

MCDHH 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Registration is now open for **MCDHH's 40th Anniversary Celebration!** Sign up today to attend at <https://bit.ly/mcdhh40thregistration>.

Learn more via the vlog at: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1472790300970415>

Vlog transcript: <https://bit.ly/3PtQ2cD>

ANNIVERSARY EVENT DATES:

April 30, 2026 10:30am - 2:30pm

Kick off at the heart of the state government at the *Massachusetts State House in Boston*. Event held in collaboration with our Statewide Advisory Council.

May 2, 2026 10:30am - 2:30pm

Celebration continues at the heart of the community at *Holyoke Community College in Holyoke, MA* alongside incredible community partners!

Both days include ASL interpretation & CART Captioning. 



Need additional reasonable accommodations?

Let us know on the registration form by April 6, 2026!



A resource and advocacy center for independent living serving people with disabilities and the Deaf & hard of hearing in Central Massachusetts.

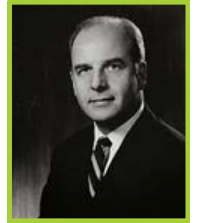
Voice: (508) 798-0350 • Toll Free: (800) 570-4020 • VP: (508) 762-1164 • TTY: (508) 755-1003 • Fax: (508) 797-4015
18 Chestnut St. Suite 540, Worcester, MA 01608 • Website: youraccessadvocates.org

Earth Day is April 22nd

Earth Day is one of the biggest environmental events in the world. It started in the U.S. and has grown into a global movement that encourages people to protect our planet.

How Earth Day Started (1970)

- Earth Day was created by **Gaylord Nelson**, a U.S. senator from Wisconsin.
- In the 1960s, pollution in the U.S. was very serious — rivers were polluted, the air was unhealthy, and chemicals were hurting wildlife. In 1969 the Santa Barbara Oil Spill covered the ocean and beaches, killing birds and marine life. This disaster inspired Senator Nelson to create a national day to raise awareness about protecting the Earth.
- He worked with activist Denis Hayes to organize the first Earth Day.



Gaylord Nelson

The First Earth Day



- On April 22, 1970, about 20 million Americans participated in rallies, cleanups, and educational events. Students, teachers, workers, and families all joined together to demand a cleaner and healthier environment.
- This helped lead to major environmental protections in the United States.

Environmental Laws That Followed

After the first Earth Day, the U.S. government created important environmental policies, including:

- the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1970
- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
- Endangered Species Act

These laws helped reduce pollution and protect animals, forests, and water.



Earth Day Becomes Global

- In 1990, Earth Day expanded worldwide.
- More than 200 million people in over 140 countries joined environmental activities.
- Earth Day is now organized globally by EarthDay.org, and over 1 billion people participate each year.

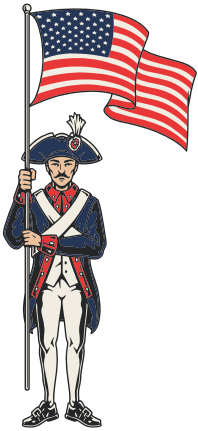
Earth Day reminds us that:

- Nature is precious.
- Clean water and air are essential.
- Animals and plants depend on us.
- We all share one planet.

Celebrate by planting trees, cleaning parks, reducing plastic, and learning how to live more sustainably.

"The Earth does not belong to us. We belong to the Earth."

What is Patriot's Day?



Patriots' Day is a holiday mostly celebrated in Massachusetts to remember the start of the American Revolution with the 1775 battles at Lexington and Concord. It's the same day of the annual *Boston Marathon*. It started in 1897, inspired by the marathon at the first modern Olympics in Greece the year before, and is the oldest annual marathon in the world. The Boston Red Sox usually play an early home game so fans can watch the baseball game and then join the crowds cheering on the runners as they zoom by towards the finish line. Outside of New England, folks often just call it "Marathon Monday" because of this huge race that draws over 30,000 runners and half a million watchers each year, blending history with a big athletic party.

Are there any Deaf marathon runners that completed the Boston Marathon? Yes, there are many inspiring Deaf marathon runners including **Thomas Eller**, a German teacher and activist who became the first deaf-born athlete to complete all six World Marathon Majors — including the Boston Marathon (in 2021) — finishing with a 2 hours and 47 minutes personal best time.



Arne Olav Løvik, a 70-year-old from Norway who's both blind and deaf, has completed 97 marathons so far and is aiming for 100. There's also **Poppea Bowie**, a Scottish late-deafened runner who shone at the Deaflympics marathon, becoming the first from her country, Great Britain, to compete there. These folks show how deaf athletes adapt by using visual signals instead of sounds, and their push for more inclusive race setups to make events safer and more fair for everyone.

UAP's Spring 2026 Program Schedule!

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's **Universal Access Program** [UAP] provides outdoor recreation opportunities in Massachusetts State Parks for visitors of all abilities.



TDCR's Universal Access Program (UAP) wants everyone to have an opportunity to embrace it. So if you are looking for an all-ages, all-ability spring hug, check out the **Spring 2026 Program Schedule** and register for a super fun, smile generating, adaptive recreation programs.

For more information: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/universal-access-program>



Join our team as a: *Deaf Skills Trainer*

Part-time 20 hours/week or Full-time 30 hours/week

\$19/hour | Monday-Friday | Hybrid/2-3 office days

Apply now if you love to:

- ✓ Work with d/Deaf consumers.
- ✓ Provide: skills training; peer counseling; information & referral; emergency intervention.
- ✓ Advocate for consumers & DHILS.
- ✓ Plan/review independent living goals with consumers.
- ✓ Attend trainings/conferences.
- ✓ Lead workshops/presentations.
- ✓ Do consumer and service reports.
- ✓ Work with individuals with diverse disabilities & cultures.
- ✓ Work independently & as a team.

Qualifications:

- ✓ High School/equivalent (GED)
- ✓ Bachelor Degree in health/human services, preferred; years of relevant experience may substitute.
- ✓ License and car access for driving in our service area.

Experience Required:

- ✓ ASL Fluency
- ✓ Minimum 2 years Deaf/Hard of Hearing services relevant work experience, or Deaf/Hard of Hearing community involvement.
- ✓ Computer skills: Microsoft Office; database reporting.

BENEFITS

PART-TIME

***\$250 Sign-on Bonus**
(*after 90-day probationary period)
403(b) Retirement
Sick Time
Parking & Mileage Reimbursement
Annual Merit Increases

FULL-TIME

***\$250 Sign-on Bonus**
(*after 90-day probationary period)
403(b) Retirement
Health & Dental Insurance
Vacation & Sick Time; & 13 Holidays
Parking & Mileage Reimbursement
Life Insurance
Long Term Disability
Annual Merit Increases

APPLY NOW

Apply and See More Info Here:
DHILS Deaf Skills Trainer Positions



Interested or Have Questions?
Email your resume to Emily Patton at:
epatton@youraccessadvocates.org

April Awareness

April 3: National Find a Rainbow Day

There are people that see rainbows as an artistic masterpiece in the sky, to others it is a sign of hope and to many a sign of promise. It can be all three; beauty, hope and promise. (Jill Magnus)



April 9: National Unicorn Day

- Celebrates the mythical horse-like creature with one pointed horn in the center of its forehead.
- A symbol of love, purity, enchantment, and magic.

April 15: National Banana Day

- Third Wednesday in April.
- Low-fat, low-calorie snack with fiber, potassium, and vitamins, and protein.



April 17: National Haiku Poetry Day

- A form of Japanese poetry that does not rhyme.
- Usually has 3 lines with a syllable pattern of 5-7-5.



An old silent pond...

A frog jumps into the pond,
splash! Silence again.

-The Old Pond (Matsuo Basho)

April 26: National Audubon Day

- Honors the birth of John James Audubon.
- Ornithologist (he studied birds), naturalist, and painter - **The Birds of America**
- Approximately 45 million people watch birds.
- Visit Mass Audubon at www.massaudubon.org





Worcester Parent Guide to Community Resources

[CLICK HERE FOR ENGLISH GUIDE](#)



Missed a Newsletter? Past issues are on our website!

[CLICK HERE](#)

Updated Therapists for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Directory

[CLICK HERE](#)



Questions? Contact your Skills Trainer

Joan Philip	DHILS Director	508-762-1165 (VP)
Priscilla Langone	DHILS Administrative Assistant	508-556-1600 (VP)
Ellen Perkins	DHILS Asst. Manager/Hard of Hearing Skills Trainer	508-502-7576 (Voice); 508-762-1354 (VP)
Rosemary Moreira	Senior Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)	508-762-1166 (VP)
Denise Paro	Deaf Skills Trainer (Part-time)	508-762-1021 (VP)
Vacant	Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)	
Vacant	Deaf Skills Trainer (Part-time)	
Kim White	Staff Interpreter	508-755-1042 (Voice); 508-283-1036 (VP)

**Contact
Us**

Videophone: 508-762-1164

TTY: 508-755-1003

www.youraccessadvocates.org



YAA: www.facebook.com/YourAccessAdvocates

DHILS Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/yaa.dhils/>

