

The Parent-to-Parent Support position is responsible for the following programs:

#### Deaf Mentor

- Approx. 75 individuals
- Waiting list of 10 families
- Serving 9 counties across KS
- Often the first deaf person a parent meets is the deaf baby they are bringing home. Parents are at a loss of what their child might need and are often concerned if their child will grow up to be a productive, successful adult. Deaf Mentor supports families in learning ASL as well as Deaf Culture. A deaf adult trained in the Deaf Mentor curriculum conducts home visits. Their role is to interact with and support the whole family using ASL, guide family members into understanding how to advocate for their child, empower parents and family members to provide early language access, and appreciate the uniqueness of raising a DHH child. The Mentor also serves as a connection for families to participate in the deaf community. Without this support, families would be at a loss for information about deafness, best practices for early intervention, and early language access for their child.

#### PATHS Events

- Events have taken place in the following areas with over 477 attendees.
  - Northwest Region (Hays)
  - North Central Region (Manhattan)
  - Southwest Region (Garden City)
  - Wichita-area
  - KC Metro (including Lawrence)
- PATHS Parent Support Group is supported by KSD and hosts events for families throughout the State. Events are open for any family with a child who is DHH. PATHS events allow parents to connect with other families who have walked the journey of raising a DHH child. It is also a way to disseminate information about resources and supports that are available to families, schools, and professionals. This empowers parents to make better decisions for their child and advocate for appropriate services.

*Luanne Barron*

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