



The DILA Sign Post



Summer 2007

From the Executive Director's Desk

By Jennifer Whitcomb, Executive Director

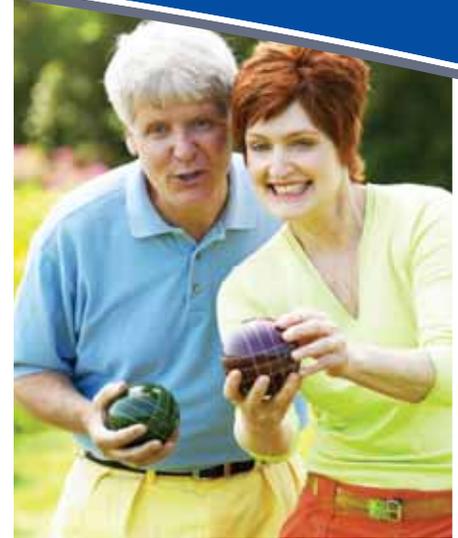
Deaf Independent Living Association, Inc. (DILA) continues to reach beyond the horizon to tackle new challenges and expand our scope of services. We recently received accreditation from the State of Maryland's Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) to provide employment services to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Our new Employment Program will offer job development, placement and on-the-job training, along with skills classes on resume writing, interviewing and more.

Moving forward with our new strategic direction, DILA has established a partnership with the Governor's Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Maryland Association of the Deaf to provide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) workshops for healthcare providers and the hearing-loss community in select

counties. These important and valuable workshops are made possible through generous support from the Mid-Shore Community Foundation, Inc. and the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, Inc.

In other news, we've made several key improvements to our Alternative Living Units (ALUs). Along with repairs, updates and overall home improvements. We've also made a concerted effort to fill vacancies. All ALUs are HUD, Section 8 (202) single-family homes that accommodate up to three adults. To apply, contact Marlena Turner, DIR Manager, at 410-742-5052 (voice/TTY).

As always, we welcome your comments and questions. We also thank our many wonderful supporters who believe in our vision and faithfully stand behind us.



Don't Let Mosquitoes Bite Into Your Summer Fun

By Marlena Turner, DIR Manager

We've all heard the joke about the mosquito being the real State bird in Maryland's Eastern Shore area. Any Eastern Shore resident who ventures outside from early May through October can certainly understand the joke's inspiration. Whether you are enjoying a picnic or working in the yard, these pesky little insects can spoil your day.

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Staff

Jennifer Whitcomb, *Executive Director*

Lisa Trolan, *Administrative Director*

Ann Murray Grimm, *Program Director*

Ramona Bradley, RN, BSN, *Director of Health Care Services*

Camelle Bryan, *Program Manager*

Lizette Ramos, *Employment Manager*

Laura Jones, *Administrative Assistant*

Marlena Turner, *DIR Manager/Assistant*

Pat Nock, *LPN/Healthcare Assistant*

Sue Beaver, *Interpreter Coordinator/Staff Interpreter*

Rita Campbell, *Independent Living Advisor*

Kim Collier, *Independent Living Advisor*

Renee Gordon, *Independent Living Advisor*

Darryl Hairston, *Independent Living Advisor*

Todd Morrison, *Independent Living Advisor*

Belinda Price, *Independent Living Advisor*

Sarita Cooper, *Job Coach*

Joan Taylor, *Job Coach*

Eddy Morrison, *Communication Specialist*

Patti Weiss, *Program Secretary/IT*

Will Chambers, *Driver*

John Handy, *Driver*

Richard Hudson, *Driver*

Board Members:

Max Verbits, *President*

Sherry Perkins, *Treasurer*

Tom Dryden

Michael Hammond

Lance MacAllister

Donald O. Peterson

Clara Stafford

Jeffrey T. White

Deaf Independent Living Association, established in 1982, is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. A volunteer Board of Directors governs the agency of approximately 25 staff members, fluent in American Sign Language. There are two offices—located in Salisbury and Easton, Maryland—that serve the Eastern Shore's nine counties. DILA continues to serve as a transitional program between school and working and living in the community for deaf and hearing-impaired individuals.

DILA Launches Advocacy Program

By Ann Murray Grimm, *Program Director*

DILA launched our Advocacy Program on June 12 and 19, 2007, with workshops on Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). To develop the presentations, which focused on communication challenges faced by deaf and hard-of-hearing patients in medical settings, DILA worked closely with the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Maryland Association of the Deaf.

Separate workshops were held in Talbot and Dorchester Counties, with each open to both healthcare providers and the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. If you missed the June workshops, don't worry; upcoming ADA presentation dates will be announced soon.

DILA sincerely thanks the Mid-Shore Community Foundation, Inc. for funding both June workshops and the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, Inc. for supporting upcoming workshops in Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties. For more information about DILA's Advocacy Program or ADA workshops, call 410-742-5052 (voice/TTY) or e-mail dila@dila.org.

DILA Hires Lizette Ramos to Manage Newly Expanded Employment Services

By Ann Murray Grimm, *Program Director*



DILA has promoted Lizette Ramos from community support specialist to employment manager.

Currently a graduate student in the Rehabilitation Services Program at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Lizette will use her new role to help deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals achieve their employment goals. Her first major task will involve implementing and promoting DILA's new employment services (approved by the Department of Rehabilitative Services on May 1, 2007), which include job development, readiness training and placement services. The addition of these services will enable DILA to serve growing numbers of deaf and hard-of-hearing community members seeking employment.

Parents of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children Support Group—Next Meeting Aug. 2

By Ann Murray Grimm, Program Director

The Parents of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children Support Group typically meets the first Thursday of each month, from 6 to 8 p.m., at DILA's main office in Salisbury. Free childcare is provided, and new members are welcome anytime.

The group's next meeting will take place on Thursday, August 2, 2007, from 6 to 8 pm. The guest speaker will be Beth Cooney of the Wicomico Partnership for Families and Children. Beth is currently the program coordinator for Project Include Me.

Between meetings, group members can keep in touch through a special listserv. To access this listserv, visit www.dila.org/parentsupport.html. To register or for more information about the group, call 410-742-5052 (voice/TTY) or e-mail dila@dila.org.

DILA Hosts Booth at 25th Annual Salisbury Festival

By Patti Weiss, Program Secretary/IT



Each April, the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce sponsors the Salisbury Festival, a celebration of the city's residential and business communities. DILA hosted a booth at this year's festival and distributed information about our programs and services to attendees. We collected monetary donations in exchange for DILA stuffed themed animals and "ILY" items as well.

Not only did we raise awareness of deaf culture, but also we collected over \$150 in donations to support our programs and services.

DILA Thanks Our Recent Donors

The high quality of our programs and services is a testament to our generous donors. Their support enables DILA to serve growing numbers of deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals.

DILA thanks the following businesses, organizations and individuals for their recent donations:

- ♦ **Silver Sponsorship (\$10,000 – \$19,999)**
Cole Foundation, Inc. – \$19,000 for *DIR home repairs*
- ♦ **Bronze Sponsorship (\$5,000 – \$9,999)**
Anonymous – \$5,000 *unrestricted*
- ♦ **Copper Sponsorship (\$1,000-\$4,900)**
Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, Inc. – \$3,250 *toward ADA training for Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset Counties*
- ♦ **Supporters (\$25-\$499)**
Marrienne Doremus
May Nu
- ♦ **Rummage Sale In-Kind Gifts**
Mr. & Mrs. A. Andeniran
Kerrie Bunting
Coca-Cola Enterprises
Sarita Cooper
Rita Campbell
Laura Jones
Jane Lind
Mr. & Mrs. Lou Reich
Anthony Rodriguez
Leigh Scott
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Scoville
Cheryl Thomsen
Max Verbits
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Weiss
Jennifer Whitcomb
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey White

Check out DILA's Deaf Resource Library and Sign Lab

By Eddy Morrison, Communication Specialist



DILA's Deaf Resource Library and Sign Lab are open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information on library materials, including books and DVDs, contact Eddy Morrison at 410-742-5052 (voice/TTY) or e-mail dila@dila.org. Happy reading and viewing!

Summer 2007 recommended resources:

United States of ASL Poetry and Other Tales, by Peter Cook

An internationally known deaf performing artist, Peter Cook mesmerizes viewers with his unique ASL storytelling, which combines pantomime, acting and movement. This 55-minute videocassette includes favorites like *Window Signs*, *Batman II*, *The Debate*, *Weakspot*, *Picture Worth a Thousand Hands* and *My First Word*.

I Didn't Hear the Dragon Roar, by Frances M. Parsons

Frances Parsons made history in 1986 when she became the first deaf woman to travel solo through China. She later wrote a book about her experience, *I Didn't Hear the Dragon Roar*.

DILA Rummage Sale a Success

By Laura Jones, Administrative Assistant



On May 12, 2007, DILA held a highly successful rummage sale. We received many sale items from the surrounding community, and most items were snatched up quickly by those in search of a great deal. The \$650 raised from the sale will help support our Deaf Educational Awareness Festival (DEAF), scheduled for the weekend of October 5 and 6, 2007.

Due to the success of our May rummage sale, DILA has scheduled another sale on Saturday, August 11, 2007, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., in our multipurpose room. We are once again seeking donations of used items in good condition.

For donation information or to reserve a table, call 410-742-5052 (voice/TTY) or e-mail dila@dila.org.

Don't Miss DILA's First-Ever Deaf Educational Awareness Festival

By Laura Jones, Administrative Assistant

Mark your calendars for DILA's Deaf Educational Awareness Festival (DEAF), October 5 and 6, 2007, at our main office in Salisbury. The festival will kick off on Friday evening, October 5, with a can't-miss performance by comedian Keith Wann, a CODA. Tickets purchased in advance will be \$10 each, tickets purchased at the door will be \$15 each. There will be a special ticket price for those who plan to attend DEAF both days.

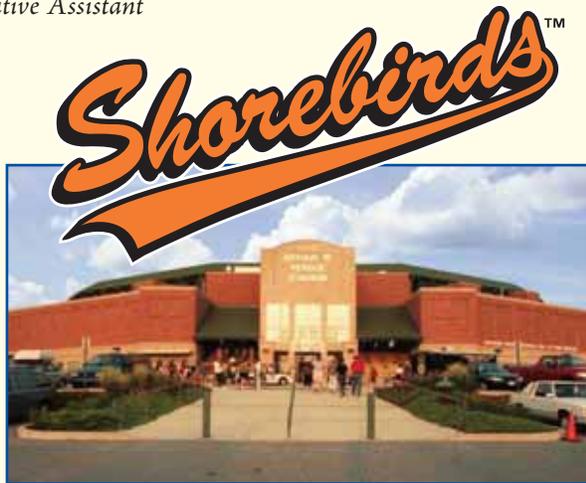
Saturday, October 6 will feature a full day of education and fun, including two informational seminars, entertainment, exhibits, vendors, children's activities, refreshment and prizes. The suggested donation for Saturday's festivities is \$5.

For more information or to volunteer, call 410-742-5052 (voice/TTY) or e-mail dila@dila.org.

Let's Play Ball: Deaf Community Night with the Delmarva Shorebirds

By Laura Jones, Administrative Assistant

Celebrate Deaf Community Night with DILA on August 19, 2007, (rain date: August 23) as we cheer the Delmarva Shorebirds to victory! Tickets are \$20 per person, which includes one general admission ticket, a pre-game tailgate buffet, a \$7 tax-deductible donation to DILA, a baseball cap and of course, lots of fun! You'll also be entered in a drawing for a ticket to DILA's Deaf Education Awareness Festival (DEAF) performance on October 5, 2007.



All proceeds will support DEAF. Tickets must be purchased through DILA by August 9, 2007. For more information or to order tickets, call 410-742-5052 (voice/TTY) or e-mail dila@dila.org.

continued from cover - Don't Let Mosquitoes Bite Into Your Summer Fun

The good news is that there are some simple things you can do to reduce the mosquito population and protect yourself:

- Since mosquitoes need stagnant water to breed, keep your yard free of standing water by replenishing pet water bowls daily, cleaning rain gutters, cleaning and refilling birdbaths at least twice a week and removing any debris or containers that could hold water.
- If it's not too hot, wear pants and/or a long-sleeve shirt when working or playing in highly infested areas.
- Use a mosquito repellent containing DEET (consult a physician before applying any form of insect repellent containing DEET on children).
- Avoid scheduling outdoor activities at dusk or dawn.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture is an excellent source of information on mosquito control. Visit the department's Web site, www.mda.state.md.us, for more tips on avoiding our unofficial State bird.

Michael Hammond Joins DILA's Board of Directors

By Max Verbits, Board President

DILA welcomes our newest Board member, Michael W. Hammond. Currently publisher of the Town Planner Community Calendar, Michael boasts a 15-year background in sales and service. For the first part of his three-year term, he will work with fellow board members to implement DILA's strategic plan.

A resident of Caroline County, Michael moved to the Eastern Shore area in 1997 from southwestern Pennsylvania. He and his wife enjoy many outdoor activities, including camping, canoeing and kayaking.

Fall ASL Classes Offered

By Eddy Morrison,
Communication Specialist

DILA will once again offer basic ASL classes starting September 17, 2007. The 12-week classes will meet on Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m., with the exception of October 8, Columbus Day. The fee is \$180 plus the cost of books. To register, call 410-742-5052 (voice/TTY), or e-mail dila@dila.org.

DILA Employment and Staffing Updates

By Lisa Trolan, Administrative Director

DILA congratulates the following employees:

- ♦ Ann Murray Grimm, who recently celebrated 20 years with DILA. Way to go Murray!
- ♦ Lizette Ramos, who has been promoted to Employment Manager. Congratulations Lizette!
- ♦ Kim Collier, who has rejoined the DILA team as a full-time Independent Living Advisor. Welcome back, Kim!

In other employment news, DILA is seeking candidates for the following full-time positions:

- ♦ Community Support Specialist
- ♦ Independent Living Advisor
- ♦ Staff Interpreter

All interested applicants should send a letter of interest, current resume and a list of three references to:

DILA
Attn: Human Resources
806 Snow Hill Road
Salisbury, MD 21804
Fax: 410-543-4874
E-mail: dila@dila.org

Or, apply online at www.dila.org.

DILA offers an excellent benefits package for full-time employees. To learn more, visit www.dila.org.

Stay Cool This Summer

By Ramona Bradley, Director of Healthcare Services

While summer rewards us with its long days, warm weather and sunny skies, it can also take a toll on us physically if we're not careful. Here are some tips to (safely) enjoy some fun in the sun:

- ♦ Always apply sunscreen (UVA/UVB 45-50) before heading outdoors. Reapply after swimming or exercising.
- ♦ Avoid spending time in the direct sun between the hours of 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., when the sun's rays are most damaging.
- ♦ Protect your scalp and face with a wide-brimmed hat.
- ♦ Wear sunglasses to shield your eyes from the sun's intense rays.
- ♦ Drink plenty of water.
- ♦ Take breaks from the sun by going indoors or resting in shaded areas.
- ♦ Avoid strenuous activity during extremely hot weather.



During hot, humid weather, the body's internal temperature can rise. If it rises too high or too rapidly, you can develop heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Here's what you need to know about these two conditions:

Heat Exhaustion –

Symptoms: Nausea, clammy skin, fast heartbeat and fainting

What to do:

- ♦ Quickly move the person to an air conditioned room or shaded area
- ♦ Have him or her lie down with feet elevated and give him or her small sips of water
- ♦ Seek medical help

Heat Stroke –

Symptoms: Headache, dizziness, high body temperature, confusion and rapid heartbeat

What to do:

- ♦ Seek medical help at once (heat stroke can be fatal if left untreated)
- ♦ Do NOT give the person anything to drink
- ♦ Move the person to a cool area and lower the body temperature with cold sponges or water and wait until help arrives

Vacancies in Deaf Independent Residences' ALUs

By Marlena Turner, DIR Manager

Deaf Independent Residences (DIR) manages ten specially designed houses in Salisbury, Easton and Berlin, Maryland all of which are designated HUD Section 8 (202) and licensed under the State of Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) as Alternative Living Units (ALUs) for people with hearing loss. Each ALU accommodates a maximum of three residents who must meet HUD and DIR eligibility requirements. There are currently several vacancies in the Easton area. DILA has started a national campaign to fill these openings. To apply or for more information, contact Marlena Turner at 410-742-5052 (voice/TTY).

Latest Statistics from the National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)

- Approximately 28 million Americans have a hearing impairment.
- Hearing loss is greater in men.
- Hearing loss affects approximately 17 in 1,000 children under age 18. Incidence increases with age: approximately 314 in 1,000 people over age 65 have hearing loss, and 40 to 50 percent of people 75 and older have hearing loss.
- About 2 to 3 out of every 1,000 children in the U.S. are born deaf or hard of hearing. Nine out of every 10 children who are born deaf are born to parents who can hear.
- Ten million Americans have suffered irreversible noise-induced hearing loss, and 30 million more are exposed to dangerous noise levels each day.

Exciting Time to Join DILA's Board of Directors

By Max Verbits, Board President

DILA's Board of Directors is actively seeking new members with a genuine interest in and familiarity with hearing-loss issues, fundraising and nonprofit organizations.

This is an exciting time to join the board, as we are in the early stages of implementing DILA's strategic plan. As a board member, you'll help support DILA; develop policies and procedures; monitor the agency's financial health, programs and overall performance; and provide DILA's executive director with needed resources. The Board meets quarterly, with the next meeting scheduled for September 13, 2007.

For more information, contact Board President Max Verbits at mfv@dbfinc.com or 410-742-5052. Individuals with hearing loss are encouraged to apply.

Volunteers Needed for DILA's Summer Camp for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children

By Ann Murray Grimm, Program Director



DILA is coordinating a summer camp (possibly overnight) for deaf and hard-of-hearing children for summer 2008. If you can help with this project in any way, call 410-742-5052 (voice/TTY) or e-mail dila@dila.org

Join our Interpreter Network Committee

By Sue Beaver, Interpreter

Coordinator/Staff Interpreter

DILA recently formed an Interpreter Network Committee to discuss establishing an interpreter training program at Wor-Wic Community College, new concepts and various methods in interpreting will also be discussed. If interested, contact Sue Beaver at 410-742-5052 (voice/TTY).

Upcoming Events

August 2, 2007

Parents of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children Support Group
6 – 8 p.m.
DILA
806 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD

August 11, 2007

Rummage Sale
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
DILA (multipurpose room),
806 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD

August 16, 2007

Title III ADA Workshop
Healthcare providers: 2 – 4 p.m.
Deaf and hard-of-hearing community:
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
University of Maryland Eastern Shore,
UMES Boulevard, Princess Anne, MD

August 19, 2007

Deaf Community Night with the Shorebirds (DILA fundraiser)
Tailgate buffet: 5:35 – 6:35 p.m.
Game begins: 6:35 p.m.
Arthur W. Perdue Stadium, Salisbury, MD
\$20 donation

August 20, 2007

Title III ADA Workshop
Healthcare providers: 1 – 3 p.m.
Deaf and hard-of-hearing community:
3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Ocean Pines Library, Ocean Pines, MD

September 17, 2007

ASL Classes
6 – 8 p.m., 12-week course every Monday
9/17 through 12/10
DILA, 806 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD

October 5, 2007

Comedian Keith Wann
(part of DILA's Deaf Educational Awareness Festival)
7 p.m.
DILA (multipurpose room),
806 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD.
\$10 donation (in advance)
\$15 donation (at the door)
Note: Special two-day event tickets available—call 410-752-5052
(voice/TTY)

October 6, 2007

DILA's Deaf Education Awareness Festival
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
DILA, 806 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD
\$5 donation

Visit our Web site: www.dila.org



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