in February 2007 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The U.S. Deaf Ski & Snowboard Association (USDSSA) will hold tryouts March 12 through 19 in Telluride, Colorado. Individuals with a hearing loss of 55dB or greater in the better ear are eligible. No prior racing experience is necessary. The USDSSA will train athletes in racing rules. Teams will be chosen in downhill skiing and snowboarding. Cross country skiers will be selected based on the number of points accumulated in previous competitions.

The Deaflympics was founded in 1924 and is the second oldest international multi-sports and cultural festival, and is recognized by and under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee. Approximately 300 deaf and hard of hearing athletes, from 20 nations, are expected to participate in the 2007 Deaflympic Winter Games. There will be five sports: Alpine skiing, snowboarding, Nordic skiing, ice hockey, and curling. Some of the 2007 Deaflympics venues are the same facilities used for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games.

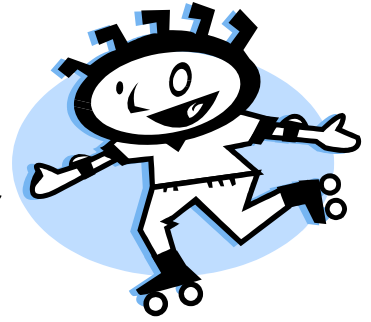
To learn more about the USDSSA tryouts, see [www.usdssa.org](http://www.usdssa.org) and click on the Racing menu option. Deaflympics tickets will be available for advance purchase in June 2005 at [www.2007Deaflympics.com](http://www.2007Deaflympics.com). The website also has applications for people who are interested in volunteering.

Other competitions coming up for athletes who are deaf include the World Deaf Cycling Championships June 17 to 25 in San Francisco, the World Deaf Golf Championships July 18 to 21 in Edmonton, Canada, and the Pan American Deaf Youth Games July 30 - Aug. 6 at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC.

Join us for skating Jan. 29!



# ROLLER GARDEN ROLLER-SKATING EVENT!



For Families with *Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.*  
(Parents are encouraged to join their children for a fun family event.)

**Sunday, January 29, 2006**

**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.

**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 Gardens at 952-929-5518  
5622 W. Lake Street  
St. Louis Park. MN 55416

Questions on the event?

Call Family Support Connection at 651-265-2435(v),  
651-265-2379 (TTY) or e-mail: [fsc@lifetrackresources.org](mailto:fsc@lifetrackresources.org)

RVSP's appreciated.

