



Northern Virginia Resource Center  
for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Persons  
*Improving Communication, Changing Lives*

## Happy New Year to Our NVRC Community!

November 2023

Dear Friends,

The times, they are a changin'! These past years have taught us even more about the critical importance of access to communication. Without connections to each other we can lose access to all that makes life worth living! We hope you will support NVRC at this critical time as we continue to struggle mightily to maintain our organization in the face of severe budget cuts and inflationary increases in operational costs. Our important work in education, advocacy, and community involvement is supported by people like you! We really do need your support this year.

With that being said, we are delighted to have been able to increase the number of in-person events this year – a welcome return from Covid-era times! We still host numerous virtual events, but it's nice to see each other in person again!

**Education:** Programs for people aging into hearing loss, hearing screenings and peer mentoring are an integral part of what we do. We were awarded a scholarship for the Accessibility Internet Rally, a collaboration with tech specialists to improve our website's accessibility features, especially for those with vision challenges. We have been fortunate to support student interns in interpreting and photojournalism and promote ASL events in the community.

We taught ASL classes and communication apps to Medical Reserve Corps volunteers and will be expanding to teach other emergency responder groups. We held online classes for parents of deaf and hard of hearing children to learn ASL and communication strategies.

**Advocacy:** We continue to advocate for people with hearing loss through online meetings with commissions and organizations such as area commissions on aging and DHHCAN (Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consumer Advisory Network). We have signed on to numerous filings with the FCC and advocate access with other governmental entities. We advocated for more robust services for young deaf and hard of hearing children (LEAD-K in Virginia), and the Communications, Video, and Technology Accessibility Act (CVTA) in Congress to ensure access for deaf and hard of hearing persons keeps up with innovations and future technology.

**Community Involvement:** NVRC engages the community in a variety of ways. We were delighted with the turnout for our annual Celebrate Communication event, showcasing the talents, services and organizations working with, for and by deaf and hard of hearing people. We estimate that over 350 people attended!

**Please consider supporting NVRC with your donation:** The past year has been significantly challenging financially and we would greatly appreciate your donation to sustain our important work. Donations from the community are truly critical for our survival. You may want to consider a donation in honor of or in memory of someone.

From all of us at NVRC, we wish you and yours a peaceful, healthy and happy holiday season.



*Eileen McCartin*

Eileen McCartin, Ph.D.  
Executive Director



Scan to see letter online  
and additional photos



Lantz Mills Display & Program  
in February



Reel Abilities Film Fest in March



Game Day in April



Tea Party in May



Celebrate Communication in Sept.



Aseel and Eileen at White House



### Remembering Cheryl A. Heppner

NVRC mourns the passing of Cheryl Heppner who was NVRC's executive director from 1991 to 2015. Cheryl passed away on her birthday, October 14, 2023, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. Cheryl was a tireless advocate for the rights of people who were deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened and deafblind. She earned numerous accolades during her life and NVRC would not be what it is without her dedication and hard work. She will be missed. To read Cheryl's obituary, please visit [www.nvrc.org/cheryl-heppner-memorial-service/](http://www.nvrc.org/cheryl-heppner-memorial-service/)

2023 Highlighted Accomplishments

350 attendees participated in our annual event, Celebrate Communication. We had 34 exhibit tables.

1,032 total of subscribers of our newsletter via MailChimp.

Our Social Media Reaches

f 11,922

X 3,504

ig 1,121

in 232

10 exhibits at fairs/conferences.

8 NVRC-hosted presentations serving 380 attendees.

Did you know? NVRC is a convenient CASLI exam testing site for candidates to gain certification in ASL interpreting! NVRC maintains an online calendar listing dozens of events of interest to the community!

240 individuals screened in 51 hearing screens sessions.

NVRC Annual Breakfast & Meeting

Saturday, December 9, 2023

9:30 - 11:30 AM

NVRC Location

10467 White Granite Dr., Suite 312, Oakton, VA 22124

Testimonials of 2023

“All around one of the best courses I’ve attended and I look forward to future ones especially with this team.”

NVRC ASL Class for MRC Volunteers

“I feel like everything we are learning is so useful to know for us and our children in our everyday routine.”


ASL Parent Class

“Thank you for showing us the Google Live Transcribe and Otter.ai apps. Made our whole trip to the Expo worthwhile.”

Beacon Fair

“I want to thank you for the excellent hearing screening. I was anxious, scared and didn’t know what to expect before the appointment. You were wonderful at explaining things and putting me at ease. More helpful, knowledgeable, caring professionals like you would make aging less difficult.”

Hearing Screenings



With your support, we can achieve our goals together!

www.nvrc.org

Donate by Check

Mail by check to: NVRC - 10467 White Granite Drive, Suite 312, Oakton, VA 22124


\$25   \$50   \$100   \$250   Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Donate Online



Zelle: nvrcaccounting@nvrc.org  
Venmo: @NVRCCorg