



Samantha shares a smile with Santa!

Holiday Spirit

This December we held our first IL GBYS team holiday party. Aside from celebrating the upcoming holidays we wanted to spend the afternoon thanking the families of our Parent Guides for allowing their moms/wives to be a part of the IL Guide By Your Side team. We played numerous holiday games and even enjoyed a visit from Santa Claus who provided a small present for every child.

We would like to thank Child's Voice for allowing us to use their location for our celebration and White Cottage pizza for generously donating all of the pizzas for our delicious luncheon!

Program Information:

- 1 Program Coordinator
- 13 Parent Guides (PG)
 - Located throughout the state
 - Backgrounds vary in communication opportunities and amplification opportunities
 - 2 PGs who are native Spanish speakers
 - PG who is Deaf

Our Mission:

Guide By Your Side provides unbiased, emotional support and resources by trained Parent Guides to families with children who have a hearing loss.

Through the generosity of private grants, personal donations and funding through the Illinois Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program, Illinois Hands & Voices and CHOICES for Parents, Guide By Your Side is able to provide free services to families. Families can be referred to the program from providers or call directly to participate.

If you would like to refer a family, request brochures/posters or make a donation please contact the GBYS Program Coordinator, Carrie Balian.

Did you know?

We hold meetings for families called "Conference Calls for All" several times a year? These meetings allow families to dial in after the kids are in bed, connect with other families throughout the state, get updates about state events/resources and learn more from guest speakers? We have two calls coming up. Please feel free to share this information with others and join us on the call!

Participants call: 1.877.402.9753 enter guest code: 7087114

- Andrea Marwah will be discussing siblings of children who have a hearing loss on Jan. 16th at 8:30pm.
- Sam Kim will be sharing about a day in the life of a person with hearing loss and what assistive technology is available to help them throughout their day. February 27th at 8:30pm.

Thank you to the IL EHDI program for providing the toll free conference line for these calls!

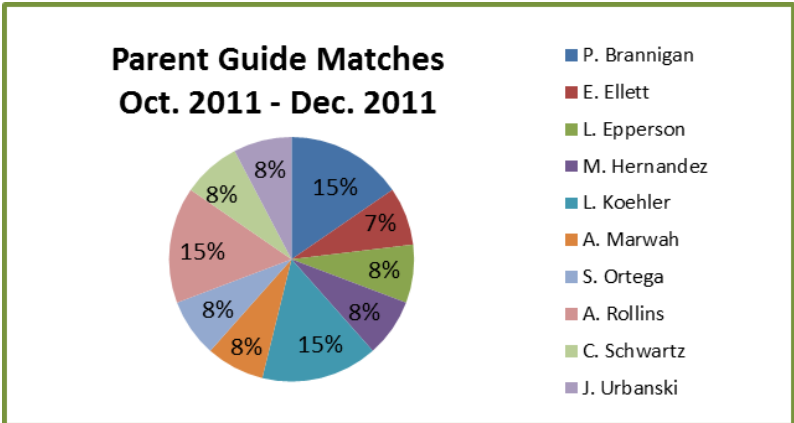
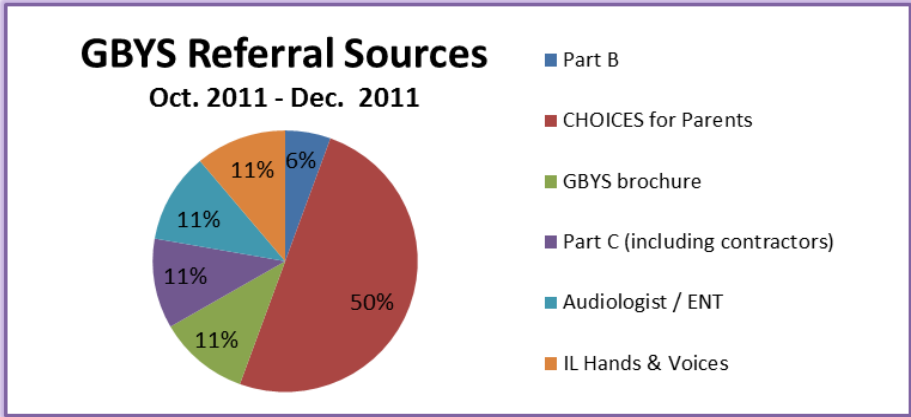
Comparison of ages of children enrolled in GBYS from July – Sept 2011 and Oct - Dec 2011

	Jul-Sept 2011	Oct-Dec 2011
Birth-1 year old	26%	33%
1-2 years old	21%	25%
2-3 years old	21%	0%
3-6 years old	11%	17%
6 years and older	21%	25%



Quarter Reporting for Oct. 2011 – Dec. 2011:

- 15 Families referred , 12 Families matched
- **Ethnicity** of the families referred:
 - 31% Latino (4 families)
 - 45% Caucasian (6 families)
 - 8% Multiracial (1 family)
 - 8% African American (1 family)
 - 8% Pacific Islander (1 family)
- **Age** of children enrolled in GBYS:
 - 33% Birth-1 year old
 - 25% 1-2 years old
 - 0% 2-3 years old
 - 17% 3-6 years old
 - 25% 6 years and older
- **Primary Language** in the home:
 - English – 10 families
 - Spanish – 2 families
 - English/ASL – 1 family
- **Newborn Hearing Screening** results as reported by the parent:
 - Did Not Pass – 6 children
 - Passed – 4 children
 - One pass/one DNP – 2 children
- **Medical History** suggestive of:
 - Condition associated with a hearing loss
 - 3 children
 - No known syndrome or etiology
 - 5 children
 - Hearing loss and additional needs
 - 4 children
- **Unilateral vs. Bilateral** hearing loss:
 - Bilateral – 9 children
 - Unilateral – 2 children
 - Auditory Neuropathy – 1 child
- **Gender** of children enrolled in GBYS:
 - 4 male, 8 female
- **Insurance** information of enrolled families:
 - ALL Kids – 4 families
 - Private – 8 families



Guide By Your Side (GBYS) is a collaborative program of Illinois Hands & Voices, the Illinois Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) Program and CHOICES for Parents.



Stay up to date on events and resources by becoming a fan of Illinois Guide By Your Side!

