

JOB DESCRIPTION  
PARENT GUIDE, GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE (GBYS)

Reports to: GBYS Program Coordinator and Karen Aguilar, Coalition Director, CHOICES for Parents Independent Contract Position with Anixter Center (fiscal agent for CHOICES for Parents)

CHOICES for Parents and Illinois Hands & Voices announces the Guide By Your Side parent-to-parent mentoring and support program for parents whose of children with a hearing loss. Parent Guides are trained parents of children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, who provide unbiased support to parents whose children have a hearing loss.

Requirements:

- Support parents through identification and follow-up services for their child with a hearing loss, regardless of the educational and/or communication option that the families select.
- Be able to distinguish between a personal belief system and bias, and not influence or skew information or input shared with a family.
- Be comfortable when supporting parents through the emotions associated with learning of their child's diagnosis.
- Be knowledgeable of local and state resources for children with a hearing loss, and for those who have additional disabilities.
- Be able to work collaboratively with the IFSP and IEP team members, with an understanding of the birth to 3/Part C, early childhood systems, and Part B public education systems.
- Be able to treat all families with kindness and respect regardless of race, religion, socioeconomic status, or life style even if they conflict with their own values.
- Be sensitive and supportive of cultural, value and belief differences shared by families.
- Bilingual Parent Guides must have a strong understanding of the unique challenges faced by families where English is not the primary language. Support will be provided through the native language of the family.
- Must provide your own transportation and be willing to travel to meet with families in your region. Authorized expenses will be reimbursed.

Qualifications:

- Parent of child with hearing loss strongly preferred.
- Basic computer skills (word, excel, power point) and internet.
- Ability to complete appropriate documentation in a comprehensive and timely manner.
- Must be available for mandatory initial training May 15-17, 2009; and 75% of on-going trainings.
- Must maintain standards of confidentiality compliant with HIPAA, FERPA and Part C Privacy Regulations.
- Must be active in their community, and be a member in good standing with Illinois Hands & Voices (application to Hands & Voices may be completed after hire).

Interested applicants contact Karen Aguilar at 312.523.6400 (outside of the Chicago area call 866.733.8729) or e-mail [choicesforparents@yahoo.com](mailto:choicesforparents@yahoo.com) by February 15, 2009. For more information about Guide By Your Side, refer to <http://www.handsandvoices.org/services/guide.htm> and for more information about CHOICES for Parents, refer to [www.choicesforparents.org](http://www.choicesforparents.org).