



Don't Miss Out!

Last fall we held our first annual fundraising walk called the "We're All E.A.R.S" Family Fun Walk. It was very successful with several organizations choosing to participate as Alliance Partners. Participating as an Alliance Partner allowed groups to raise money for their organization as well! We are looking for individuals and organizations such as yours to participate in several ways. You can participate as an Alliance Partner, sponsor, vendor or as a volunteer on our walk committee team. There are a variety of sponsorship levels to choose from guaranteeing your organization multiple choices for advertising opportunities. Vendors will have the opportunity to secure a booth space for a minimal fee in a high traffic area of the park. Volunteering on our committee you will be able to help us mold and enhance the walk day to create a fun and successful opportunity for all. Volunteer time would typically be no more than a few hours a month from the comfort of your home or office! This event is completely run by volunteers. We encourage you to jump in and join us in one or more of these many ways for this year's walk!

This year we will be hosting our walk again at Southwind Park in Springfield on October 13th. Last year we had over 150 walkers and raised more than \$20,000! Please consider getting involved and sharing the news about this fun family event with others! For more information please contact Carrie at gbys@choicesforparents.org.

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.

Program Information:

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

Opportunities for children 5 and under

Tell your clients about this great opportunity!! It's free! In fact to offset a family's expenses they are reimbursed with a scholarship for their attendance.

This incredible opportunity offers parents and their children, age birth to 5 years with bilateral moderate to severe/profound hearing loss, to spend the week free of charge, with experts in the field of deafness from all over the state. The job of the professionals is to give them information they need to help make decisions along their journey of raising their child with a hearing loss.

The child will receive audiological, psychological, speech – language, vision, and educational evaluations. All of these are free of charge! This is an awesome week of learning and getting to know others who are experiencing some of the same issues of raising a child with hearing loss. This opportunity takes place the second week of June 2013 at the Illinois School for the Deaf in Jacksonville, Illinois. For more information about the Institute and to find out how to enroll, have your clients contact Alicia Becker at UIC - Specialized Care for Children at 1-800-322-3722.

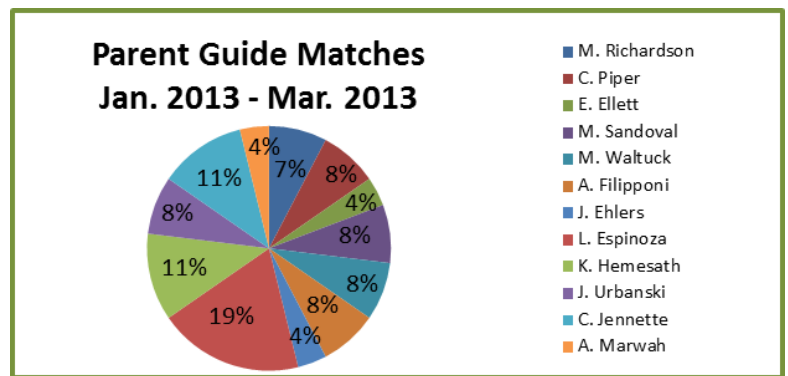
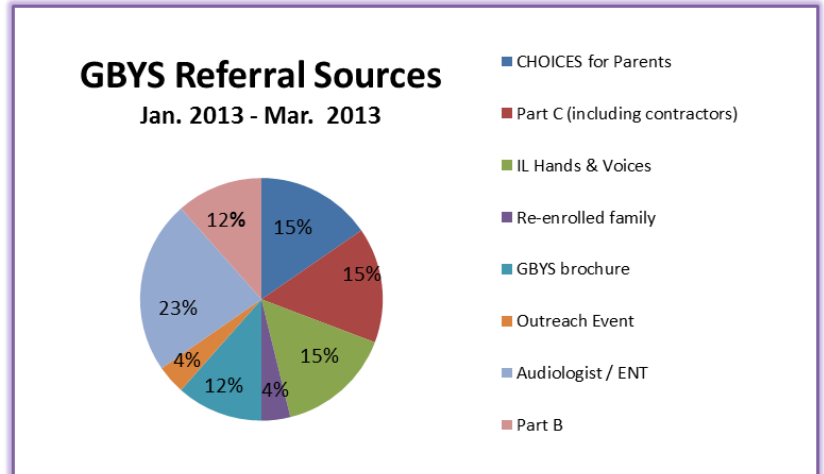
Comparison of ages of children enrolled in GBYS from Oct. – Dec. 2012 to Jan. - Mar. 2013

	Oct.-Dec. 2012	Jan.-Mar. 2013
Birth-1 year old	20%	31%
1-2 years old	20%	11%
2-3 years old	32%	8%
3-6 years old	12%	19%
6 years and older	16%	31%



Quarter Reporting for Jan. 2013 – Mar. 2013:

- 29 Families referred , 26 Families matched
- **Ethnicity** of the families referred:
 - 23% Latino (6 families)
 - 50% Caucasian (13 families)
 - 4% Multiracial (1 family)
 - 19% African American (5 families)
 - 4% American Indian (1 family)
- **Age** of children enrolled in GBYS:
 - 31% Birth-1 year old
 - 11% 1-2 years old
 - 8% 2-3 years old
 - 19% 3-6 years old
 - 31% 6 years and older
- **Primary Language** in the home:
 - English – 18 families
 - Spanish – 4 families
 - English & Spanish – 3 families
 - English & ASL – 1 family
- **Newborn Hearing Screening** results as reported by the parent:
 - Did Not Pass – 19 children
 - Passed – 1 child
 - Pass/Did Not Pass – 2 children
 - Was Not Tested – 4 children
- **Gender** of children enrolled in GBYS:
 - 16 male, 10 female
- **Medical History** suggestive of:
 - Hereditary - 1 child
 - Condition assoc. with a hearing loss, 6 children
 - No known syndrome or etiology - 19 children
 - Hearing loss and additional needs- 5 children
- **Unilateral vs. Bilateral** hearing loss:
 - Bilateral – 26 children
 - Unilateral – none
- **Insurance** information of enrolled families:
 - ALL Kids – 8 families
 - Medicaid – 3 families
 - Private – 13 families
 - Dual coverage – 2 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!

