

The MI-SHHH-IGANIAN

Michigan Self Help For Hard of Hearing People

Volume 10 Number 2

SUMMER 2005

SHHH & YOU

More than 24 million people in the U.S. have a hearing loss that can hinder daily communication. That translates to one in ten people. By age 65, one in three people has a hearing loss. This invisible condition affects us, family, friends, co-workers and everyone around us. SHHH believes that people can help one another, can be helped, and can participate successfully in society. The mission of SHHH is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, advocacy, and support.

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc. (SHHH) is the largest international consumer organization dedicated to the well-being of people who do not hear well.

If you are not a member of national SHHH, you are encouraged to join. Membership includes the bi-monthly SHHH journal, Hearing Loss, an outstanding information source. Dues are \$25 for USA individual/family, \$50 for Professionals. Make checks payable to "SHHH" and mail to:

SHHH National Office
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200
Bethesda, MD 20814
V/301-657-2248
TTY/301-657-2249
www.hearingloss.org

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Preparing for Communication Access During Power Outages: Equipment Needs

By: Dana Mulvany

People with hearing loss are especially at risk of losing communication access during power outages since the devices we use for communication access generally require power in some form. Here are some suggestions for equipment that can help preserve your ability to receive information about emergencies and to communicate with others.

Universal power supplies (UPSes). UPSes are often used as a temporary source of power for computers (to keep them running long enough so they can be shut down properly) but they can be used for other devices, such as AC-powered telephones or TTYs. (If you have a desktop computer, it's a very good idea to use a UPS with the computer so you will not lose your work during unexpected power outages.)

Surge protectors. Important and expensive equipment, such as TVs, computers and adaptive equipment should be protected from power surges that can be caused by lightning storms. (Many UPSes also have surge protection built in.)

Battery back-up capability. When shopping for AC-powered equipment such as certain amplified phones, VCO phones, TTYs, or alerting technology, check whether the equipment needs and has battery back-up capability if the power goes out. Also, if the equipment uses a rechargeable battery or batteries, can standard batteries be used if the existing batteries cannot be recharged right away?

Battery-powered equipment. You may want to consider getting battery-powered equipment, either in place of or to supplement AC-powered equipment. For example, are you considering whether to get a laptop computer or a desktop computer? A laptop computer will be easier to power from different sources, such as vehicles. Some laptop computers are designed to have an especially long battery life and may also have the option of additional high-capacity batteries. (Computers can also be used for making Internet Relay calls, and thus are an alternative to TTYs.)

Alternative sources of light. People with more severe hearing loss generally need light in the dark in order to understand other people. Although flashlights are important, a source of light that will illuminate people's faces without needing to be held will be much easier to use. Oil lamps and candles need to be handled very carefully to avoid fire (first ask yourself whether the people or pets in your house might easily knock them over). Some kinds of lights are much more efficient with battery power than others -- the label may indicate this information.

Wireless pagers and phones. Most wireless devices, including wireless phones, now allow two-way communication by e-mail. Some also provide access to customized web pages designed for a small screen. Generally, text communication seems to require less power than voice communication. Some wireless phones can be used as modems for computers or hand-held devices, thus potentially providing full access to the Internet. Because most emergencies are now reported over the Internet by text, Internet access can be very useful for researching ac-

The **MI-SHHH-IGANIAN** is the official newsletter for Michigan Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (MI-SHHH)

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The MI-SHHH-IGANIAN is published quarterly. Submit letters and questions by July 31, 2005 to:

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For information about MI-SHHH Programs, call:

517-487-2583 V/TTY

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the person submitting the information and not necessarily of Michigan SHHH.

Mention of goods or services does not mean endorsement by Michigan SHHH, nor should exclusion suggest disapproval.

Continued from Page 1

cessible information about emergencies. Wireless devices are also an effective way of quickly being notified by the [Emergency Email Network](#) about emergencies wherever you are (unless you happen to be in an area that is not covered by the service). Some of the new wireless phones have been designed to work with new portable TTYs and thus can also meet text-based telecommunications needs.

Power inverters for cars. Suppose you have an important device with rechargeable batteries that can't use other kinds of batteries, and the power has been out for a couple of days. One thing you may be able to do is to buy a power inverter so that you can charge the device while you're driving. You will need to make sure the power inverter has enough wattage to handle the device you want to charge.

Note: be careful about powering devices from one's vehicle. Never run your vehicle (or gasoline-powered generator) in a standing position inside a garage or if the exhaust pipe is blocked by snow. Carbon monoxide fumes from the car are odorless and injure or kill people. Running the car for a long time in a standing position may also drain the car's battery.

Portable power supplies. These are often used to jump start a car with a dead battery, but some can power AC-powered devices or devices with a cigarette lighter adapter. Costco and Sam's have been sources of such power supplies, but possibly automotive stores will also have similar products. Some may also have a built-in light.

Gasoline-powered generators or solar-powered chargers. Both are expensive but for some people will be worth the peace of mind. Gasoline-powered generators are often very noisy. Solar-powered chargers generally have a high up-front cost but there may be special tax incentives in some states for installing them in a residence. Follow the safety instructions carefully for the gas-powered ones.

9-inch TVs with closed captioning capability. Nine-inch TVs require less power than larger TVs, and many come with a cigarette lighter adapter. Although nine-inch TVs are not required to have closed captioning, some manufacturers have included this functionality anyway. (We do not have a comprehensive list of nine-inch TVs with closed captioning and because models change quickly, we suggest asking store representatives which nine-inch TVs have this capability.) Such TVs can be a useful method of receiving local information if you have alternate sources of power for them such as those mentioned above.

Are You Prepared? Checklist for Power Outages

If the power goes out in my home:

- Do I still have an effective way of calling people?
- Will I be able to understand local emergency information from my local government?
- Will I be able to get understandable news updates from news stations and other sources?
- Do I have lighting sources to let me speechread people's faces in the dark?
- Do I have enough batteries to power my hearing aid(s) and/or cochlear implant processors for several weeks?

Taking extra measures to preserve your communication access during power outages now could save your life and others in the future, ease stress for you during a difficult time, and give you peace of mind. Good luck!

Dana Mulvany, M.S.W., was the Director of the National Center for Hearing Assistive Technology (NCHAT) at SHHH. She grew up with a hearing loss and earned her master's degree in social welfare from UCLA. She can be reached at dmulvany@usa.net

This article was originally published in "Hearing Loss: The Journal of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People," in its Jan/Feb 2004 edition and is online at <http://www/hearingloss.org/hat>.

MICHIGAN SHHH GETS A FACE LIFT

On the web, that is! MI SHHH launched a new web site in April. This face-lift is not just skin deep either. We hope you'll agree that there is more information and that it is easy to find. **So what's so great about the new site?** Well, the best way to find out is to go take a look for yourself at: www.mi-shhh.org. Some highlights will be covered here to let you know just what you'll miss if you DON'T pay us a visit!

Chapters: The new chapter index shows approximately where in the state each chapter is located. This will make it easier for people not familiar with the city or area, to tell at a glance, if there are chapters near them. Each chapter will have more space to report on the happenings and events in their chapter and in their geographical area.

Advocacy: In this section, you will find links to government web sites to obtain information about the latest bills, how to contact your state and federal representatives, as well as information about advocating for captioning, hearing access in the judicial system, and other pertinent issues.

HTRS: A bit more explanation about our HTRS (Hearing Technology Resource Specialist) program for those who are not familiar with it, and a list of topics discussed at the presentations.

Information: In this area, there will be articles that were published in the Mi-SHHH-iganian prior to the Winter of 2004. We will try to add more of the older articles on a regular basis. If there are any in particular that you are interested in seeing online, send an e-mail to the webmaster. You will also find the MI SHHH resource library listing here in portable document format (.pdf). Don't worry if you're not sure what PDF is. There is a link to get Adobe PDF Reader for free, which is what you need to read this file. There is also a link here to the SHHH forums where you can connect to other hard of hearing people worldwide!

Newsletters: The current issue of the Mi-SHHH-iganian will be at this location. Past issues are available here as well, beginning with the Winter 2004 issue. There is now the option of receiving an e-mail notification of when the current issue is online. Just send an email to newsletter@mi-shhh.org *When you do this, you will not receive a printed copy of the newsletter.*

Events: In this area we will focus on SHHH events such as the 25th anniversary Convention being held in Washington DC from June 29 – July 3rd, 2005. You can find more about this at www.hearingloss.org. We will also focus on MI SHHH events like the 2006 Expo being held in Grand Rapids on April 28th and 29th of 2006.

State Profile: This is an overview of services in the State of Michigan for Hard of Hearing people. There is more information about specific agencies in articles in the "Information" section of the web site.

Donations/Fundraisers: Here you will find a donation form that you can download, print and send in. We will also keep you updated on any fundraisers that MI SHHH is conducting so that if you want to participate or help out, you can do that easily.

Continued on Page 7... WEBSITE

WELCOME ABOARD!!!

Michigan Cochlear Implant Support Group
Soon to Become a MI-SHHH Chapter!

The Michigan Cochlear Implant Support Group has been in existence for 17 years and affiliated with Cochlear Implant Association, Inc (CIAI), the international support network for people with cochlear implants (CIs). Due to funding issues, the CIAI needed to find other options for meeting support needs of people with CIs. In July of 2003, CIAI stopped taking memberships and began work on a merger with SHHH as a CI division. A CIAI member now serves on the Board of Trustees of SHHH and a section of the Hearing Loss Journal has been dedicated to CI technology and support. SHHH will provide a CI track at the annual SHHH International Convention.

With this reorganization, the Michigan Cochlear Implant Group has petitioned to SHHH to become an SHHH chapter, adopting the name of **MI CI SHHH Chapter**. MI CI SHHH differs from other chapters by focusing specifically on cochlear implants and issues that are unique to it such as surgery and programming issues, manufacturer upgrades (unlike with hearing aids, once surgery is done the CI user can only get technology components from the manufacturer of the electrode they received), rehabilitation as the CI recipient learns to hear again with electrical stimulation and assistive listening connective techniques, which is different than connective issues of hearing aids.

Everyone who is interested in knowing more about the CI is welcome to join this unique chapter. MI CI SHHH is a mobile chapter, meeting in three different locations in the state so that meetings might be closer to the CI recipients' homes. CI professionals present at each meeting and are available to answer questions and address concerns.

Chapter Leader: **Ruth Fox**
3171 Eastland
Muskegon, MI 49441
231-740-1534

Co-Leaders: **Roy Hammond**
Mt-Pleasant-CI@mi-shhh.org
Pam McGuinty
Ann-Arbor-CI@mi-shhh.org
Julie Armstrong
Grand-Rapids-CI@mi-shhh.org

Meeting Information: **June 18 & September 17**
11:00AM
Mt. Pleasant Finger Food Potluck
CMU Professions Building
East Campus Drive & Preston
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859
July 17 & October 16
1:00PM
Ann Arbor Sunday Social

Continued on Page 7.. MI CI SHHH

MI-SHHH Chapter Activities

By: Marla Schindler

Summer is finally here! I'm sure most of you are very busy with outdoor activities, trying to squeeze as many good times in as possible. If you have a hearing loss, that can limit you at times, and perhaps make you feel left out or depressed. At our SHHH Chapter meetings, we discuss these feelings and help each other deal with those and other feelings and situations that we need help with. We offer a great deal of information about modern technology to help those with hearing loss. We meet wonderful people who understand our frustrations when dealing with everyday situations in the hearing world. Come to a meeting in your area. This is a group for you! I can almost guarantee that if you come to one meeting, you will come back for more! As always, family and friends are always welcome.

BIRMINGHAM AREA SHHH

June 9: Assembly of Hospital Kit Packets for HOH persons in health care facilities. Come lend a hand and enjoy wonderful refreshments and fellowship.

July 14: Report on SHHH National Convention

August 11: Annual Chapter Potluck Picnic

CAPITAL AREA SHHH

June 14: Annual Chapter Picnic

July 12: Join us for a fun evening at an ice cream parlor in East Lansing.

August 9: We will meet at a local restaurant for dinner... and use some of the strategies we have learned for eating out.

DEARBORN AREA SHHH

June 22: Hearing Aid Care Tips

Note: There will be no meetings in July and August so members can enjoy the summer. The next meeting will be on September 21st.

DOWNRIVER AREA SHHH

Our chapter is involved in an outreach program to try to reach more hard of hearing people through health fairs. We also post fliers in all Downriver Senior Centers and offer seminars at centers where there is interest. Kate Miller, our CART provider, will do a program on the subject of Computer Assisted Real Time.

August 2: Brenda Stimson, MI-SHHH Chapter Coordinator will visit.

GRAND RAPIDS AREA SHHH CHAPTER

June 8: Dick McKinley, Premovation Audio Visual Systems, and Audiologist Jim Welch, will provide information about hearing loop systems and telecoils in hearing aids. Visit our new website at: www.gr-shhh.org/

HEAR ME NOW SHHH CHAPTER

We have a speechreading and sign language segment at each meeting. Roz Leiser, our Professional Advisor from Oakland Audiology, discusses topics such as the newest developments in the hearing impaired field, hearing aids, their care, cost and related material. As always, the

Self Help in Michigan... If you do not already belong to a MI-SHHH Chapter, we hope you will find one near you and plan to attend their meetings. Programs benefit not only those with hearing loss but also their families and friends. Everyone is welcome at all MI-SHHH functions.

Please contact the individual chapters, or visit www.mi-shhh.org for further meeting information. The street addresses below provide meeting locations.

BIRMINGHAM AREA SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 2nd Thursday of the month

12:30 - 2:30 PM

Birmingham Area Senior Citizen Center

2121 Midvale Avenue, Birmingham 48009-1509

Contact: birmingham@mi-shhh.org

CAPITAL AREA SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month

6:30 - 8:30PM

Foster Community Center, Room 110

200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing 48912-4104

Contact: lansing@mi-shhh.org

DEARBORN AREA SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month

12:30 - 2:00 PM

Dearborn Senior Center

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center

15801 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn 48126-2904

Contact: dearborn@mi-shhh.org

DOWNRIVER AREA SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 1st Tuesday of the month

1:30 - 3:00 PM

Ford Senior Center

6750 Troy ST, Taylor 48180-1633

Contact: taylor@mi-shhh.org

GRAND RAPIDS AREA SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Metropolitan Hospital (West Conference Room)

1919 Boston SE, Grand Rapids 49506

Contact: grand-rapids@mi-shhh.org

HEAR ME NOW SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month

9:30 - 11:30 AM

Waterford Senior Center

6455 Harper, Waterford 48329-1338

Contact: waterford@mi-shhh.org

Hi/Low TONES - ROYAL OAK SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 4th Tuesday, monthly (except July & August)

6:30 PM Social, 7:00 PM meeting

1st Presbyterian Church

529 Hendrie Blvd., Royal Oak 48068

6th & Pleasant

JACKSON AREA SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 3rd Tuesday of every other month
6:30 - 8:30 PM
Disability Connections
409 Linden, Jackson 49203-4065
Contact: Jackson@mi-shhh.org

KALAMAZOO AREA SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month
7:00 - 9:00 PM
First Congregational Church
129 S. Park St., Kalamazoo
Corner of W. Michigan & Park St.
Contact: kalamazoo@mi-shhh.org

MACOMB COUNTY SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 4th Thursday of the month
1:00 - 3:00 PM
Knox Presbyterian Church
25700 Crocker Blvd., Harrison Township
Contact: macomb-co@mi-shhh.org

MID-MICHIGAN SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 4th Monday of the month
7:00 - 8:30 PM
Butman-Fish Library
1716 Hancock St., Saginaw 48602-4045
Contact: saginaw@mi-shhh.org

NORTHERN LightSHHH CHAPTER

Meets 2nd Sunday, monthly (except July & August)
1:30 PM
Traverse Area District Library
610 Woodmere Ave, Traverse City 49686
Contact: traverse-city@mi-shhh.org

WASHHH CHAPTER

Meets 1st Monday of the month
7:00 PM
Turner Senior Resource Center (Sun Room)
2401 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor 48105
Contact: info@washhh.org

WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month
6:30 - 8:30 PM
Garden City Hospital
6245 Inkster Rd., Garden City 48135-4001
Contact: wayne-co@mi-shhh.org

WESTSHORE SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 4th Monday of the month
6:30 PM social, 7:00 - 8:00 PM meeting
Roosevelt Park Community Center
3106 Roosevelt Rd. Muskegon 49441
Corner of Roosevelt Rd & Glenside Blvd.
Contact: muskegon@mi-shhh.org

*"I can't do it" never accomplished anything;
"I will try" has performed wonders.
George P. Burnham*

Peer Support for our groups ranks very high.

Hi/Low Tones - ROYAL OAK SHHH CHAPTER

July 26: Annual Chapter Picnic
Note: No meeting in August.

JACKSON AREA SHHH CHAPTER

June 21: The presenter from the Social Security Administration will discuss Social Security benefits.

KALAMAZOO AREA SHHH CHAPTER

June 8: Betty Yagi, Collection of Postage Stamps featuring commemoratives relating to hearing loss.
July 13: Annual Picnic and Hot Dog Roast
August 10: Reports on the SHHH National Convention by members who attended the 2005 event in Washington, D.C.

MACOMB COUNTY SHHH CHAPTER

Our chapter has been growing closer together and after three meetings we are beginning to feel like a caring family. As such, our June 23 meeting will be an old fashioned Potluck, with a surprise program. No meetings in July and August.

MID-MICHIGAN SHHH CHAPTER

Our chapter has decided to learn basic sign language from each other as a fun and useful activity.

NORTHERN LightSHHH CHAPTER

At the April meeting, Jeanne Dzik delighted us with stories of coping with hearing loss during her trailer trip to (and around) Deming, New Mexico. A scribe and assistive listening devices are offered at every meeting.

WASHHH CHAPTER

June 6: Brenda Stimson and Liz Kobylak (MI-SHHH Chapter Coordinators) will present.

Looping Project: Recently installed loops at AACIL and UM Turner Senior Resource Center are working great and providing access for many people via their hearing aid T-coils. Next, we plan to loop a conference room at the Ypsilanti Main Library.

Linking Project: A third computer is ready for a deaf woman being trained by MRS.

WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY SHHH CHAPTER

No meetings until September 14th.

WESTSHORE SHHH CHAPTER

June 27: Improving Speech Reading
July 25 - Annual Picnic
August 22 - Liz Kobylak, MI-SHHH Chapter Coordinator

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!!!

**The Michigan SHHH
Hear Here 2006 Conference and EXPO**

**April 28 & 29, 2006
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Grand Rapids, MI**

Full details in the next issue of the Mi-SHHH-iganian!!!

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors!

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Les and Liz Kobylak - appreciating SHHH
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Deaf & Hearing Impaired Services

Downriver SHHH - In Memory of Andy Posa

MDRC - www.copower.org

**Information about sponsorship opportunities may be obtained by
contacting Michigan SHHH at: jhaines@mi-shhh.org**

For Your Information!

SILENT CELEBRATION

September 10 & 11, 2005

**Presented by
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Connection**

A weekend festival at Heritage Landing, on the shores of Muskegon Lake in Muskegon, MI. This event will feature nationally known performers, speakers and entertainment for the whole family!

Headline performers and speakers include:

Trix Bruce, Gael Hannan, Pinky Juggler,
Bertram Weston, Kathy Buckley, Dave Myers,
Chris Hunter, Mark Pierce and Terry Portis.

Other fun activities will include Card Tournaments for adults and face painting and games for children.

One Day Pass: Adults \$15, Children \$10 (ages 7-12)

Two Day Combo: Adults \$25, Children \$15 (ages 7-12)

For further information and registration contact:

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Connection
3391 Merriam Street
Suite 101
Muskegon, MI 49444
231-737-4414 (ex: 35)
TTY/FAX 231-737-4463
Website: www.dhhc.org

*NCRA's New Online Directory Offers
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals
Immediate Access to Qualified
CART Providers*

Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART), also referred to as realtime captioning, is a way to transcribe the spoken word into readable English text and serves as an important communication tool for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. To assist individuals in locating qualified CART providers, the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) has introduced the online CART Provider Locator. This free directory will help you find a CART provider within seconds and provides a listing of their contact information, areas of specialty, certifications, and references. The CART providers that are listed are all members of NCRA.

For more information, please visit NCRA's CART Provider Directory at:

<http://cart.ncraonline.org/directory/index/shtml>

NCRA is a 26,000 member non-profit organization representing the judicial reporting and captioning professions.

How to receive this Newsletter

There is no subscription or membership fee required to receive The MI-SHHH-IGANIAN. We would like all hard of hearing people to receive it regardless of ability to pay. At the same time, we must use the dollars wisely that have been contributed. If you wish to be added to the mailing list or continue to receive this newsletter, please fill out this coupon, or return a photocopy of this page. *If you have responded in the past twelve months you will continue to receive it and do not need to respond again.* This newsletter is separate from local and National SHHH memberships. **If you have been receiving this newsletter for the past year and have never responded, this may be your last issue.** Contributions will be listed in the next edition unless you request to remain anonymous. Remember no contribution is necessary, but notification is a must.

I would like to receive (or continue to receive) this newsletter. Please read the above paragraph.

Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

I learned about this newsletter from: _____

- ? Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____ to support the outreach programs of the Michigan SHHH. Donations are tax deductible and will be acknowledged in the next newsletter.
- ? I wish to remain anonymous.
- ? I cannot contribute but would like to receive the newsletter.

**Donations should be made payable to: Michigan SHHH
Please send to: Michigan SHHH, PO Box 4808, Troy, MI 48099-4808**

Continued from Page 3... MI CI SHHH

Ann Arbor CIL
2568 Packard Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

August 21 & November 13
1:30PM
Grand Rapids Sunday Potluck
Fourth Reformed Church
1226 Union Avenue, NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Continued from Page 3... WEBSITE

Don't miss the basic links at the top right corner. The 'Home' page link will always take you back to square one. You will also see 'About Us', which contains a board of trustees application if you are interested in joining our fantastic board, as well as a list of current officers of said board and contact information for each. It also explains what MI SHHH is about and how we operate. The 'Links' area is a listing of interesting links for hard of hearing people. A lot of great information is available on the web for us! The 'Contact Us' area is a fancy way for you to email us. Use that if you wish, or just drop us a line at info@mi-shhh.org.

Did we miss something on the new web site that you'd like to see? Don't worry, this is an ongoing project so just send an email to webmaster@mi-shhh.org and we'll do our best to look into your suggestion or add your information.

* **Janet Haines is President of MI-SHHH and also the webmaster for the MI-SHHH web site.**

Michigan SHHH is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your donation is fully deductible within the limits of the law.

Thanks

It costs approximately \$1500 to print and mail out each edition of this newsletter. Please consider helping to defray our costs. We are a non-profit, all-volunteer organization. Without your generous support, we are unable to continue this newsletter.

Thank you! To the following donors:

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Online Support for Persons with Hearing Loss Recovering from Addiction

For a person who is addicted to drugs or alcohol, and who is also deaf or hard of hearing, finding support for recovery is almost impossible. Around the United States, there are a handful of substance abuse treatment programs striving to meet the communication needs of people with hearing loss.

The biggest challenges occur when the newly sober person returns home. Twelve-step support groups, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, are often inaccessible. People who are hard of hearing struggle to hear during group discussions. People who are deaf, may need a sign language interpreter to participate (an additional cost that is difficult for volunteer groups to manage). A new web site has been developed in hopes of bridging the communication needs of this population.

Addiction Help! Deaf & Hard of Hearing is a project of the Michigan Coalition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People. Comprised of agencies, businesses, and individuals who serve the deaf and hard of hearing community, the organization is the sponsor of the E-Michigan Deaf & Hard of Hearing People web site (www.michdhh.org). This is a highly popular site, initiated with a grant from SBC Communications Inc., featuring information, resources, news, and an extensive

calendar of deaf and hard of hearing related events in Michigan. *Addiction Help!* is located on the *E-Michigan* website and can also be accessed directly at www.addictionhelpdhh.org.

SBC Communications Inc. and the SBC Foundation recently awarded the Coalition an additional grant to develop the interactive substance abuse recovery web site, bringing the total company support to over \$100,000 since the year 2000.

The site features links to online 12-step type support groups on the web. Some of the support groups are especially for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Others are for the general population. The text format of the discussions are more accessible for those unable to adequately hear and comprehend speech. These online groups are accessible and available 24 hours a day!

Michigan Association for Deaf, Hearing and Speech Services (MADHS), located in Lansing, Michigan, has set up a computer for community members to use during business hours. Please contact MADHS for further details at:

www.madhs.org
yourear@madhs.org
V/TTY 800-YOUR-EAR