ABE Students Present Before Audience

CSD of Minnesota’s Deaf Adult Education program hosted the first annual “Student Profile” night on June 9. A group of eight adult students delivered presentations for the first time in their lives before an audience of 50 people – a friendly mix of students, teachers, administrators, family and friends.

The “Student Profile” project was initiated this year to allow students to apply their skills in English, writing, ASL and technology in an innovative way – presenting their personal life stories. Students honed their Internet skills by researching facts, their English skills by writing and re-writing their stories, and their technology skills by using Publisher to print an announcement and Powerpoint and video equipment for their presentations. Enrollment in the class includes

by each student is their fearless pursuit in learning the English language. Their success was evident to those attending on June 9. Their presentations educated, entertained and inspired the audience.

“Technology in the classroom attracts learners to classes to build skills in reading, writing, and ASL,” states ABE Lead Teacher Jessalyn Frank. “Students are engaged and are succeeding in meeting their educational goals. The skills obtained provide them skills they can immediately apply in their lives.”

The evening included Peggy Camp, herself a former ABE student, telling her success story in finding a job with CSD and new ABE students studying to pass college entrance exams or enroll in the GED program. All learning to read so they can read to their grandchildren! The ABE program, funded by the Minn. Department of Education, is crucial in the community. As the audience learned about the diversity of students, they realized how ABE offers a “second chance” at learning English and to read for deaf adults.

“If it was not for the ABE program, I would still be lost. ABE’s teachers and the program believed in me when everyone else walked away,” commented one student.

The ABE program is gearing up for a great Fall semester with opportunities in distance learning, technology, civics for the workplace, citizenship and many other classes for diverse students. Check our Facebook page to keep tabs on the various things we are doing. For more information about CSD’s Adult Education Program, contact: jfrank@c-s-d.org

Yu Almeida, an ABE student gives a presentation before an audience of 50 people during student profile night. The presentations gave students a chance to display their improved language skills.

U. S. and adults from countries like Zimbabwe, Romania and China. All come from various educational backgrounds. While enrolling in ABE (adult basic education) classes can be daunting, the one characteristic shared

ABE Students presenting their “Student Profiles” received backpacks and gift cards from CSD in recognition of their achievement. Left to right, front row: Jim Fenton, Jennifer Wallace, Yu Almeida, Gina Lauric, Peggy Camp. Back row: Joan Stephan, Teressa Palmer, Ike Muirngai, Mary Dykstra, Jessalyn Frank and Mary Edwards.
Engaging students in the community continues as the most valuable cornerstone of the program because students experience positive deaf role models from the teachers, guest speakers, interpreters and others at deaf events.

It was a rich year for learning new vocabulary related to daily living. Students also have subscriptions to the “Deaf News” by reading a publication called SIGNews about all deaf and hard of hearing people around the world. This has been a great motivator to study hard and to improve reading skills so that one day, students can read and understand everything in the newspaper not just the headlines. Several students now have pagers to communicate with family and friends and videophones in their homes so that can call each other after class hours.

With the emphasis on daily living skills this year, here are some highlights from this year’s program: 1) Transportation: training on taking the bus or train that included how to read bus maps, how to get a disability discount badge, how to transfer, and how to get around the Twin Cities and travel across the country. 2) Banking: how to open an account, fill out an application, determine services needed, how to work with a banker, how to request an interpreter, how to use the ATM machine, how to make deposits through the ATM machine, how to open a savings or checking account. 3) Food shopping: make shopping easy by creating a list, paying attention to aisle labels, saving money and calculating and paying for your purchases. 4) Deaf Somalia Translator: how to use a translator from another language with an interpreter. 5) Deaf-Blind Services and hearing dogs: how hearing dogs support a Deaf-Blind person. 6) The Deaf Community Health Worker Program (CHW): how CHW supports a person in a medical or hospital situation.

Deaf Civics provides unique intensive hands-on learning and experiential learning activities to build daily living skills and knowledge of community resources. The teacher uses a guided learning process – role play and demonstration – for students to understand concepts. Deaf Civics training allows context for deaf immigrants and refugees to build self esteem and self sufficiency skills that will ultimately support full integration in the community. These students regularly attend Deaf ABE classes that complement the civics curriculum and focus more on building ASL, English, and math literacy skills as well as citizenship and computer skills.

CSD has offered Deaf Civics classes since 2003 for deaf and hard of hearing immigrants and refugees and we are grateful for funding from the Minnesota Department of Education. For more information about Deaf Civics, please contact jfrank@c-s-d.org.
New Lead Teacher/Consortium Manager

CSD has appointed Jessalyn Frank, M.Ed., to a leadership position as Lead Teacher/Consortium Manager of the Deaf Adult Education Program and Coordinator of Advocacy and Education in Minnesota. Frank began as a volunteer deaf advocate in Minnesota more than eight years ago. She is a graduate of Gallaudet University and recently graduated from the University of Minnesota with a master’s degree in deaf education.

For the past year, Frank handled a full load of classes in the ABE program where she initiated the successful “Student Profiles” night. As the Lead Teacher, she will continue to teach, provide leadership and management of adult education program, health literacy, deaf domestic violence, and the HIV/AIDS outreach program. “I am excited about my new role because our students are amazing. We are creating new modules for ABE’s diverse students, recruiting new teachers and embracing technology that will help us offer distance education,” said Frank. “I’m looking forward to networking with other ABE programs and strengthening CSD’s partnerships in the community.”

Minnesota Welcomes Kim Barron

Kim Barron joins the Minnesota office from Sioux Falls, S.D. where CSD headquarters is located. She is the new marketing program manager and will be working closely with CSD’s branch offices across the nation to support their marketing needs.

Barron has been with CSD for 12 years in various positions, and is now excited to be a part of the Minnesota office. Most recently, she worked in the CEO’s office handling scheduling and communications. Prior to that she was part of the Corporate Compliance team, Public Affairs Department, Human Resources Department and Human Services Division. Several accomplishments include writing and editing for SIGNews, conducting focus groups for DSA, serving on the planning committees for CSD’s 30th Anniversary, NLLC’s Charity Golf Tournament and Augustana College’s Deaf Education Symposium.

Kim, her husband Barry (both of whom grew up in Iowa) and their two young sons, Nick and Dex moved to Dundas earlier this month and are having fun exploring the great state. She enjoys reading, movies, the outdoors and spending time with her family and two dogs (Lucky, a Jack Russell/rottweiler mix and Comet, a golden retriever/german shepherd mix). Often teased by her colleagues as being the “fastest hand in the Midwest,” Kim is sorely missed by all in Sioux Falls. Wishing you and your family all the best in Minnesota! For more information about marketing, please contact kbarron@c-s-d.org.

For the past year, Frank was recently appointed POC for the newly formed National Justice for Deaf Victims Coalition (NJDVC), a national group that will engage deaf domestic violence and sexual assault programs across the country in discussions related to service, accessibility and educational pursuits, similar in nature to State Coalitions. In her spare time, she enjoys yoga, is a water aerobics instructor, and volunteers in the deaf community with various organizations. For more information, please contact jfrank@c-s-d.org.
Domestic Violence

The Annual Deaf Domestic Violence Walk attracted various people to participate in the candlelight vigil to remember victims. The walk, hosted annually, provides the community an opportunity to receive updated information and resources on domestic violence, sexual violence, intimate partner violence, dating violence and bullying. Upcoming awareness events this fall and winter include: “Tap out Domestic Violence,” “Change for Change,” and Deaf Vagina Monologues 2010. Join our mailing list or E-news for updated information. CSD wishes to thank Verizon Wireless for their generous support of the Deaf Domestic Violence program.

CSDPresented Award by MADC

The MADC Gordon Allen Community Award was presented to CSD’s staff this year! This award is presented to the organization whose community involvement has contributed positive and productive service toward the advancement of deaf people in Minnesota. “The award was a surprise,” stated Jessalyn Frank “and we were happy that Marty Barnum was at the conference to accept the award on behalf of the Minnesota staff. We thank the community for supporting our work and we thank MADC for recognizing the contributions we have made in the community.” The award is proudly displayed at CSD’s front entrance. Thank you MADC!
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Community Education

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Domestic Violence Rally at Capitol

CSD staff, volunteers and advocates in training attended the Domestic Violence Rally at the Capitol. The Deaf Domestic Violence Program continues building relationships with hearing agencies who work in the same field. By participating and being visible with other agencies, legislators, representatives and senators, leaders and supporters, deaf and hard of hearing victims will not be overlooked or forgotten. Various individuals who survived abuse by using Minnesota services provided and emphasized the importance of having help available for all. CSD requested to present at next year’s rally. For more information on domestic violence, please contact jfrank@c-s-d.org.

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GOT CSD?

CSD of Minnesota participated in Twin Cities Pride by having a booth and volunteers working at a booth this year. Jessalyn Frank has been on the Pride Board for five years and always felt a “Deaf” booth was missing. This year a booth displayed the services that CSD provides to the community. Over 400,000 participated in the Twin Cities Pride event on Friday and Saturday. 170 deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind individuals visited our booth. Hearing people seemed fascinated by the signing and would visit our booth to learn more about our services. “Our goal,” says Frank, “was to increase visibility among deaf and hearing participants in hopes of building more awareness and better partnerships for services.” “I really enjoyed having a deaf booth at Pride this year, it was the only one that provided information about people like us,” said a deaf woman named Karen.

Minneapolis Police Department

Mary Edwards and Marty Barnum have been helping with ASL and Deaf Culture classes for Minneapolis Police officers over the past year. Part of the class involves getting the officers out into the world of our deaf community. A highlight every year has been enjoying lunch with the Minnesota Deaf Seniors organization at one of their weekly gatherings. This year the seniors wanted to explore a squad car, turn on the emergency lights, find themselves in the police files, and learn what it feels like to be handcuffed! The officers are always great sports about hands-on demonstrations.

Better Communication–Better Health Conference

A one-day conference titled, “Better Communication – Better Health” was held on April 25. CSD worked with several other organizations as a co-sponsor to provide this workshop. Participants were health care workers, health administrators, deaf individuals, and interpreters. The day began with a welcome from Minnesota’s own Bobbi Cordano, a deaf attorney, and a keynote address from Dr. Michael McKee, a deaf doctor from Rochester N.Y. After Dr. McKee’s informational overview of access to health care for deaf, hard-of-hearing and deaf-blind people, the rest of the day was filled with breakout discussion groups, talking about the issues. The discussions proved to be insightful and productive. The community will be talking about possible next steps.
World AIDS Day

The Annual World AIDS Day event was hosted at CSD. Students from Minnesota North Star Academy and the community provided posters and art in the reception room. Various speakers shared their thoughts, aspirations and memories as part of the event’s program.

AIDS Day planning group for the event included, front left: Krissy Cinealis, Jessalyn Frank, Dann Trainer, back left: Albert Walla, Taften, Tarra Grammenos, Katy Kelley, Denise Anderson.

Thank you to the Hugh J. Andersen Foundation for funding CSD’s HIV/AIDS Prevention Education & Testing Outreach Program.

Deaf Artist Expresses Tragedy of World AIDS Day

One of CSD’s students is a professional deaf artist who once owned a business in his homeland of Zimbabwe, Africa. His name is Ike Murinagi. Ike takes great pride when talking about his country and how he contributed as a deaf professional artist by creating art pieces and murals. He talks of how he was in high demand, how he provided for his family and he was in good financial shape. He made his living traveling throughout the country to sell his art and loved doing it as a job.

In his decision to move to America to advance his education, he found it difficult to start his business here. He turned to the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program to learn English in hope that it will help him to get into art schools and start his business in the near future. One of his projects (in the picture shown) is an art piece he created about World AIDS Day at CSD of Minnesota and his memories of Africa and the people there dying of AIDS.

Ike commented, “Art is very different here in America compared to Africa. America has a lot of fancy tools to create images, I did everything by hand.” Ike hopes that ongoing learning in the ABE program creating good written resumes, learning how to develop web pages, reading and writing about his art will someday help him to relive his passion and do what he loves — ART.

HIV/AIDS Prevention Education and Testing

Jessalyn Frank and Dann Trainer are working together to better address the needs for HIV/AIDS education in the deaf and hard of hearing community through new outreach strategies to provide support, testing, training and information. The “help cards” are now available, testing kits updated and more outreach activities underway to support the large numbers of requests. If you need information or testing support, please contact Jessalyn: jfrank@c-s-d.org. (Deaf HIV/AIDS Prevention Education and Testing is funded by a grant from the Hugh J. Andersen Foundation)
Remote Interpreting Becomes Reality – Minn. Vidyo IO

CSD has been working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) a state agency, and with MSpace, a technology company, to implement a remote interpreting service for emergency legal and medical needs. DHHS has collaborated with CSD for several years now to improve fill rates for interpreter requests in Greater Minn. It is often difficult to get an on-site interpreter quickly for emergencies in more remote areas of the state. Vidyo offers a low cost remote interpreting option that works through a computer. Customers simply need to have a good webcam and external microphone, download the software, and they’re ready! All calls go through a server which affords protection for sensitive medical and legal information. The server will be housed in Sioux Falls and we anticipate installation the first week in July.

Legislative Day

Every year, the Minn. Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, organizes a Deaf Day at the Capitol. CSD works hard to fill the interpreting needs for the day. There are speeches and awards in the capitol rotunda, and deaf community members are able to meet with their legislators. It’s a day that both legislators and Deaf people look forward to each year, an event that encourages people to become more involved in state politics.

Thanks DHHS

CSD Interpreting Services would like to thank Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) for their support over the past years. Their concern for deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind Minnesotans statewide, and their collaboration with CSD, has improved communication access greatly. Additionally, this year DHHS funded a part-time emergency advocate position at CSD, responsible for assuring that interpreter services are provided in emergency situations. Heather Ortiz balances this work with her work as an SC:L and being a student in law school!

Minnesota Hospital Consortium (MHC)

MHC is now 3 ½ years old and has filled emergency requests for 26 hospitals and urgent care facilities 100% of the time! About 40 interpreters provide the interpreting, with three available at all times, 24/7. CSD’s referral staff rotate the responsibility of receiving the emergency requests during non-business hours, and together with the interpreters manage to have the interpreter on site in under an hour close to 100% - Minn. weather, high traffic volume, distance to hospital can all impact an interpreter’s travel time, but we always get there. It’s a great model and can be easily replicated. For more information about CSD interpreting services contact mbarnum@c-s-d.org.

Interpreting Referral Staff Recognized by State of Minnesota

On May 15 at the Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People (MCDHH) quarterly meeting, four CSD of Minnesota interpreting referral staff members were recognized by the commission for their exemplary service. The staff members receiving the award were Jennie Dehn, Jane Sullivan, Sue Hughes, and Jennifer Baumberger.

Mary Hartnett, MCDHH executive director, commented on CSD’s award recipients: “The people working behind the scenes are often overlooked and underappreciated when it comes to the overall service delivery of interpreter referral. During the Legislative Session (and other times throughout the year for MCDHH) due to the nature of our work and those that we work with, it is not uncommon that we submit ‘last minute or short notice requests.’ Yet CSD’s coordinators manage to almost always come through for us! We know it’s not easy and at times can be extremely stressful. Case in point: Lobby Day 2009. Yet no matter what the circumstances, they handle it with much grace and ease. We would not be near as effective without this type of support. They are a critical part of the overall team that is needed to make it all happen. For those reasons and more, we wanted to make a point of recognizing them during our most recent quarterly MCDHH meeting.”

Congratulations to the CSD of Minnesota interpreting referral team, and keep up the great work!

Jennie Dehn, Jane Sullivan, Sue Hughes and Jennifer Baumberger display their award from the State of Minnesota.
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Please sign up to receive the CSD of Minnesota Newsletter via email in the future
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cavery@c-s-d.org

RECREATION
Summer Fun!
July 18 – Deaf Day at Valley Fair. Look for the CSD booth and Deaf staff to purchase your discounted tickets at $24.00 regular admission and $17.00 for those 32 inches or less and seniors. ASL volunteer interpreters will be available for the shows.

August 18 – Deaf Day at the Twins. Teaming up again with MCDHH to provide “Signers” for the national anthem and tickets can be purchased online at the Twins website or at the CSD of Minnesota branch office. Tickets are $12.00

August 29 – Open House and Picnic 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. Visit our “home” and learn more about our programs. Watch tcdeaf.com, deafminnesota.org and our Facebook page.

COMMUNITY INTERPRETING
HAPPY SUMMER FROM CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA!

The start of summer...wow...It has been a busy time with the MADC conference in June in St Cloud. The St Cloud Deaf Club also celebrated 25 years that same weekend!

CSD sponsored the MADC conference by donating interpreters for part of the conference on Saturday. It was a wonderful conference. I was proud to see CSD represented so well.

The busy months of July and August will find me working with deaf and hard of hearing services to provide trainings to three police departments in the Central Region and we will begin quarterly trainings at an area hospital in September.

Quiet this month for the

and household because I have been blessed with the addition of a new webcam, headset, and fax machine. In the months ahead, watch for workshop opportunities in the Southern Region, in particular another tele-training opportunity on the topic of pharmaceutical drugs.

And finally, our integrity and passion continues within the Central and Southern Minnesota communities.

We are proud to work with such a great group of professionals.

Please contact either Beth at bschultz@c-s-d.org for concerns regarding the Central Region or Brenda at bneedham@c-s-d.org regarding the Southern Region.

Brenda Needham serves the Southern and Beth Schultz the Central region.

Southern Region which is always a welcome thing. I plan to refer to this month as "technology month" for my office