MA Statewide Independent Living Council: *Annual Conference*

On Wednesday, September 23rd, DHILS and other Your Access Advocates (YAA) staff attended the Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Conference in Marlborough. Staff enjoyed presentations by each of the Commissioners (of MassAbility, Mass Commission for the Blind and Mass Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing), and attended workshops and a Keynote Panel Discussion moderated by MacKenzie Bonaiuto, CORD Youth Services Coordinator, with our very own DHILS Director, Joan Philip, and Valerie Pease, Adlib IL Advocate. In addition, there were different vendor tables to visit and collect resources from. It was an informative day!



Joan Philip



YAA Staff

International Deaf Awareness Event

On Tuesday, September 22nd, DHILS celebrated International Deaf Awareness Week with an event in the Paul Revere Room at 18 Chestnut Street. Everyone brought delicious foods to share including Pastel de Carne (beef turnovers), chicken fried rice, Tortilla Patata Espanola, India cookies and much more. After lunch panelists from India, Brazil, Haiti, Spain and China shared about their country, including: fun facts, favorite foods and games, Deaf culture and their country's sign language.

See photos on page 2.

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Introducing DHILS Skills Trainer *Jennifer White-Jackson*



My name is Jennifer White-Jackson, and I am excited to join the team. I am looking forward to meeting and working with everyone!

I have worked with the Deaf, hard of hearing, and DeafBlind communities for over 25 years in many different roles, including Substance Abuse counselor, Therapist, Case Management, School Counselor, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and Director. I have always enjoyed working with people, supporting individuals and families, and helping create better communication access, independence, and inclusion.

A little about me personally: I am originally from Missouri, and my family and I moved to Connecticut about three years ago for career opportunities. I have been happily married for over 20 years, and we have four children. My oldest daughter, 23 years old, is a 4th-grade teacher in Missouri. My 2nd daughter, 13 years old, is active in a competitive cheer league. My 3rd son 11 years old, is a musician who plays both bass and tuba. My youngest son, Jahmel, 7 years old, has Down syndrome, and I am very passionate about Down syndrome advocacy. I believe in promoting awareness, acceptance, inclusion, and love, while celebrating the abilities and strengths of people with Down syndrome.

I am very excited about this new opportunity and look forward to getting to know everyone and working together. I am grateful to be part of the team!

International Deaf Awareness Event



Introducing DHILS Intern *Devon Roy*

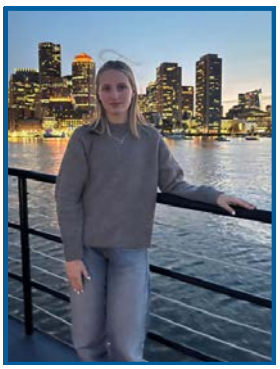


My name is Devon Roy and I am a senior at Northern Essex Community College, where I study American Sign Language Interpreting as I work toward earning my interpreting certificate. This semester, I am excited to join YAA as an intern, where I will have the opportunity to observe ASL interpreting both in the office and in the field. I am especially excited to experience interpreting in real time and gain hands-on insight into the profession.

I am currently a Teacher's Assistant at Beverly School for the Deaf, where I have worked for the past 5 years. My experience working within the Deaf community has further strengthened my passion for ASL and interpreting.

Outside of work and school, I enjoy spending time outdoors, going on walks, visiting the beach, reading a good book and painting! Fun Fact: One of my favorite movies growing up was JAWS!

Introducing DHILS Community Based Learning (CBL) Student *Macy Kurchian*



Hello! My name is Macy Kurchian and I am a sophomore student at the College of the Holy Cross, studying Mathematics with a minor in Deaf Studies. After taking ASL classes my freshmen year, I realized my passion for the language and culture and I am very excited to pursue learning all about it at YAA. I am currently enrolled in intermediate sign language classes, as well as a Deaf studies course that I am deeply interested in. I love learning new things and having new experiences so I am looking forward to acquiring new skills and improving my ASL.

During my free time, I enjoy rock climbing at a local gym in Worcester, hiking, spending time with my friends, reading, and drawing. I am so happy to be spending time at YAA this fall semester!

Introducing DHILS Community Based Learning (CBL) Student *Kathleen Blanchard*



Hi! My name is Kathleen Blanchard, and I am a student in my third year at the College of the Holy Cross. I am pursuing a major in Biology and a minor in Deaf Studies. I am excited to join the YAA community and learn more about ASL to expand my knowledge and contribute to my education in Deaf Studies. I was diagnosed with hearing loss at age 10, and continued to lose my hearing until receiving 2 cochlear implants before heading to college. I have always been interested in sign language and am excited to continue learning while immersing myself in the Deaf community. I enjoy working on advocacy and education, and am curious to see how my interest in Deaf Studies will contribute to my future career in life sciences.



Worcester Parent Guide to Community Resources

CLICK HERE FOR ENGLISH GUIDE



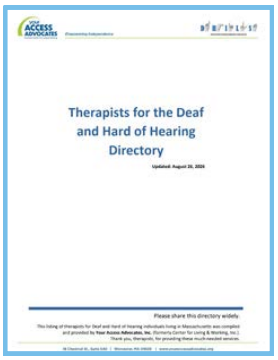
Missed a Newsletter?

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)
Calvin Calandra	*Deaf Skills Trainer (Part-time)*	508-762-1350 (VP)
Jennifer White-Jackson	*Deaf Skills Trainer (Part-time)*	VP Coming Soon!
Kim White	*Staff Interpreter*	508-755-1042 (Voice); 508-283-1036 (VP)

Contact Us

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www.youraccessadvocates.org

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services

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