



Hear Fayette Program  
St. Vincent de Paul  
Uniontown Conference  
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[www.stvincentdepauluniontown.org](http://www.stvincentdepauluniontown.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/HearFayetteSVdP>

# *January/February 2017*

## **Who is Hear Fayette? Who we are!** (a reprint)

Hear Fayette is a program of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Uniontown Area Conference. Like SVdP, our mission is “To Provide Help and Hope to Those in Need.”

**We are people with hearing difficulty**—some of us were born Deaf and others lost our ability to hear later in life. Some of us can hear well. We are women and men who want others to know we are there to help them communicate and connect.

## **What we do!**

We interview and assist people who have hearing loss or who are Deaf, and we help them **locate devices** (such as hearing aids, phones, TV listeners, pocket talkers, apps, and more) and help locate services such as employment, interpreters, social events, and (often) we just listen.

Provide **sign language classes** (Saturday for beginners and Tuesday for ASL Structure) and opportunities to practice sign language as part of a group (Saturday Signers).

Through **Outreach**, we educate families and the community in general about proper respect and communication, and provide speakers and presenters to educate businesses and community groups about hearing loss and better employee and customer communication.

Host a **women's get-together** for women who are hearing impaired, Deaf, or who have a family member who has hearing loss. (First Thursday of each month from 11 a.m. till 1 p.m. in our Samaritan's Well).

Distribute **Highway Hearing Safety cards**—a laminated card for a driver's sun visor that states that "Driver is unable to hear." It's important to let police officers know why a driver is not responding quickly to sirens and why they are having a tough time understanding the officer.

Serve as a volunteer center for **PIAT TDDP**. We help with applications for free phones for eligible people. <http://disabilities.temple.edu/programs/assistive/tddp/>

**Collect and donate used hearing aids** to Starkey Foundation and provide applications for hearing aids through Hear Now of Starkey. The aids are free to those eligible financially. A \$125 application fee for each hearing aid is all that is paid. The evaluations are done by local audiologists.

Look for opportunities to help and serve as **advocates** for those who have no voice or whose voice has been ignored because of communication differences. We are receptive to requests for special assistance.

Offer **affordable devices** such as TV Ears, pocket talkers, alarms, and similar devices at lowest prices.

Arrange and organize social events for the Deaf Community. Collaborate with interpreters to sign for religious events.

**Please note: Mass at Our Lady of Grace RC Church, Mt. Pleasant Rd. Greensburg PA at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday is signed for Deaf or others who use sign language.**

# Thank you!

Big thank you to CaptionCall for sponsoring another 1000 Highway Hearing Safety Project Visor Cards! This card (designed by our volunteers) is used on the sun visor of a vehicle to let first responders (police officers, firefighters, EMTs) read that the driver has difficulty hearing. Can you believe, we've given 2000 of these since 2012!



CaptionCall is the company that provides captioned phones at no cost for persons with hearing loss. You can see and read about the phone at [www.captioncall.com](http://www.captioncall.com)

## **It's so important, I'll mention it again.**

When someone has difficulty hearing, he or she can only pay attention to one speaker, and it's with a great amount of energy and perseverance that the person listens with eyes, ears, and brain power to absorb what that one speaker is saying.

When another person interrupts or begins a new topic, the nonhearing person is derailed from both conversations.

This year, my family practiced "the don't interrupt rule," during dinner conversation, and it was truly enjoyable.

Try it yourself if someone in your crowd or family has a hearing loss. It's respectful, it's kind, it's absolutely necessary that only one person should be the speaker while others listen.



**SATURDAY, March 25, 2017**

**Mall at Robinson  
100 Robinson Centre Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205  
Noon – 4pm**

[HTTP://WWW.HDSCENTER.ORG/EVENTS/ABIGTHANKS/](http://www.hdscenter.org/events/abigthanks/)

**We will be here! Look for our table and pick up a complimentary Highway Hearing Safety visor cards and help us with our sign language skills!**

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### **SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES\***

#### **Saturday**

Sixteen terrific people decided to give sign language a try and began their first class on January 7.

Our regular teacher, Jeff Martz, will be absent for the month of January. Kim D'Angelo and Cindy Hanzes stepped up and taught our first two lessons, and we thank them for sharing their skills. We will have guest teachers till Jeff returns.

#### **Tuesday & Wednesday**

Betsy Kipila teaches Intermediate Sign for those who know some sign language. You are welcome to come from 5 till 6 p.m. on Tuesday for that class.

Betsy also teaches ASL Structure Class on Wednesday from 5 till 6 p.m.

**\*If it's necessary for us to cancel class for any reason, we will post a notice on our page and send emails as well.**

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/HEARFAYETTESVDP](https://www.facebook.com/hearfayettesvdp)

## **Our Plans for 2017**

- January:** New sign language class, practice on Saturday. Classes on Tues. & Weds.
- February:** First Technology Day  
educate/show devices for TV and listening
- March:** Attend Sign-A-Thon at Robinson Mall
- May:** Plant Sale
- July:** Picnic?
- August:** County Fair outreach
- September:** Gospel Sing at St. Vincent de Paul  
New Sign Language Class for beginners
- October:** Afternoon Reflection for Persons with Disabilities  
Our Lady of Grace RC Church October 29  
Trunk or Treat (date to be announced)
- December:** Party December 2 at Moose

**Thanks to Perryopolis Moose Club and steward, Bob Teets, for allowing us to use the social hall for our Christmas Party! Bob and our people at Hear Fayette share a mutual affection for each other. Thanks also to Big Barn Country Store, Route 51S between Perryopolis and Star Junction and Randall's Restaurant, Route 51N in Perryopolis for donating prizes**

## **RESOURCES**

Important site for information in Pennsylvania is the **Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing**. This is the place to find all sorts of services: <http://www.dli.pa.gov/Individuals/Disability-Services/odhh/Pages/default.aspx>

**Discover assistive technology**—devices that can help you hear, speak, and more. Learn how you can borrow, try, and keep them and how to finance purchase if necessary. <http://disabilities.temple.edu/programs/assistive/piat/>

One great source for persons who are Deaf or have hearing loss is **healthbridges**. Take a look. All videos are signed and captioned. <http://healthbridges.info>

**Noisy Planet:** How to help save your hearing and your children's precious ability to hear. <https://www.noisyplanet.nidcd.nih.gov>

**SayWhatClub** can be described as online friends with hearing loss. You are welcomed to join in and communicate and commiserate with people who have similar problems: Deaf, hearing loss, Meneire's, balance difficulties, cochlear implants and more. Check them out. They are a great group. <http://www.saywhatclub.com>

## **Hooked on Books!**

**Save the date: Saturday February 4, 2017 10 a.m. till noon**  
**Family Literacy & American Sign Language Workshop**  
**for children of all ages through 4th grade and their families.**  
**The Western PA School for The Deaf**  
**300 E. Swissvale Ave. Pittsburgh**  
**Share a special day with your family and get free books!**  
**For more info contact Sheri Morgan [smorgan@wpsd.org](mailto:smorgan@wpsd.org)**

## **Hamilton Relay is looking for nominees!**

*Hamilton Relay, contracted service provider for Pennsylvania, is currently seeking nominations for the 2017 Better Hearing and Speech Month Recognition Award. Nominations are due April 3<sup>rd</sup>.*

**Cheryl Deitz | PA Captioned Telephone Relay Service (CTRS) Outreach  
Coordinator | Hamilton Relay**

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**The Hear Fayette Program is one of the many good things that happen at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Uniontown Conference, PO Box 195, 70 N. Mt. Vernon Ave. Uniontown PA 15401**

SVdP has a great store, furniture department, and seasonal shoppe that have inventory provided by generous people throughout the community. Unique, useable, and affordable goods are on display and available daily. The personnel are terrific volunteers (some in their 80s).

SVdP has a quilting group, Good Samaritan Quilters, who create and stitch child-sized quilts for kids in local hospitals and shelters.

Also, SVdP has an emergency food pantry; a dismantling group that gleans metals for recycling; a group called Handfuls of Mercy who make soft crosses and visit persons in nursing homes or homebound; Bible Study groups; and opportunities for volunteerism. (And that's just a few of the amazing happenings at SVdP). A new Website will be up and running in February, and you will be able to see for yourself!

An 87-year-old woman in Idaho was ready for trick-or-treaters. True to human nature, she was tempted one evening and opened a miniature box of Milk Duds. Watching TV and relaxing on her bed, she threw some candy into her mouth and noticed something funny.

“As I enjoyed the chocolate and caramel taste, it appeared that one of my Milk Duds was not as fresh as the others. One was rather crunchy, and I could not get it to soften up, no matter how hard I tried.”

Shifting positions on the bed, one of her small hearing aids may have dropped out of her ear and rolled into the candy box. “There’s no other possible explanation,” she decided.

The hearing aid wasn’t ruined entirely, but her candy-eating adventure did cost \$199 in repair work. It seems that hearing aids are wanderers and cannot be trusted to stay in your ears, and apparently, they don’t taste very good either. For the entire story, check the Better Hearing site.

<http://www.betterhearing.org/blog/post.cfm/n-idaho-woman-mistakes-own-hearing-aid-for-candy>

*If you are receiving our news for the first time, welcome!  
We may have talked to you at one of the events that we attended.*

*If you needed specific information about hearing aids, phones, sign language classes, or other help, please email.*

*Please let us know at [hearfayettenews@gmail](mailto:hearfayettenews@gmail.com)*

*if you want off the list*

*or want to be on the newsletter list,*

*or if you have comments or suggestions.*

*\*\*There is only one person who has the email addresses for the newsletter, and she is not sharing them with anyone!  
No kidding.*

