

CONNECTIONS Connection

AUGUST 2011 News Letter



Cheryl Hott - Executive Director

Hello to everyone... !

My name is Cheryl Hott I have recently been awarded the position of Executive Director with the Deaf & Hearing Connection for Tampa Bay. Although new to this position, I am not new to the agency. Since 1993, I have been involved with DHC in various capacities. My adventure began as an ASL student/volunteer when the agency was located at 83rd and 76th street. I then worked with Abilities in the Independent Living Skills program for the Deaf. When that program funding was cancelled, Marilyn Knetzer hired me as staff interpreter when she was Housing Director with DHC, and I, then, assumed that position when her expertise resulted in her return to the finance department. When I left the agency in 2002 for another employment opportunity, I was invited to serve on the Board of Directors and, until accepting this position as Executive Director, continued to serve as member emeritus. I am a life-

time supporter of the mission of services to the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing and have long admired the devotion of the staff who work with this agency. I am excited and look forward to being part of the continued success and new growth and developments in the agency and the community.

Thank you,

Cheryl Hott
Executive Director

Free Hearing Screenings and LOW COST Hearing Aids

Did you know it take the average person seven years to admit they have a hearing loss? Your hearing should be as important as your eyes and teeth, and you need to have it checked annually. Call 727-399-9983 to set up a Free Hearing Screening with our Licensed Hearing Aid Specialist Jeff Rupp. Jeff will let you know also about the various types of quality Hearing Aids that you can purchase at a low price.

Sign Language Classes

We offer ASL classes from beginners to advanced. If you or someone you know would like to learn sign language in a comfortable and fun environment please call Gwen Sand at 727-399-9983 for more information and available dates.

FTRI-Free Amplified telephone Program

Florida Telecommunication Relay, Inc. (FTRI) offers Free amplified telephones for those Florida residents that qualify. Do you know someone who is having difficulties hearing conversation while on the phone? Let them know about the program and what a big difference it can make in their lives. Every one should be able to communicate on the phone and the amplified phones are great for those of us who are hard of hearing. Please call to find out if you qualify. We have various locations in the Tampa Bay area where we distribute the amplified phones, give us a call to find a location near you or to make an appointment at our main office :
7821 Seminole Blvd-
727-399-9983

Case Management

Did you know we offer Case Management to the Deaf Community? Our trained and professional Case Management team can help. Please contact Antoineta Gonzalez VP: 727-498-5074 or Debi-Dee McLeod VP 727-498-5022 for more information .
TTY:727-399-9422

Registered Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Super Site

The Deaf & Hearing Connection is now a RID Super-Site. We offer various testing times and try hard to work around your schedule.
Please call Tammy Shuman 727-399-9983 to schedule your next test date.

Special points of interest:

- Welcome Cheryl Hott
- Free Hearing Screenings
- Low-cost Hearing Aids
- Sign Language Classes
- Florida Telecommunication Relay, Inc.
- Case Management
- RID Super site
- Assisted Listening Devices
- Check our web site www.dhctb.org and click on the calendar for upcoming events and phone distribution locations.

Assisted Listening Devices

We offer many different types of listening devices that can help with every day life. Some examples are the Pocket Talker, alarm clocks and flashing doorbell ringers to name a few. Please contact Ed Marquardt: 727-399-9983 for more information on prices and how you can purchase these items. If we don't have the item you are looking for Ed will try hard to find it for you.

Mission Statement

"To provide the products and services that will empower deaf and hard of hearing people and allow them to effectively integrate into the community, and to improve communication between people of all hearing levels."