

Goodrich Center for the Deaf
2500 Lipscomb St.

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(817) 926-5305 voice/TTY

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM FOR THE DEAF

A Division of Tarrant County Services for the Hearing Impaired, Inc.

25 May 1977

Dr. Jose Curiel
Herschell #100
Mexico 5, D. F.

Dear Sir:

Senator Andujar's office has requested that we send you a brochure describing the services offered by the Community Service Program for the Deaf, which is housed at the Goodrich Center for the Deaf.

Although we do not have a brochure available at this time, I am enclosing some information from our manual which should help to explain what we do. Senator Andujar's office did not have any information on the age of the deaf child concerned, but most of our services are provided to adults or young adults who are deaf.

We have been of assistance to other parents of deaf children by providing, upon request, information and additional resources. Please contact us if we can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

H. Robert Granberry
H. Robert Granberry
Counselor

HRG/ez

cc: Senator Betty Andujar

Received

MAY 27 1977

Senator Andujar's Office

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM FOR THE DEAF

History

Tarrant County Services for the Hearing Impaired, Inc. (TCSHI, Inc.) was developed because of the needs of deaf adults in the community. The Texas Legislature in 1965 appointed a committee to study the needs of the deaf adults in Texas. Adult deaf groups were called to public hearings where they provided ideas and aided this committee in its planning. In 1967, Tarrant County Workers with the Deaf began as a social-civic organization comprised of eight members. It grew rapidly into a non-profit, charitable organization consisting of members who pay annual dues. In December, 1969, the name was changed to Tarrant County Services for the Hearing Impaired, Inc.

TCSHI, Inc. was aware of the need for a separate division with a full-time staff in a location where a deaf individual could come when he is in need of information, advice, or interpreting services, and which could promote a variety of social and civic services for deaf adults. A gift made it possible for TCSHI, Inc. to make plans to acquire a building site and to employ a full-time director to assist in providing these services beginning February 1, 1975, in a Sunday School room at Trinity Episcopal Church. This was called the Goodrich Center for the Deaf (GCD) in honor of its principal benefactor, Mrs. Maurine Goodrich. It grew to a professional staff of two and a volunteer staff of five and moved in May, 1975, to 1598 Sunset Terrace, a house loaned by All Church Home for Children. The Community Service Program for the Deaf (CSPD) was developing.

Planning for a new facility began in early 1974. The land for this facility, located at 2500 Lipscomb, was purchased in three parcels between

October, 1974, and December, 1975. The construction of the new GCD building was initiated in June, 1976, and was occupied in February, 1977.

Philosophy and Objectives

The magnitude and complexity of the problems of deaf and other hearing impaired persons are so great that there are ample occasions for all persons interested in fulfilling the purpose of TCSHI, Inc., i. e., to provide opportunities and services to deaf persons that are available to others. Because there is so much which must be done and because no one person, organization, agency or institution can attempt successfully more than a portion of the total objectives, it will be the purpose of TCSHI, Inc. to provide opportunities and services to deaf persons that are available to others. Interested persons and groups may share the responsibility of the purpose of TCSHI, Inc.

A primary objective of the CSPD is to be a communication link for deaf adults whose main method of communication is sign language. A deaf individual can come to the CSPD for a service he needs, such as, to obtain information, to request interpreting services to assist in the communication between himself and others, to contact another agency or organization for services or to help him to deal better with his peers.

Organizational Relationships

TCSHI, Inc., Members

TCSHI, Inc. is a non-profit organization which provides various services to the deaf community without regard to race, nationality, or religion. Any person, corporation, organization, institution, agency, or group who is interested in the purposes of this organization and who subscribes to the By-Laws is eligible for membership.

The different classes of membership are regular, life and honorary members. Life and regular members are granted voting privileges. The amount of dues is suggested by the Board of Directors; their recommendation is submitted to the membership for approval at a regular meeting of the organization.

The purpose of TCSHI, Inc., is to provide opportunities and services to deaf persons which are available to others. TCSHI, Inc. strives to develop county-wide cooperation by utilizing both professional and organizational personnel and by utilizing individuals who are interested in trying to meet the needs of the hearing impaired community.

TCSHI, Inc. strives to achieve, but will not necessarily limit its activities to, the following objectives. It will promote interaction among hearing, deaf and other hearing impaired individuals. The general public and special groups will be educated in the problems and potentials of deaf people. A comprehensive counseling service will be provided for the deaf community. Individuals will be encouraged to enter professional fields serving deaf people. By fulfilling these objectives, TCSHI, Inc. hopes to reach its goal of enabling the deaf individual to achieve economic and social independence and adjustment.

TCSHI, Inc., Board of Directors

The Board of Directors develops policies and governs the activities and procedures that have been approved by the members of TCSHI, Inc. A president, vice-president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, treasurer, the immediate past president, and no fewer than three nor more than twelve directors-at-large comprise the Board of Directors. The Board transacts the general business of the organization, whether this be dealings with funds, property, records, employment or meetings. It also funds and makes

decisions relating to the activities of the division within the organization, i. e., CYC, DSCC, TCTC and the GCD Executive Committee.

Divisions within TCSHI, Inc.

CYC Club

The Cowtown Youth Club, in June, 1975, began providing social and recreational summer activities for hearing impaired youths.

DSCC

The Deaf Senior Citizens' Club meets weekly at GCD. Various social activities are offered to deaf senior citizens of Tarrant County, and each member pays annual dues. It started with a small group of elderly deaf persons who began meeting weekly at GCD in June, 1975.

TCTC

The Tarrant County Teletypewriter Club (TTY Club) began as a TCSHI, Inc. committee during the summer of 1970. In April, 1975, it was formally recognized as a TCSHI, Inc. division. It offers assistance to any member of the organization wishing to obtain a maintain TTY equipment. Tarrant County residents are eligible for membership. Dues are payable in May. A directory of the members in the TTY Club is provided.

CSPD

The Community Service Program for the Deaf provides information and referral services. The CSPD staff obtains information which may be medical, legal, or personal for deaf people because it is often difficult for them to communicate. Deaf individuals are informed of their rights to local services and are given assistance when referred to another agency.

Interpreting is another service provided. When requested, an interpreter meets with the deaf individual whenever there is a need to help communicate between the deaf person and the hearing person. One example is when a deaf person needs to talk with a doctor or lawyer.

GCD

The Goodrich Center for the Deaf is the physical facility for all divisions of TCSHI, Inc. and is named in honor of the primary benefactor of the former facility at 1598 Sunset Terrace and of the new facility erected at 2500 Lipscomb Street.