

FEBRUARY 2019



MISSION STATEMENT

The **FAMILY CENTER on DEAFNESS** empowers Pinellas County families with deaf or hard of hearing members by providing programs and services to promote communication and independence.

FREE AMPLIFIED PHONES



CALL FCD AT
727-399-9983
FOR DETAILS

CONTACT US:

12445 62nd St. N #303
Largo, FL 33773
727-501-2323 voice
727-235-6285 vp
www.fcdpinellas.org

Check our website
for latest news and
announcements!

 Juvenile Welfare Board

 Florida
Telecommunications
FTRI Relay, Inc.

Hand Talk

Love To Learn Sign Language

Sign Language is a form of communication that is so vital to the development of the deaf/hard of hearing child and their proper development to communicate. Not only for those who require it on a day to day basis - but also for people looking to learn a new language. According to Gallaudet University, American Sign Language is the sixth most common language in the United States.

Ninety percent of deaf children are born to hearing parents, which can make learning sign language a family affair. Parents who learn ASL along with their child often find it easier to communicate on a deeper level with their deaf child, and avoid frustration.

Even knowing the basic logistics of sign language can help parents and children better communicate to build relationships and strengthen bonds. Having a way to communicate early allows kids and parents to communicate valuable information and impart rules and boundaries. For people who are deaf/hard of hearing, the benefits of learning ASL are undeniable. But what are the benefits for people who can hear?

Long-term cognitive benefits have been shown in many studies for hearing children that have learned sign language. With the visual nature of sign language, it is shown to be a great tool for early readers and enhances spelling skills. It is also very helpful for Communicating in loud environments. Most importantly, learning sign language provides an opportunity to get to know your deaf community!

Starting March 20th, the Family Center on Deafness will be providing Sign Language classes in St. Petersburg and Largo. This is a fun, 6-week beginner level course to help build the foundation for ASL.

Sign up by March 20th,
And join us! Contact
Dana@fcdpinellas.org

Sign Language Classes

6:30-7:30 p.m.

Family Center on Deafness
12445 62nd St. #303 Largo

Lakeview Presbyterian Church
1310 22nd Ave. S. St. Petersburg

Cost: \$15 FCD participants
\$50 Community Members

Cost includes materials

REACH**FEB:** 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14,
19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28**M/H Tutoring:** Feb. 5,
7, 12, 14, 19, 26, 28. No
tutoring on 21st.**Teen Social** Feb. 1, 15

February 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

**Financial Donations**Suren Radmanabhan
Nancy Holston
Brent Bradley**Volunteers**Mikail Baptiste
Rene Vojnovic
Rebecca Feingold
Katie Killebrew
Denis Sofr
Zoe Schonmann
Sirrenna Petty
Allyson Ray
Bridget Phelan
Carla Mendoza
Brianna Green**In Kind Donations**Rene Vojnovic
Chris Riley
Chelsea Riley**Family Center on Deafness Staff**Julie Church Executive Director
Kathy Kemp Office Manager
Jennifer Boggess Lead Youth/Family Sup. Specialist
Franklin Smith Youth/Family Support Specialist
Addie Osmar Youth/Family Support Specialist
Caitlyn Dollar Youth /Family Support Assistant
Dana Cechnicki Parent Support Specialist
Sally Shortz Program Support Specialist
Dawn Varner Youth/Family Support Specialist
Gwen Sand FTRI Supervisor
Lisa Kingston FTRI Distribution/Outreach Specialist
Tracy Kasch Program Support Specialist

FCD Spring Family Picnic

Join us for a fun family picnic, featuring games, crafts, ASL
stories an Easter Egg Hunt!

Saturday, April 13th

2:00-5:30 p.m.

Taylor Park, Shelter #2

1100 8th Avenue S.,
LargoFCD will provide hamburgers,
hotdogs and all the fixings. Bring a
side dish or dessert to share. Lawn
chairs are also encouraged.RSVP to dana@fcdpinellas.org or
(727) 403-0553 with number of
people attending and what you will
bring.

REACH

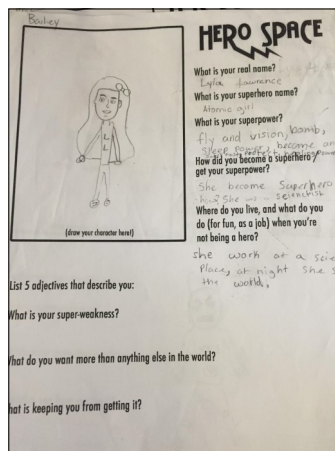
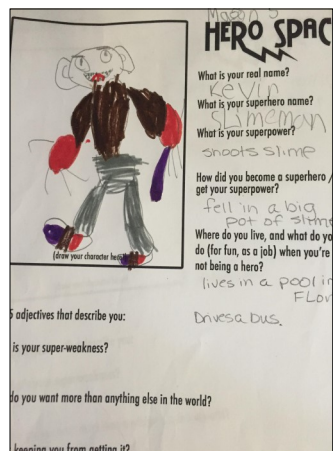
**Raising
Expectations &
Achievement of
Children with
Hearing Loss**

In January, the children at REACH explored their creativity using a theme of "super heroes. Under the guidance of Ricky Gnatowsky, the kids created individual super heroes with real life personas, super powers, and a story line that includes how they became super heroes, and who their nemesis is. The students will soon create a story line for each super hero complete with illustrations.

For the field trip in January, REACH kids went to the FCD Dunedin office to create unique mailboxes for our REACH Valentines party. The group also visited Weaver park in Dunedin.

On January 31st, students in grades 3-5 took a special field trip to Studio Movie Grill to see "The Kid Who Would Be King."

We are still in need of SNACK and JUICE donations for Reach. We feed 20 kids three times a week and they are hungry. Please pick up an extra bag, box or carton of something your child likes and send it in with a note that it is for REACH. Thank you!



♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥

On February 13th, REACH will celebrate Valentine's Day. Please make cards/treats for your child to pass out. We will send home a list of all students names for cards. If you would like to send in a special snack or help with the party please let Jennifer or Caitlyn know. Thank you!



Fun at the movies

On Saturday Jan 12th, Studio Movie Grill and FCD collaborated to host a private showing of Mary Poppins Returns with open captions. We had a great turn out of families and friends within the Deaf community. So glad we were able to collaborate with such an accommodating company!

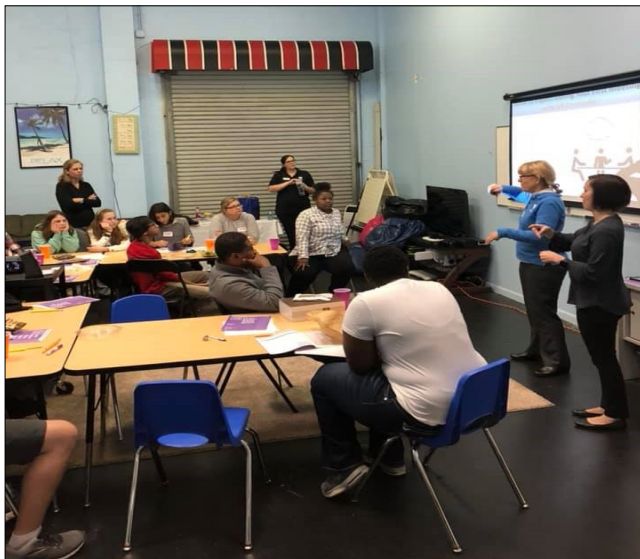


Free Equipment Available

During a recent parent workshop with the Disability Achievement Center and FTRI participants learned about the resources that are provided to them for free. Some of the products offered at no charge is deaf alerting equipment including light activated doorbells and smoke detectors, shaker alarm clocks and baby monitors. For more information about how to obtain alerting equipment please contact Julia Michalka at the Disability Achievement Center, (727)539-7550

FCD's amplified telephone department also demonstrated new phones that use Bluetooth technology to pair with cell phones. If you have a hearing loss and are over 3 years old, you may qualify for this free equipment. Contact Gwen or Lisa at 727-399-9983 to find out if these phones are a good fit for you or your child.





It's all about STEM

RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) will soon be joining with the Family Center on Deafness to present several new programs designed to increase our students knowledge in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.). The NTID Regional STEM Center is an outreach program that achieves goals of improving access to postsecondary STEM education and employment for Deaf/hh students by:

- Improving the understanding that middle and high school students, teachers, and vocational rehabilitation (VR) counselors have on opportunities for deaf/hh individuals in STEM careers.
- Improving the instructional and technical skills of high school teachers in STEM areas.
- Establishing, expanding, and improving pathways for deaf/hh students to transition from high school to associate degrees, to baccalaureate degrees, and beyond in STEM areas.

The program helps improve access to learning for Deaf/hh students who may be in mainstreamed classes, with or without support and access services. The center's purpose is to promote training and postsecondary participation for deaf and hard-of-hearing students in STEM fields.

FCD is looking for middle and high school D/hh students who are interested in participating on a Robotics team. Students will compete against other teams from across the southeast. Competitions will be held in North Carolina and students will then head to a national competition if the team wins. Any high school student interested in this program should contact Franklin at franklin@fcdpinellas.org.

Future Quest helps teens plan for college and career

On Saturday, January 26th, The National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) presented "Future Quest", a workshop for teens and parents at FCD. NTID staff worked with Deaf and hard of hearing teens to determine their possible career interests and plan for the future. Students learned about the transition from high school to college/employment. This transition is one of the most important and challenging events in the life of a teenager. Students also enjoyed fun self-awareness activities that demonstrated how things you are good at, what you are interested in and the things you like to do could become the focus of a career choice. Parents learned how to help their teens begin to think about life after high school and what choices will help them on the path to a successful life. Parents also received important information about financial aspects of college, and the support and access to services that will help their student succeed.

The workshop was very informative for all who attended and our thanks go out to NTID for sponsoring the event.



Thank you to the management and staff of the Little Greek restaurant on Ulmerton Road in Clearwater, for allowing us to host a fund raising event on January 18th. Thanks also to all the supporters who came out to our ASL night! The team has been working hard getting ready to travel to the ABT regional competition Feb. 21-24 in Jackson, Mississippi. Wish them luck!