



PRSR STD
NonProfit
U.S. Postage PAID
Tyler Texas
Permit No. 75715

Help save paper & postage - let us know of any address change or if you want to drop your name from our mailing list call the office: 903-617-6204

TDHHCConnections

JUNE 2016



Video Phone: 903-253-9655
Communication Coordinator:
903-617-6204

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Lonny Mckinzie, DC, President
Kelly Drumm, Vice President
Stephanie Deibert, Secretary
Wana Crouch
Chris Detkos

ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Susie Grona, President
Elizabeth Crook
Daphne Smith

Sign Language
INTERPRETING SERVICE
903-617-6204
or email the
communication coordinator
coordinator@tdhhc.org

Visit our **WEBPAGE**
www.tdhhc.org
follow us on **FACEBOOK**
www.facebook.com/tdhhc.org

This newsletter is dedicated to uniting the Deaf and Hard of Hearing of East Texas and all supporters by providing information and reporting events that enhance our lives and our community

To receive a newsletter mail your name and address to TDHHC at PO Box 6134 Tyler, TX 75711-6134 or email: connections@tdhhc.org
Articles and photos are welcome

Inside the Loop

Continuing in a series of close-ups on TDHHC Volunteers

Susie Grona serves on the board of Tyler Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center and is the president of TDHHC's Community Committee. Her family moved to East Texas in 2009 to be nearer to both sets of their children's grandparents. Although in retirement mode, Susie brought the energy, drive and the vision of a one-stop center of consolidated services and a haven for the deaf and hard of hearing in this area.

A natural born leader, Susie presented the idea to a group gathered at the 2010 Deaf Festival in Jacksonville. She credits the resulting enthusiasm of this large group of volunteers and their ongoing tireless work as the driving force in establishing and growing the Tyler Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center.

Susie is an alumna of Texas Woman's University where she received her Deaf Education degree in 1979 and met her husband of 35 years, Patrick. Her teaching career spans over 30 years starting at Corpus Christi ISD Regional Day School Program for the Deaf. She currently works as an adjunct professor at Tyler Junior College where she teaches Deaf Culture, Visual Gestural Communication, Finger-spelling and Numbers.

Susie stays involved with numerous organizations that serve the deaf and hard of hearing community and with interpreter organizations, locally and statewide.

Because of her love for fishing and tall pine trees, Susie and Patrick reside in Hideaway, TX with two grand dogs while both of their now grown children, Katie and Jacob, stay busy with their careers away from home.

Kelly Drumm is vice president of the board of directors of TDHHC. She had never been involved in a deaf community until her life changed in 2005. She was blessed with Rylee, a beautiful daughter who is deaf. Kelly says that Rylee is her inspiration. Realizing that just knowing the alphabet in sign language wouldn't be enough, she began to research for better ways to communicate with her daughter and for more ways to accommodate her needs.

After moving to Tyler in 2007, the family was set up with the Early Childhood Intervention program. They were constantly expanding their sign language vocabulary. Rylee eventually started school in the Tyler Regional Day School program for the Deaf.

A whole new world opened up. Kelly describes meeting many awesome people in the community and forming priceless friendships. She started going to the bi-monthly chats, to conferences, to workshops, to the church for the deaf and other events. Kelly enrolled in ASL classes at TJC.

Kelly is an independent beauty consultant for Mary Kay Cosmetics and very proud to say she owns a deaf-friendly business.

Kelly joined the TDHHC Board of Directors in 2014 and was honored to become vice president in 2015. It is important to Kelly to help make a difference in the deaf community; making sure that every deaf person has all the tools they need to be successful is a main priority.

Kelly enjoys different activities such as hanging out with family and friends, being outdoors camping, hiking, fishing, and hunting, to traveling and cooking, art galleries, museums, and theater, she enjoys it all!

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."
-Helen Keller

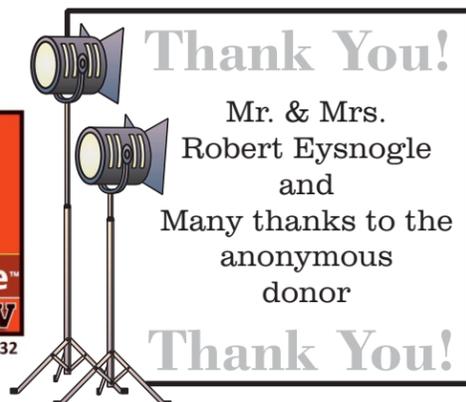
Thank You!



Supporters and Sponsors



Thank You!



Thank You!

Thank You!

TJC ITP 20th year Celebration May 12



Faculty and ITP graduating students



Many familiar happy faces joined in the celebration

My experience in the ITP

by ITP 2016 Graduate Jordan Hall

The first time I walked into the ITP department was to test out of ASL 1. As I walked into the classroom I was met by the teacher. I was surprised when she started signing at me, as I wasn't expecting a teacher who was deaf.

On my first day of class I was happily surprised to have the same teacher again. Nervous as I was to have my first college ASL class with a Deaf teacher and students I had never met before, I quickly fell in love with the class and the girls who I would spend the next two years with.

With three Deaf teachers I quickly became accustomed to trying to sign at all times including during our lunch break and frequent trips to subway. I was immediately put into what my teachers called a *safe place to drown* as they had me working on interpreting from the first day of class. The amount of vocabulary I had drilled into my head on a weekly basis had my head spinning at first but all the teachers were very encouraging and I quickly fell into their pace.

One of my favorite things was how encouraging the teachers were for us to be involved in the Deaf community by going to the Deaf events and participating. These last two years have become some of my fondest memories, and the friends and connections I have made will last a life time!

BASIC CONVERSATIONAL SIGN LANGUAGE

Register Now
for Summer Classes
Basic I starts 5/31
Basic II starts 6/28

Classes offered at both
Lindale TJC Campus and
Tyler TJC West Campus
Both Morning and Evening Classes
Tuesdays and Thursdays
For more information or to register call
TJC Continuing Studies: 903-510-2900
or online: www.tjc.edu/continuingstudies

Coffee Chat

1st Saturdays 7pm
----> Suspended until August

3rd Fridays 7pm
Continuing thru the Summer
WHATABURGER
311 S Main Street, Lindale
(Hwy 69 near Brookshire's)

DATES PLACES

Seniors Outting Thursday, June 2



Saturday, JUNE 4

TDHHC is sponsoring the Kick Off for their Summer Recreation Program for the deaf and hard of hearing children and their parents and family members held at Woldert Park in Tyler

Activities planned by Coach Grona stories and Information will be shared by board Members, parents & adults who are deaf

To RSVP or for more information send an email to our website www.tdhhc.org click on the *contact* link



TDHHC
and
TMAD



Taking a summer break from regular monthly meetings Both will resume In August



SAVE
THE
DATE

AUGUST 6, Saturday
TDHHC & TMAD
Meets at 1:15pm
Spring Creek Barbeque
5810 S. Broadway, Tyler

Apache Alert!

BEI TESTING IN TYLER - RESERVE YOUR SPOT Registration deadline is July 10

Testing dates are Friday, September 9, and Saturday, September 10. The Board of Evaluation of Interpreters will offer their tests at TJC in the new Nursing and Health Sciences building.

Go to www.dars.state.tx.us to register and access the available study guides. For more information contact Connie Sefcik-Kennedy at connie.sefcik.kennedy@dars.state.tx.us

The East TX Deaf and HH Community offers !!Congratulations!! to our friend Randi Turner

The Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities announces that Ms. Randi Turner has been appointed the new Accessibility and Disability Rights Coordinator for the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities. Ms. Turner previously served as the Communication Access Specialist of the Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) for the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), and held positions at its legacy agency, the Texas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Through her work with the public and private sector, from the local to national level, she became a sought out trainer on ADA issues. In addition, her work as an advocate for people who are deaf or hard of hearing earned her the honored Deaf Celebration "LBJ Award." The award signifies her contributions toward equality and equal opportunities for people who are deaf as exemplified by the spirit of Lyndon B. Johnson and the Deaf President Now (DPN) movement at Gallaudet University.

Randi writes: *I begin this new venture May 2. Trust me when I say my heart remains tied to the deaf community, people who are hard of hearing, and the interpreting field. I am not leaving anything or anyone, just adding to my life experiences by stepping through another door of opportunity and adventure! I look forward to staying in touch!*

Excerpts above are gathered from emails from GovDelivery, Inc on behalf of the Office of the Governor Greg Abbott and from the TSID-L Digest.

CONGRATULATIONS

CLASS 2016 

UT Tyler: Justin Watts

TJC: Mari Soliz

Robert E. Lee High:

Randall Bruner
Haven Elliott

TJC ITP:

Cynthia Barrientos
Jennifer Bird
Baylee Riley
Rebecca Bailey
Jordan Hall
Sierra Lee
Rebecca Meadows
Katelin Sikes