



### Upcoming FREE calls!

Did you know that we host informational conference calls almost every month called “Calls for All”? These calls allow families and professionals an opportunity to come together from the comfort of their homes to learn more about upcoming events and specific topics presented by guest speakers. If you have missed previous conference calls for all we have them recorded! Our recordings include information on FM systems, Atresia/Microtia, Auditory Neuropathy, IEP Basics, Music & Rhythm, Siblings of children with a hearing loss, Assistive Technology, Just for Dads, Transitioning from and IFSP to an IEP, Advocating for your child’s needs while maintaining a solid school relationship and appropriate school accommodations for a child with hearing loss.

Join us Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 pm for a call for all about genetic testing featuring Dr. Darrel Waggoner. Dial in on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 to learn more about IL Hands & Voices and the services they provide. March 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:30pm we will be talking about Parent Institute for children birth to 5. April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30pm will feature a discussion about building your child’s self-esteem with better communication. To join the toll free call dial (888) 494-4032 enter guest code: 4231446909.

The toll-free line is graciously made available by the IL DSCC /EHDI program.

### 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

### Tell Families about our Family Fun Days!

We will be hosting 15 Family Fun Days throughout Illinois during the months of January, February and March. We have a flier for each month that was sent out via our email listserv and it also can be found on the Illinois Hands & Voices website ([www.ilhandsandvoices.org](http://www.ilhandsandvoices.org)). Please share the fliers with families. Our events are for ANY and EVERY family with a child who has hearing loss whether they participate in Guide By Your Side or not. This is a great way for parents to network while their children play with their peers!



### 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.

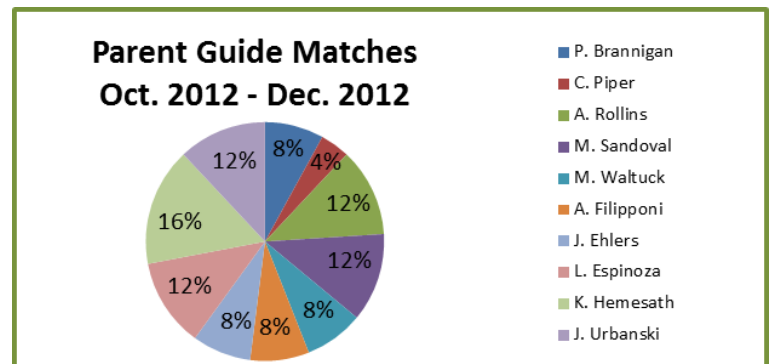
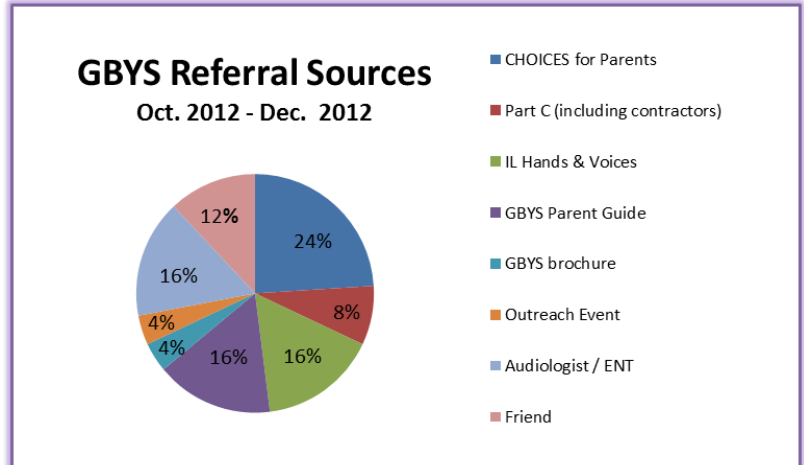
### Comparison of ages of children enrolled in GBYS from July – Sept. 2012 to Oct. – Dec 2012

	July-Sept 2012	Oct.-Dec. 2012
<b>Birth-1 year old</b>	26%	20%
<b>1-2 years old</b>	9%	20%
<b>2-3 years old</b>	30%	32%
<b>3-6 years old</b>	26%	12%
<b>6 years and older</b>	9%	16%



**Quarter Reporting for Oct. 2012 – Dec. 2012:**

- 30 Families referred , 25 Families matched
- **Ethnicity** of the families referred:
  - 24% Latino (6 families)
  - 56% Caucasian (14 families)
  - 8% Multiracial (2 families)
  - 8% African American (2 families)
  - 4% Pacific Islander (1 family)
- **Age** of children enrolled in GBYS:
  - 20% Birth-1 year old
  - 20% 1-2 years old
  - 32% 2-3 years old
  - 12% 3-6 years old
  - 16% 6 years and older
- **Primary Language** in the home:
  - English – 18 families
  - Spanish – 5 families
  - Other – 2 families
- **Newborn Hearing Screening** results as reported by the parent:
  - Did Not Pass – 16 children
  - Passed – 6 children
  - Pass/Did Not Pass – 2 children
  - Was Not Tested – 1 child
- **Gender** of children enrolled in GBYS:
  - 11 male, 14 female
- **Medical History** suggestive of:
  - Hereditary - 1 children
  - Condition assoc. with a hearing loss, 4 children
  - No known syndrome or etiology - 20 children
  - Hearing loss and additional needs- 4 children
- **Unilateral vs. Bilateral** hearing loss:
  - Bilateral – 18 children
  - Unilateral – 5 children
  - Auditory Neuropathy – 2 children
- **Insurance** information of enrolled families:
  - ALL Kids – 7 families
  - Medicaid – 2 families
  - Private – 13 families
  - Dual coverage – 3 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!

