

2025 Annual Report



ONE ORGANIZATION TWO MINISTRY MISSIONS ONE ANNUAL REPORT

In 2025, Deaf Kids Connect and Deaf Harbor operated as a unified ministry, serving the Deaf community and families with Deaf and Hard of Hearing children from childhood through adulthood. Each ministry expression focuses on distinct areas of discipleship, leadership, and family support, while sharing one mission, one leadership team, and one commitment to Deaf-centered ministry.

This annual report tells one shared story of impact. Deaf Kids Connect and Deaf Harbor are two ministry expressions within the same organization, working in tandem to serve the Deaf community across different stages of life. The report is organized by ministry expression and presented across two platforms to help readers clearly see the scope and connection of this work.

“

It shows they [Deaf Kids Connect and Deaf Harbor] are willing to humble themselves and put Deaf people's souls first. It's time we start equipping Deaf ministry leaders!

— Bibi Ashley, Deaf ministry leader

”



**DEAF KIDS
CONNECT**



DeafHarbor

Our Vision & Mission

THE PURPOSE OF THE MERGER

To create a unified ministry that supports the Deaf community from childhood through adulthood, strengthens leadership pipelines, and expands discipleship reach.

In 2025, Deaf Harbor and Deaf Kids Connect took a transformational step: unifying under one ministry to build long-term, sustainable support for Deaf individuals and families. This merger arose from a shared passion for discipleship, leadership development, and culturally rooted ministry. It affirms the Deaf community's long-expressed desire for Deaf-led organizations to collaborate rather than operating in silos.

Thanks to donor support, the unified ministry is entering 2026 with strengthened capacity, shared resources, and a clearer pathway to building Deaf leadership and family discipleship from early childhood through adulthood.

Vision: A future where Deaf and Hard of Hearing children, adults, and families are fully connected to Jesus and one another, growing in lifelong faith within Christ-centered community.

Mission: Connect Deaf and Hard of Hearing children, adults, and families to the love of Jesus by building Christ-centered community and providing Scripture and resources that support a lifelong relationship with Jesus.

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A Message from the Board Chair (2024–2025)



**JEFF
MCNAIR, PH.D**

When you think about Deaf Kids Connect, what comes to mind? Maybe it is the desire that all children can have access to the Bible in their own language. Maybe it is that parents will be encouraged in their efforts to connect with their children whether the parents are Deaf or Hearing. Maybe it is a deep concern about the Deaf community being reached with the Gospel. Maybe you are like me, immediately thinking of our gifted director, Tanya Polstra, and her deep passion for Deaf children.

All of these initial reactions are logical reflections of the significant efforts Deaf Kids Connect and Deaf Harbor is making and the success we are having!

There is so much more to do to address our vision, but we are increasingly nailing that down quite specifically and planning efforts to achieve our vision. But it is your generosity which has helped us to have the confidence to move forward. **We can do what we feel the Lord has shown us to do, because you are doing what you can to support us financially and through your prayers.** For that we humbly say “Thank You!”, but because we have so much more to do, we also cheerfully ask for your continued support. The progress that has been made in the last couple years has been remarkable. We have made significant progress. Our rebranding, expansion and leadership development cannot help but put us on track for a bright future for the children we so desperately desire to serve.

So, thank you once again for your partnership with us. We absolutely could not imagine achieving our vision without you.

In Christ,
Dr. Jeff McNair

A Message from the Board Vice Chair (2025–2026)



**Michael
Hoggatt, MS, MPA, Ph.D**

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on this past year, **we want to express our sincere gratitude for your faithful support of Deaf Kids Connect and Deaf Harbor.** For more than 27 years God has used this ministry to connect Deaf and Hard of Hearing children and their families with the love of Jesus, and your generosity continues to make that work possible.

Because of you, families are being strengthened and encouraged as they learn to trust God's goodness while raising their Deaf sons and daughters.

Through workshops, training, and mentoring, parents are supported with gospel-centered care and connected to Christ-honoring community where they can truly belong. Your partnership also advances the Kingdom through the translation of Scripture into ASL, ensuring that Deaf children and adults can encounter God's Word in their heart language.

We are deeply thankful for your role in this ministry and for your willingness to invest in what God is doing through Deaf Kids Connect and Deaf Harbor. Your support is bearing eternal fruit, and we are grateful to walk alongside you in this work.

With heartfelt thanks,
Michael Hoggatt

A Message from the Board Chair (2026-2027)



**Chad
Entinger, M.A.**

Dear Special Friend Who Cares,

Yes, you are a very special friend who truly cares—cares enough to support the mission of Deaf Kids Connect and Deaf Harbor, now united as one organization, working together to eternally impact Deaf children, their families, and their friends.

As a Deaf person who grew up in a hearing family that cared for me, and as someone who is honored to serve as Board Secretary in 2025 and Board Chair in 2026 for this merged organization, **I want to say THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH for your faithful, generous, and caring support.**

As you look through this annual donor report, may you be encouraged knowing that your support is creating real Kingdom impact. Hallelujah!

On behalf of the entire board of Deaf Kids Connect and Deaf Harbor, we love and appreciate YOU!

Love in Jesus,
Chad Entinger

Vision and Mission



Vision: To connect all Deaf and Hard of Hearing children with the love of Jesus.

Mission: To equip Deaf and Hard of Hearing children, their families, and their churches with resources for a lifelong relationship with Jesus.



Vision: To connect Deaf people to Jesus and each other.

Mission: To empower Deaf people to experience the love of Jesus through community, scripture, and resources.

Message from the Chief Executive Director



**TANYA
POLSTRA, M.A.**

Dear Our Faithful Donor,

In 2025, I witnessed God's faithfulness in extraordinary ways. Families who felt isolated found community. Deaf adults rediscovered their calling. Parents learned to disciple their Deaf children in a language their children could understand. Translation work advanced in ways that will bless the global Deaf Church for generations.

This year was also pivotal organizationally. The merger of Deaf Kids Connect and Deaf Harbor created a unified ministry with the capacity to support Deaf individuals and families more holistically. This strategic step came in response to months and months of listening, learning, and prayer.

Every milestone in this report is directly connected to your generosity. Your giving made it possible for families to find community, for parents to grow in confidence, for Deaf leaders to be equipped, and for the global Deaf church to be strengthened through accessible translation work. It was because you said "yes" to the spirit of generosity. We couldn't do this without YOU.

Thank you for walking with us.

Experiencing Jesus Together,
Tanya Polstra

Parent Support Zoom



PURPOSE

To create a safe, faith-centered mentoring space for parents of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children to learn, ask questions, receive encouragement, and grow in confidence as disciple-makers.

2025 SALT AND LIGHT

- Twelve monthly sessions
- 274 total parents reached; 111 parents served
- Participation from the U.S. and abroad
- One-year program anniversary in July

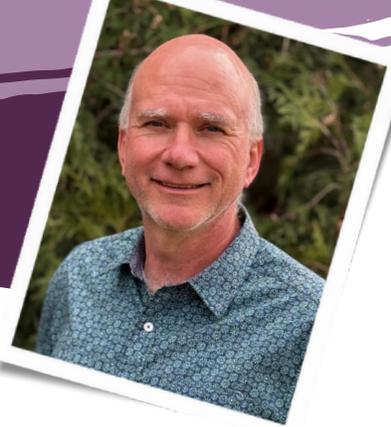
KEY INSIGHTS FROM PARENTS

Parents consistently reported the need for:

- Support in navigating family resistance to learning ASL
- Inclusion for Deaf children in social and faith settings
- Opportunities for Deaf children to lead and build confidence
- Faith communities where Deaf children truly belong
- A theological understanding that Deafness is part of God's design

DONOR IMPACT

Your giving ensures families have consistent, high-quality mentoring support that reduces isolation and strengthens communication at home.



PURPOSE

To develop Deaf Christian leaders who can serve, teach, mentor, and disciple with confidence.

2025 SALT AND LIGHT

- Monthly leadership workshop, led by Deaf leaders
- Launched in October
- 52 participants
- International reach (UK, Portugal, Australia)
- Strong demand for continued training

DONOR IMPACT

Your giving multiplies leadership capacity within the Deaf ministries.

PURPOSE

To provide immersive, hands-on, relationship-driven discipleship experiences rooted in ASL, authentic community, and biblical teaching.

2025 SALT AND LIGHT

- Two pilot Summits
- Parents expressed strong demand for mentorship and more time together
- Deep relational bonding made possible by the AirBnB model
- Deaf children fully participated without needing parents to interpret
- Partnered with Brentwood Deaf Church/Deaf Camp in June

KEY INSIGHTS FROM FAMILIES

- “For the first time, my Deaf child wasn’t left out. I didn’t have to interpret every moment. He belonged.”
- “It was more than I expected, so much more than I imagined.”
- “This is exactly what our family needed.”
- “Deaf adults leading our children was huge. They were role models my kids could look up to.”
- “This didn’t just help my child, it helped me grow as a parent and as a follower of Jesus.”
- “I’m protective of my kids, but this environment at Family Summit felt like home. I could breathe.”
- “Discipleship happens family to family. This is for us.”
- “I would drive 10 hours again for this experience.”
- “We left anchored in God’s love.”

DONOR IMPACT

Each Summit requires approximately 10,000 dollars. You directly create these spaces of finding hope, healing, discipleship, and belonging.



Family Summit in Anoka, MN



Family Summit in Brentwood, TN

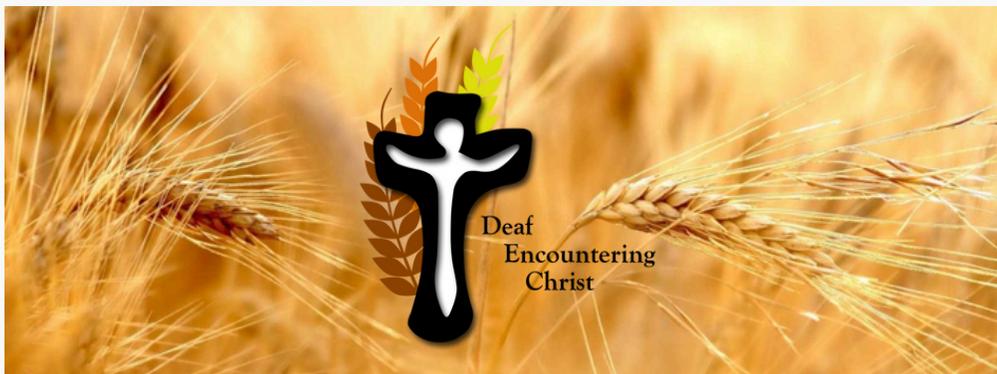




Scan QR Code to see
Parent Testimonials



Deaf Encountering Christ



PURPOSE

To create transformational retreats where Deaf participants encounter Christ in a fully Deaf-centered, ASL-rich environment.

2025 SALT AND LIGHT

- 60 participants
- Testimonies reflecting healing, discipleship, and renewed vision

KEY INSIGHTS FROM PARTICIPANTS

- Faith strengthened through Deaf-centered, ASL-honoring discipleship
- The Gospel illuminated in ways that restore and renew
- Healing and belonging formed through authentic community
- Deaf leadership centered as a witness to the body of Christ

Quote

DONOR IMPACT

You make it possible for Deaf adults to experience Scripture and community in their heart language.



PURPOSE

To provide families practical, biblical tools for discipling Deaf and Hard of Hearing children in a language they fully understand, while sharing real stories from Deaf individuals and families.

2025 SALT AND LIGHT

- Origin story rooted in two mothers' spiritual prompting in 2023
- Vision solidified during the team retreat in November 2024
- First four episodes recorded
- Launch date set for January 2026

DONOR IMPACT

Your support equips families globally with accessible, faith-filled media rooted in Deaf culture and language.

ASL Chronological Bible Translation [CBT]



PURPOSE

To build foundational ASL Scripture resources for global use.

2025 SALT AND LIGHT

- 15 passages completed (487 verses across projects)
- Book of Ruth translated
- “Making-of” documentary filmed
- ASL CBT 131 Foundation finalized
- Hosted a Translation Committee retreat to orient and train committee
- Engaged in prayerful strategic planning for the next 3–5 years of translation work
- Explored the biblical story of Ruth together, focusing on cultural context and meaning in ASL

KEY PARTNERSHIP

In partnership with DOOR International, ASL Chronological Bible Translation resources completed and released in 2025 are bringing God’s Word to the Deaf community in ASL. This work preserves biblical truth and illuminates Scripture in a visual, accessible language that strengthens discipleship and faith.

DONOR IMPACT

You make it possible for Deaf adults and Deaf children to experience Scripture and community in their heart language and provide resources as source-text for Deaf translators internationally.

A world map with a dark blue background. The continents of North America, South America, Europe, and Africa are highlighted in a lighter blue color. The text "Accelerating Global Sign Language Translation" is overlaid on the map in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Accelerating Global Sign Language Translation

Because of your belief in and support of the ASL Chronological Bible Translation (CBT), Deaf communities around the world are experiencing Scripture in powerful new ways.

In South Asia, a sign language Bible translation team was encouraged by our partner, DOOR International to use ASL CBT as a trusted source text, because it is translation consultant-approved, accurate, and exceptionally high quality. When they did, their work accelerated significantly. Many of their Scripture passages were able to move through the review process and receive consultant approval in just two weeks! A remarkable pace for Bible translation.

At one point, the South Asia team urgently needed a specific passage that our ASL team was finalizing. They requested it, received it, studied it, and translated it into their language, and their version was consultant-approved soon after. This same pattern is happening in other region. In East Africa, a Sign language translation team is using ASL CBT as a reliable, consultant-approved foundation to strengthen quality, speed, and unity in Deaf-led Bible translation worldwide. This is what happens when donors believe in this work.

Your generosity is helping build a Deaf-centered, consultant-approved source text that elevates accuracy, honors Deaf language and culture, and accelerates global Scripture access in a way that truly serves Deaf communities. Bible translation is advancing, not only faster, but stronger.

You helped make this possible.



CBT Translation Committee Retreat 2025





Observing the CBT team in Indianapolis as they worked through the story of Ruth was deeply moving. I witnessed excellence, theological care, and intentional craftsmanship, but what impacted me most was something deeper. For the first time in a Bible translation process, I felt fully seen, valued, and respected as a Deaf person. My language, presence, and perspective mattered. That alone speaks to why this work is different.

This experience was both encouraging and heartbreaking. Encouraging, because the ASL Chronological Bible Translation is a powerful, faithful resource that allows Deaf people to engage Scripture in our heart language and see that God doesn't forget us. Heartbreaking, because many assume ASL Bible translation is already "done." It is not. The Deaf community remains one of the most marginalized people groups in the world, shaped by generations of audism, racism, and linguicism that have diminished our language and culture and pressured us to conform to a hearing-centered mindset. So many gaps here.

CBT is not simply an unfinished project, it is a foundational source text that pushes back against these forces. It affirms that ASL is not secondary, that Deaf people are capable, and that Scripture belongs fully to us. This work strengthens Deaf communities globally and here in the United States, including people like me. It restores dignity, deepens faith, and creates access where there has long been exclusion. This is why the work is not done. And this is why your support matters more than many realize.

-Tanya Polstra, CEO of Deaf Harbor

PURPOSE

While Deaf Kids Connect does not lead this Bible study, we are committed to supporting Deaf youth discipleship by providing a safe, welcoming, and Deaf-centered space where young people can gather, build relationships, and grow in their faith through sign language and community.

Our role is simple but intentional: remove logistical barriers so Deaf leaders can focus on ministry and Deaf and CODA teens can belong.

2025 SALT AND LIGHT

- Opening Our Doors for Deaf and CODA Teen Discipleship - Bible study through a community partnership “Eyes for Jesus”
- Provided accessible, Deaf-centered space and covered facility costs
- Created a safe environment for teens and families to belong and grow
- Modeled Deaf values that inspired generosity and community support

DONOR IMPACT

Because of your support, Deaf Kids Connect was able to host facility costs, prepare the space, and respond quickly as the group grew. Your generosity allowed us to steward our building as a gift, not something we hold tightly, but something we share generously. You helped create a place where:

- Deaf and CODA teens were seen, valued, and included
- Deaf leaders could focus on ministry, not logistics barriers
- Parents felt safe, welcomed, and supported

This is how we invest in the next generation of Deaf young adults, by opening doors that have too often been closed. Thank you for walking with us and making moments like this possible.



Bible Hand



PURPOSE

To provide a clear, visual “map” of the Bible designed specifically for Deaf signers. Developed in response to global requests from Deaf Sign Language Bible translation teams, Bible Hand helps Deaf learners understand the Bible’s overall timeline, structure, and storyline in a way that aligns naturally with how Deaf people process information.

2025 SALT AND LIGHT

- Seven training videos released in 2025
- A visual Bible “map” created for Deaf signers
- Used globally in Deaf leadership and translation contexts

KEY INSIGHTS FROM COMMUNITY

- Easier to understand and remember than traditional hearing-based Bible overview tools
- Valued for its clarity, strong visual design, and adaptability across cultures
- Actively used in devotions, leadership training, and international translation work

DONOR IMPACT

Bible Hand was made possible through the faithful support of New Life Deaf Church in Fort Worth, Texas, our primary project funder. Their investment ensured the development, production, and release of this resource, enabling Deaf individuals and leaders worldwide to engage Scripture more deeply.

Because of their generosity, Bible Hand is now equipping Deaf believers, translation teams, and church leaders with a lasting tool that strengthens biblical understanding and multiplies discipleship impact.



Bible Hand



I'm aware of a lot of resources available to help hearing people understand the timeline and arc of the Bible narrative, resources like "Walk through the Bible." But this is so visual, so easy to remember, and so useful, it beats any hearing resource that is out there! This will be a great resource to teach to hearing people as well!
-A hearing person familiar with many hearing resources.

This work demonstrates advanced, high-quality classifiers that can be used internationally. I was amazed by the biblical timeline - it was easy to watch and process smoothly. This is an excellent evangelism tool for Deaf people. Very well done!

-Gallaudet University Professor





“DOOR’s Strategic Ministry Council meeting this week, and for our devotion time we used the new Bible Hand! Thank you so much for this amazing resource. We will be using it in many contexts!” - Rob Myers, President/CEO, DOOR International



Photo by Rob Myers at a training for Asia translation and church-planting leaders.

Virtual 5K



PURPOSE

Deaf Kids Connect raises funds to develop resources and equip parents of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children to be disciple-makers in their homes, and to educate their communities, families, and churches on how to include children through resources that support a lifelong relationship with Jesus.

2025 SALT AND LIGHT

- Theme “Run with Heart, Bridge the Gap”
- Virtual 5K coordinators, Heather Suhr, Jason Suhr, and Paige Greene led the fundraising with excellence and dignity.
- 133 people signed up from 17 states. We also had 11 local meetups across the country.

DONOR IMPACT

- Participants and sponsors has helped raised \$8,602.
- Sponsors: Deaf Missions, Greater Indianapolis Deaf Ministries, Deaf Calvary Church, Christ Fellowship Church, and Christ Community Church. Your support made this possible. Thank you!



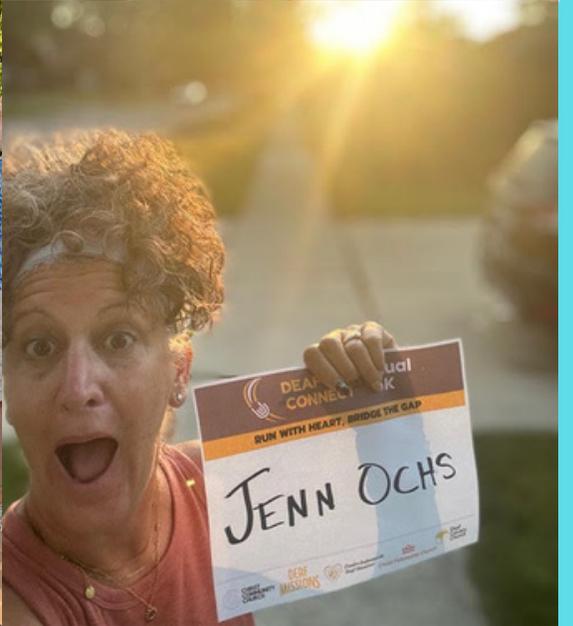
*Greater Indianapolis
Deaf Ministries*



Christ Fellowship Church



**Deaf
Calvary
Church**





PURPOSE

To provide authentic worship that are fully accessible in the heart language of the Deaf community. Our ASL music initiative exists to create high-quality, ASL-first worship songs that are visually rich, theologically sound, and culturally grounded.

2025 SALT AND LIGHT

- Deaf artists were equipped to create a fully ASL-first worship experience
- ASL-first worship created by Deaf artists for the Deaf community
- A traditional hymn was made accessible through visually rich, embodied expression
- 5,500 dollars raised in 30 days to produce “It Is Well With My Soul”
- Deaf worshipers gained a resource that will be used in homes, churches, and community gatherings
- Authentic, embodied worship that honors language, culture, and faith
- Taught 20 kids 7 worship songs at the Deaf Kids Connect’s Family Summit

DONOR IMPACT

In 2025, donors funded the production of the ASL hymn “It Is Well With My Soul,” raising 5,500 dollars in just 30 days. This rapid response demonstrated both the need for and the value of Deaf-created worship resources.

Your support did not simply fund a song, it helped restore worship in the heart language of the Deaf community and expanded what accessible, Deaf-led worship can look like for generations to come.



Through our ASL Music program, Deaf adults and children as young as age four do more than sign songs, they transform them. Those we serve connect with lyrics in their heart language, reinterpret meaning, and create original, expressive ASL performances that reflect their culture, creativity, and identity. **This resource is essential because it gives Deaf individuals access to meaningful artistic expression that truly honors their whole being: their language, experiences, and unique way of engaging with the Gospel.**

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, those we serve gain confidence, belonging, and pride as they develop powerful new ways to share their stories and testimonies while celebrating the beauty of Deaf expression.



Testimonials

“My four-year-old Deaf daughter kept singing the songs she learned from the ASL Music team all the way home from Family Summit. I am so thankful they equipped her to know Jesus through songs that are not available anywhere else. **They taught her how to worship and express praise to Elohim, the Almighty Creator, who lovingly designed her and knows her by name.**”

-A Family Summit Participant

“No spoken English words. **Instrumental music with their beautifully created ASL songs.** It was deeply moving to see.”

-A Deaf Community Advocate



“Glory to God”



DeafHarbor

FAMILY SUMMIT ASL MUSIC VIDEO

Scan QR code to see
children's music video



2025 SALT AND LIGHT

How God used your generosity to bring hope, truth, and transformation to the Deaf community.

In 2025, your generosity served as both salt and light, preserving what is sacred, illuminating what has too often been unseen, and overlooked; creating spaces where Deaf individuals and families could encounter Christ in sign language.

You were salt when families who felt isolated and lost discovered community and belonging through Parent Support Zooms. Parents learned to slow down, communicate intentionally, and see Deafness not as a limitation, but as part of God's design and calling for their family.

You were light when Deaf children experienced full inclusion at the Family Summit - laughing, leading, and connecting without barriers. For parents, it was the first time they can breathe and their Deaf child did not need an interpreter to belong.

You were salt when Deaf adults encountered Scripture through ASL Chronological Bible Translation, engaging God's Word with clarity, dignity, and cultural integrity. These translations will continue to disciple Deaf communities long after this year.

You were light when Deaf leaders said "yes" to God's call through Deaf360 Leadership Workshops, gaining confidence, mentorship, and vision to serve others faithfully.

You were both salt and light when two Deaf-led ministries became one. The merger of Deaf Harbor and Deaf Kids Connect marked a shift from siloed efforts to unified mission—strengthening capacity to walk with Deaf individuals from childhood through adulthood.

This is not impact measured only in numbers. This is transformation measured in lives changed, faith strengthened, and communities renewed.

Your Impact Through Faithful Stewardship

We believe stewardship is a sacred responsibility. Every gift entrusted to this ministry is prayerfully planned, carefully allocated, and directly connected to mission impact.

In 2025, we prioritized programs that create long-term discipleship, avoid duplication, and maximize relational impact. This meant investing in shared resources, unified leadership, and ministry models that serve multiple generations within the Deaf community.

Because of this approach, donor support did not simply fund activities, it strengthened mission, equipped leaders, and created sustainable pathways for families, ministries, and Deaf individuals to grow in Christ.



- 276 parents reached through Parent Support Zooms
- 111 new parents joined in 2025
- 2 pilot Family Summits launched
- Hosted 3 parents workshops; 20 families engaged



- 52 leaders trained through Deaf360°
- 60 participants at Deaf Encountering Christ retreats
- 487 verses of Scripture translated into ASL
- 7 Biblical timeline in ASL published

Looking Ahead: Vision for 2026

In 2026, we will advance merger integration to ensure long-term sustainability.



Parent Support

Continue monthly parent support zoom and build structured parent-to-parent mentorship pathways.

Deaf 360° Leadership

Continue monthly leadership workshop and deepen leadership development through Deaf360°.

Shoes & Soul Podcast

Release 12 episodes.

Bible Hand

Release Bible Hand Genesis-Revelation videos.

Family Summit

Expand Family Summits regionally through partnerships with churches.

Deaf Encountering Christ

Continue hosting two retreats a year.

Virtual 5K Fundraising

Continue to raise awareness and support parents to be disciple-makers in sign language.

ASL Music

Continue produce ASL music initiatives

CODA Program Development

In February, we will gather adult CODAs to help identify real needs and shape a program that supports Deaf parents and creates meaningful belonging for CODAs.

Sign Language Translation

Seek partnership for translation to continue the sign language translation for ASL Chronological Bible Translation and children Bible stories

Board of Directors and Governance Oversight

Our Board of Directors offers strong leadership and responsible financial oversight to ensure our mission is carried out with integrity, transparency, and measurable impact. We follow recognized nonprofit governance standards and maintain full compliance with IRS and tax obligations.

FY2025 Board of Directors

Dr. Jeff McNair, Board Chair
Dr. Michael Hoggatt, Vice Chair
Jim Bittner, Treasurer
Chad Entinger, Secretary
John Aukerman
Francis Casale
Germaine Graham
Rebecca Buchan
Bob Edwards
Karen McTague

FY2026 Board of Directors

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Dr. Michael Hoggatt, Vice Chair
Jim Bittner, Treasurer
Dr. Jeff McNair
Francis Casale
JR Bucklew
Rob Myers
Germaine Graham
Rebecca Buchan
Bob Edwards
Karen McTague

Meeting Dates

Monday, January 13, 2025
Monday, April 14, 2025
Monday, July 14, 2025
Monday, October 13, 2025

Meeting Dates

Monday, January 12, 2026
Monday, April 13, 2026
Monday, July 13, 2026
Monday, October 12, 2026

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