



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Second deaf and hard of hearing regional office opens in Western Michigan**

Grand Rapids, MI, October 12, 2009

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS), a 501(c)3 non-profit agency in Grand Rapids, is pleased to announce a second regional office in Muskegon, serving the deaf and hard of hearing population in Muskegon, Ottawa, Oceana and Newaygo, effective October 1, 2009.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Connection (D/HHC), a program under MOKA Corporation in Muskegon, was relinquished to DHHS after careful consideration so resources could continue uninterrupted in the area.

“We at DHHS look forward to collaborating with community partners in the greater Muskegon area to create programs for deaf and hard of hearing individuals and families,” stated Katie Prins, DHHS’ executive director who is overseeing both regional offices. “Our staff in Muskegon, including Donielle Potts, who joined us from D/HHC as an administrative assistant, has shown great interest in improving services for this regional entity.”

DHHS – Muskegon, as it is now called, is located at 86 Seaway Drive, Muskegon, Michigan, 49444, near Seaway and Hoyt. Their office hours are Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and staff can be contacted locally at 231-733-6208 (v), 231-733-6245 (fax), and info@deafhhs.org (e-mail). The DHHS - Muskegon office is currently providing interpreter referral service, American Sign Language classes, workshops and any advocacy matters. Requests for sign language interpreters from any West Michigan county may be directed to DHHS’ interpreter referral service through interservices@deafhhs.org or 616-732-7358 ext. 203. DHHS is currently reconstructing its web site to accurately reflect both regional offices and its available services to the community.

Plans for the near future include job placement, hearing assistance outreach and independent living services. Any inquiries about partnerships and programs may be directed to Katie Prins at kprins@deafhhs.org or 616-732-7358 ext. 202.

**About Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services** DHHS is an independent 501(c)3 agency serving Grand Rapids, Muskegon, and surrounding areas since 1996. We serve approximately 2,500+ deaf, hard of hearing and hearing individuals and businesses each year through interpreter referral, job placement, mental health, ASL classes, hearing assistance outreach, and advocacy. DHHS' programs are supported by United Way, Quota International, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, Network 180, Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services, Grand Rapids Community Foundation, and private donations. DHHS strives to create a positive impact on deaf and hard of hearing individuals' lives and help them realize their full potential in society as productive, independent, capable and contributing citizens.