

## **KCD CONNECTION: Winter-Spring 2011**

**Dear Friends,** After one of our roughest winters in several years, we now look forward to Spring; hopefully an early Spring. KCD had another successful year in 2010 and our future looks bright. I want to THANK Bob, the Staff of KCD and the Board for the hard work and sacrifice that goes into making KCD a productive and successful Center that we all enjoy and benefit from. While KCD's main service to the Community is interpreting, we also provide an array of free services to the Deaf and Deaf-Blind. Our 12,000 SF, completely remodeled Center is a gathering place for all of us and often on weekends our parking lots are full. People who visit KCD, both deaf people and members of the public, rave about the homey and comfortable atmosphere. Years of hard work, much of it volunteer work, have gone into the remodeling that has taken place. Just running a Center like KCD with mortgage payments, insurance and maintenance is an expensive venture. Once again I want to THANK Bob and his Staff for the work they do in generating funds through interpreting and grant acquisition that allow for the expenses to be covered. When you support KCD you are supporting the Center that you enjoy and the many services that you receive; all at no cost to us in the Deaf and Deaf-Blind Communities. Here's to a bright future at KCD.

Sincerely, Barry Swafford, President of the Board of Directors

**Dear Members of the Deaf and Deaf-Blind Communities,** 2010, while a successful year for KCD, was a challenging one. New programs were started, the stubborn economy worked against us at times and demands for service increased. To the credit of the Staff, we rolled up our sleeves and found another gear to be sure that services to the Deaf and Deaf-Blind continued at the same high level as in the past. While we the Staff made sacrifices in order to serve the Communities we are pledged to, we did not reduce or weaken any of the services we provide. I also want to THANK the Deaf Community for the help that they provided throughout the year and the volunteer effort that many of them made. For the first time in my 8 1/2 years here at KCD, we had to cancel our December Board meeting because of Old Man Winter. The meeting will be made up this month and then in March new Board Directors, elected at the Members Meeting in early December, will begin their three year terms. KCD now maintains an up to date website ([kcdtn.org](http://kcdtn.org)) and we are on Facebook ([facebook/knoxville center of the deaf](https://www.facebook.com/knoxvillecenterofthedeaf)) where we publish new information everyday. Please become a KCD Facebook friend if you are not already one. Because we are using social media to tell the KCD story, our newsletter will be published only twice a year. We mail out about 850 copies of our newsletter so cutting back from four mailings to two will save us about \$2000 per year. We look forward to serving you in 2011.

All the best, Bob Rittenhouse, Executive Director

**STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS:** Delta Zeta, a large UT sorority and SODA (Student Organization on Deaf Awareness) are like family at KCD. The Delta Zetas have been instrumental in transforming our Youth Room into a showcase meeting place. They also clean the homes of members of our Deaf-Blind Community and they have raised over \$5000 for KCD Projects. THANK YOU Deltas. The SODA group is a UT student club made up of majors in Interpreting and Deaf Education. They help with some of our interpreting needs, particularly at deaf-blind functions.

**2011 BOARD MEMBERS:** Barry Swafford, April Haggard, Wayne Kline, Gary McCormick, Betty McBroom, Antony Anderton, David Vogel, Patty Henley, Teresa Gregory, Bob O'Dare, Sr., Mary Carver, Karen Horton, Jimmy Smith and Jim Gregory

**NEW MEMBERS:** Mary Carver, Karen Horton, Jimmy Smith and Jim Gregory. Patty Henley was re-elected to a new three year term.

**BOARD OFFICERS:** Barry Swafford, President; April Haggard, Vice-President; Wayne Kline, Secretary and the Board Treasurer to be elected at the March Board meeting.

\*the Board meets the third Thursday of March, June, September and December from 7-9P. Board minutes are published on KCD's website. You are encouraged to attend a board meeting.

**NEW PROPERTY and AMPHITHEATER:** KCD has purchased the property adjacent to the Center on the north side and is building an Amphitheater. The floor has been laid and funds are being raised to build a roof. KCD will then sponsor theater activities as well as other outdoor events. If you would like to help with the Roof Project make your donation to KCD and write Amphitheater on the subject line of your check.

**THE SENIOR CITIZENS:** The Deaf Senior Citizens are a rapidly growing, energetic group. Lillian Wynn is the group's President. Each Wednesday the group meets at KCD from 9A-2P to play Bingo and other games. On the third Wednesday of the month, the group has a covered dish event. Meats are provided and attendees bring a covered dish. The charge is \$5. "On behalf of KDSC, I, Lillian Wynn as President of KDSC, would like to let everyone know that we would like to invite people to come to KDSC to fellowship. Our Seniors group has been growing so much lately. Come on Wednesdays for fellowship. If any questions, Feel free to contact me. My vp nbr is 865 269 3071".

**KCDVRS:** KCD is now affiliated with a national VRS provider called LifeLinks. By dialing kcdvrs on your remote keyboard you will get a KCD interpreter. If you are a hearing person wishing to call a deaf person through VRS (video relay services) dial 1-877-884-3786. KCD receives a small percentage of the revenue generated by the VRS

call. When you use kcdvrs, you are helping KCD pay for services provided to the Deaf and the Deaf-Blind Communities.

**JOBS:** KCD has signed a contract with Vocational Rehabilitation to provide job training and job placement. Steve Harrison coordinates the program. If you would like to participate in the program, please contact Steve at KCD by VP at 865-622-6567

**REGAL PROJECT:** KCD has been selected by Regal Entertainment to participate in a movie captioning project. Regal is experimenting with various captioning technologies at the East Town mall theater. The Deaf are invited to take in a captioned movie, use the technology and then complete a survey that provides Regal with feedback, positive or negative. KCD applauds Regal and Randy Smith for trying to improve captioning for the Deaf in their theaters.

**ZVRS:** ZVRS has provided KCD with a grant that supports the Deaf Youth Leadership Program. Z equipment is now located in the Youth Room at KCD. Last semester, the Deaf Youth in the Program held a video chat with students from Gallaudet on the large screen TV provided by Regal. This semester, video chats will be held with deaf students at NTID.

**TAD MUSEUM:** KCD is now the home of the new and impressive TAD museum. Doug Woods, Gerald Nelson and David Booker are spearheading the effort to digitize and catalog historical documents that tell the story of Deaf life in Tennessee. The men have put in many hours of work locating, scanning, organizing and shelving documents as far back as the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The room is located in the downstairs area of KCD.

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM:** The Deaf Youth Leadership Program is in its 7<sup>th</sup> year. In the fall term, seniors from TSD and West High School participate in classes at KCD. They are joined in the spring term by the junior students. The focus of the classes is on the rights of the Deaf, citizenship, services for the Deaf and technology. The classes meet on Tuesday evenings.

**DID YOU KNOW:** A major new survey of language studies on college campuses shows ASL is rising quickly in popularity. Of the 12 languages with rising undergraduate enrollments in 2009, only Spanish, ASL, and Korean show continued growth at the graduate level. In 2009, there were 83,450 students enrolled in introductory ASL courses (up from 72,694 in 2006) and 7,487 enrolled in advanced classes (up from 5,249 in 2009). That's more than a 16% increase in the number of students enrolled in both advanced and introductory ASL between 2006 and 2009 (from 78,829 in 2006 to 91,763 in 2010).

Here are the course enrollment numbers for ASL, according to a newly released report from the *Modern Language Association of America*. ASL was the fourth most popular language to learn, behind Spanish, French and German.

- 1990 - 1,602
- 1995 - 4,304
- 1998 - 11,420
- 2002 - 60,781
- 2006 - 78,829
- 2009 - 91,763

**KCDTN.ORG and FACEBOOK/KCD:** KCD has an up to date website at [kcdtn.org](http://kcdtn.org). You can find much information on our website. We are also very active on FaceBook and post daily events and items of information. Check us out.

**I WANT to CALL a DEAF PERSON:** If you are a hearing person wanting to call a deaf person, simply dial 1-877-884-3786. A Sign Language Interpreter will come on the line and place your call. There is NO CHARGE.

**I WANT to CALL a HEARING PERSON:** Dial [kcdvrs.tv](http://kcdvrs.tv) using your remote.

**I WANT to HELP KCD:** If you use KCD, appreciate KCD, want to help KCD use [kcdvrs.tv](http://kcdvrs.tv) (or 1-877-884-3786). Your support is greatly appreciated.

**EVENTS:** upcoming events of interest include the first Board meeting of 2011 on Thursday evening, March 17<sup>th</sup> from 7-9P in the multi-purpose room (upstairs) at KCD. The Board meeting is interpreted and the public is invited to make comment. Covered Dish Wednesday is February 16<sup>th</sup> at noon at KCD in the Community Room (downstairs). The charge is \$5 if you bring a covered dish; \$7 if you don't. The annual TDGA (Tennessee Deaf Golfers Association) meeting is Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 10A in the Community Room at KCD. KCD also maintains a master calendar on the bulletin board in the community room and deaf organizations are encouraged to post their activities on KCD's website.