



August 2021

The Creation of GCDHH's Inaugural Virtual Race: Follow the Sign

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GCDHH's inaugural virtual race named Follow the Sign will be held during International Week of the Deaf People (IDWP) between Monday September 20, 2021 and Sunday, September 26, 2021. Considerable planning went in to creating this race, and one of GCDHH's newest board members, Stayce Michelle took it on as one of her first projects. Outside of being a board member, Stayce works in Aircraft Maintenance at Delta Airlines in Atlanta, as part of Tech Ops. She became a GCDHH board

member after being introduced to Executive Director Jimmy Peterson at an event through United Way, where different organizations look for new board members. Jimmy was the first person Stayce met at the event, and she quickly fell in love with what GCDHH was doing for the community and wanted to be part of it.

The initial idea for the race began at one of Stayce's first board meetings when a suggestion was made about the possibility of hosting a virtual race. Stayce loved the idea and decided to *run with it*. The new team of board members including Stayce quickly got to work on the event and ironed out the details and goals of the race. Stayce says she would love for communities and corporations to participate in the event and encourages them to get involved and learn more about the Deaf community. She believes that this will be the first of many races for GCDHH and hopes that next years' race will be in person. In addition to organizing the race, she will also be participating.



The overall goal of the race is to raise \$20,000 dollars in funds that will go to help GCDHH's programs including Camp Julienna, funding for equipment, and its service to consumers. The race offers three different levels of participation, \$20 for the race, \$30 for the race and a t-shirt, and \$40 for the race, t-shirt, and unique medal with the Follow the Sign logo. Fun fact: The logo was designed by a Deaf artist that resides in Florida named Juan Estrella. Of course, there will also be an open donation amount, where people or organizations can choose to donate however much they want to help GCDHH. Runners will be able to get on teams, as well as get family and friends

involved. Since the race this year is going to be virtual, participants can run any time during the week.

Stay tuned to our emails for more information!

Spotlight

Rhonda Wetherbee



Have you ever found yourself sad, angry, anxious, lonely, hurt, or worried and wondered “Where can I go for help? Will they get me an interpreter?” Were you afraid to share your overwhelming feelings and thoughts with others because you were not sure who to “trust” or scared that your information would be shared (gossip) within the community?

We are here to help!

My name is Rhonda Wetherbee and I understand the importance for all Deaf and Hard of Hearing people to have a comfortable space when thoughts and feelings become too overwhelming. As the Director of Deaf Services with Avita Community Partners, my goal is to prevent and eliminate any barriers that would impede a deaf-friendly counseling environment.



There are five reasons why Avita is the best counseling service option for the Deaf:

1. All our therapists and case managers are Deaf, or hearing and fluent
2. We have specialized adjunct services provided by case managers
3. There is no need for an interpreter
4. Flexible appointments: face to face or secure videophone sessions. All sessions are secure and confidential
5. Our therapists understand Deaf culture

Avita has ASL fluent therapists and case managers throughout the state of Georgia providing superb mental health and addiction services to Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind individuals. We don't just provide counseling; we go the extra mile to assist you in meeting all your needs and goals within your treatment plan. Our case managers are also ready, willing, and able to coordinate resources to help you reach your goals. Communication access in ASL is never a problem with AVITA. We are flexible, understand Deaf culture and ready to assist you today.

We are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If your family member or friend is struggling with a mental illness or addiction, you can click on www.avitapartners.org, email avitadeafservices@avitapartners.org, or call 678-513-5767.

If you are experiencing an emergency or crisis, please call GCAL at 1-800-715-4225. GCAL is available 24 hours a day every day to help you or someone you care for in a crisis.

Introducing Tippy Talk



The Georgia Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program is excited to announce the addition of a new application, Tippy Talk.

The app is designed for non-verbal individuals with autism and conveys communication by

translating photos to text. It is an enhanced Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) that removes frustration from the person living with a verbal disability. Interested in learning more or applying? [Contact us!](#)

Do You Have Hearing Loss?

We've got you covered! You may qualify for no-cost equipment from [Georgia Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program](#).



Prior to COVID-19, Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (GCDHH) offered American Sign Language (ASL) Courses in-person at the center. When the pandemic started, GCDHH took a new approach with virtual classes for ASL to respect safety concerns. Today, remote classes are available for the community (age 14 and up) and businesses. Below are *upcoming* available courses:

ASL I - Beginner

ASL II - Intermediate

ASL III - Advanced

ASL IV - Advanced+

*There will be eight two-hour-long classes each semester.

The textbook is highly recommended for all ASL units- **A Basic Course in American Sign Language (Second Edition)**. This can be ordered via Amazon. GCDHH offers online ASL classes for children younger than 14 years old for one hour for eight sessions. We also offer private ASL one-on-one for a separate fee. At the end of the semester, a Certificate of Attendance will be given for those who participated. This is only for the proof of participation in ASL course and this does not count as certified for Sign Language Interpreter. If you wanted to become a certified interpreter, you would have to take Interpreting courses at any college/university that offers them.

If you are interested to learn American Sign Language, price inquiry or have questions, please email Community Coordinator, Andrea Alston at:

Aalston@gcdhh.org

404-381-8448

Virtual ASL Classes

Deadline- September 10th, Friday at NOON

Every Saturday (2021) - September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & November 6th

ASL I (Beginner)- 10 AM- 12 PM EST
ASL II (Intermediate)- 1 PM-3 PM EST (Pre-Requisite- ASL I)
ASL III (Advanced)- 3:30-5:30 PM EST (Pre-Requisite- ASL II)
ASL IV (Advanced +)- 6 PM- 8 PM EST(Pre-requisite- ASL III)

Eventbrite for Saturdays (Virtual): <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/165250246937>

Every Tuesday (2021) - September 21, 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26, November 2 and 9.

ASL I (Beginner)- 6 PM-8 PM EST
ASL II (Intermediate)- 6 PM-8 PM EST (Pre-Requisite- ASL I)
ASL III (Advanced)- 6 PM-8 PM EST (Pre-Requisite- ASL II)
ASL IV (Advanced +)- 6 PM-8 PM EST (Pre-Requisite- ASL IV)

Eventbrite for Tuesdays (Virtual): <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/165251300087>

IN PERSON CLASSES

GCDHH Location 14 Spots

(First Come First Serve)

Deadline- September 10th, Friday at NOON

Every Saturday (2021) - September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & November 6th

ASL I (Beginner)- 9 AM- 11 PM EST
ASL II (Intermediate)- 12 PM-2PM EST (Pre-Requisite- ASL I)
ASL III (Advanced)- 3 PM-5 PM EST (Pre-Requisite- ASL II)

Eventbrite for Saturdays (In Person): <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/165328170007>

**Visit our
website**

Did you know you can sign up your workplace for virtual American Sign Language Classes?

GCDHH offers customized ASL classes for businesses and workplaces. With a flat rate (prices are negotiable), your company can pick the hours and multiple dates for virtual ASL classes. You and your co-workers will take sessions and practice together on learning a new language. If interested, you can bring this available course to the attention of your management and contact us at Aalston@gcdhh.org. Your company can make a difference in language accessibility for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community!

Fill out Questionnaire



GCDHH has its own interpreting service!

Whether it's in-person or virtual interpreting, we will make the process easy for you. Contact us for more questions or book for an interpreter:

Phone: 404-207-9362

Email: Requests@gcdhh.org




Center for Assessment of Sign Language Interpretation (CASLI)

Did you know that GCDHH is the only location in the state of Georgia that offers on-site CASLI testing?

What is CASLI?: It is a performance exam to test your interpreting skills.

After purchasing a token from CASLI.org, contact request@gcdhh.org to schedule the date and time.


GCDHH UPCOMING EVENTS




SCHEDULE OPPONENT EXCLUSIVE PRICING

**Exclusive Atlanta United Ticket Pricing
for ASL Day!**

Saturday, August 28th
3:30PM



Exclusive Pricing:
\$36

 GEORGIA CENTER OF THE DEAF
AND HARD OF HEARING

Enter Promo Code **ASLDAY2021** to purchase!
(purchase by 8/10 to ensure ticket availability)

BUY NOW

www.fevo.me/aslday

Get your tickets now by entering promo code ASLDAY2021 at this link before August 10th to purchase! www.fevo.me/aslday

August 28th, 3:30pm - Atlanta United
September 20-26th - GCDHH Virtual Race: Follow the Sign
October 9th - Six Flags

Follow us on Social Media!



[View Email as Webpage](#)