



Arizona Hands & Voices Fall Expo

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Learning Objectives:

The learner will be able to identify the key components of a successful event that includes both professionals and the parents of children who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing.



Hands & Voices

A Parent-driven non-profit organization dedicated to:

- Supporting families with children who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing
- Supporting without a bias around communication modes or methodology
- Supporting families in enabling Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing children reach their highest potential
- Offering activities that provide the resources, networks, and information needed to improve communication access and educational outcomes

Arizona Chapter Hands & Voices

- 2005 Through the leadership of the EAR Foundation of Arizona, parents and professionals gathered
- 2006 Became an official chapter
- 2007 Became a non-profit corporation in Arizona
- 2008 Awarded our 501(c)(3) status
- 2008 Began developing a Guide By Your Side program
- Currently 74 members including 20 professional and 54 families
- Awarded grants from the St. Luke's Health Initiatives and the Arizona Community foundation
- Held numerous educational and family-oriented events including seminars and picnics
- The 2008 Fall Expo is our largest and most successful

Why an Expo?

Our goal for the Expo was to give families in Arizona the opportunity to attend a local event equal to regional and national conferences that may have been out of reach for many families' resources.

- Access to educational opportunities
- Access to local, regional, and national organizations at one time in one location
- Access to a network of families facing similar issues



About the Expo

National and local vendors representing products and services for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Stressed the need for a balanced roster of vendors and workshop leaders

Vendors were invited to sponsor for the food, meeting location, childcare and more

Partnered with the Speech and Language Department at Arizona State University

Registration cost was minimal for families and no family was turned away



List of Vendors & Exhibitors

Advanced Bionics

Phoenix Children's Hospital

Sequoia School

Siemens

Cochlear Corporation

Desert Voices Oral Learning Center

ASDB's Early Intervention Program

Arizona Department of Health Services

Banner Desert Medical Center Audiology

The Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Arizona Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program

ASU's Speech, Language and Hearing Department

Arizona Relay

Oticon

Banner Children's Hospital

EAR Foundation of Arizona

Sertoma Clubs

Highlights of the Expo

- Over 200 in attendance
- Spanish interpreters
- Sign language interpreters
 - Provided for each classroom
 - Provided in the exhibit hall (spoken to sign and sign to spoken)
- Childcare was provided for parents while they attended workshops
 - The Speech & Language and ASL departments provided student volunteers. They earned credit and volunteer hours
- Raffle tickets were sold to establish a scholarship fund for children to attend camps for children who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing
- Continuing Education Units were approved through the state licensing board for Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists

Workshops at the Expo

15 Classes for both parents and professionals

- Parent Panel
- Deaf Culture 101
- We are Hands & Voices
- Barriers to a Timely Diagnosis
- What Can Cued Speech Do For You?
- Sorenson Relay Demonstration
- FM Systems and Cochlear Implants
- Participation in the IEP Plan Process
- Empower Parents Empower Children
- What Parents Should Know about Hearing Aids
- Better Together – FM Systems and Hearing Aids
- Hands On with Assistive Listening Technology
- Multiple Intelligence and Multi-sensory Integration Therapy
- Insurance Reimbursement for Durable Medical Equipment
- Facilitating Academic Success for D/HH Students in General Ed Classroom



Planning the Expo

9-12 months out

- Develop core group of 4-5 people to plan the event
- Book venue for conference
- Draft list of companies and agencies you want to invite



Planning the Expo

6 months out

- Send out invitations to prospective vendors
- Ask presenters to submit proposals for presentations
- Draft marketing materials to send out to attendees
- Recruit local and national agencies to attend and to add the event to their calendar of events and/or send out info to their mailing list
- Draft list of possible sponsors



Planning the Expo

2-3 months out

- Secure presenters
- Secure vendors
- Contact local Dept. of Education to request CEU's
- Start contacting/securing sponsors for event (breakfast, lunch, speakers, location, childcare, materials, snack, etc)
- Finalize and print marketing materials



Planning the Expo

6 weeks out

- Registration materials
 - Send to parents/professionals/companies, etc
 - Drop off at schools, doctor offices, universities, etc.
- Childcare program
 - Recruit volunteers for childcare program
 - Plan activities – games, crafts, movies, etc.
 - We recommend not having snacks because of allergy issues
 - Only open for use during class times
 - Only potty trained children
- Finalize menu for event and submit to catering department
- Finalize presenter list
 - Submission of power point presentations
 - .pdf file submission for later addition to AZHV website

Planning the Expo

1 month out

- Finalize day-of-event volunteer schedule
- Finalize presenter schedule and workshop locations
- Finalize vendor location in exhibit hall
- Confirm menu with catering
- Package promotional materials
- Notify registered attendees via e-mail (vendors/presenters/attendees)
 - Map of location, finalized workshop schedule
- Prepare AZ Hands & Voices vendor table
- Have plenty of business cards and brochures printed
- Schedule interpreters



Day of Event

- Coordinator has only oversight role
- Set up
- Have registration table ready to go at least 30 minutes prior to opening
- Direct vendors/presenters to their assigned location
- Direct volunteers to their post
- Be prepared for technical difficulties
 - make sure venue has a person available all day



Improvements for 2009 Fall Expo

- Better signage for class locations
- Better accessibility to the interpreters available in the Expo hall for participants
- Scholarships (hotel and registration) for rural attendee's so that they can arrive the day before
- Look for possible grant funding for rural scholarships as well as a stipend for coordinator





Thank You

