

PRESS RELEASE

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John Moore, Executive Director

Kassandra Schrienk, Director, Community Resources

(614) 841-1991 V/TTY

JohnMoore@dsc.org

Kassandra@dsc.org



The Ingram White Castle Foundation supports the Career Option Project for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

Deaf Services Center, Inc. (DSC) is pleased to announce the generous support of the Paul G. Duke Foundation in the amount of \$10,000 towards the continuation of the Career Option Project for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. This grant will fund the partnership between DSC and the Columbus Hearing Impaired Program give 7th & 8th grade deaf and hard of hearing students the opportunity to learn of a variety of career choices. This will help and encourage them in furthering their education and planning for their future.

The direction in which youth in our society takes often is influenced by those around them, parents, relatives, teachers, neighbors, peers and media figures. Research and studies conducted by the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders found that 92% of deaf and hard of hearing children are born to hearing parents and 73% of the children are placed in public mainstreamed programs. This research shows that a majority of deaf and hearing impaired children have parents who cannot communicate effectively with them. This alone causes a burden on the school district and service agencies like DSC to remedy the problem on hand. The project was created because of a high incidence of deaf adults coming to us for help in finding jobs and they were unsure of what they were capable of doing. The attitude among deaf adults could have been changed if they were given exposure in their teen years in school on what they could do careerwise with visits from deaf and hearing impaired role models.

DSC, with more than 10 years of experience working with deaf and hard of hearing youth and the Columbus Hearing Impaired Program of the Columbus Public Schools (C.H.I.P.) with decades of experience working in educating deaf and hard of hearing children, brings together the ideal partnership to collaborate and provide a variety of educational activities, field trips and role model speakers aimed to simulate, motivate and propel deaf and hard of hearing students to begin planning ahead for their future. The project will be conducted during the 2007-08 school year.

Deaf Services Center's Youth Leadership Program is a one of a kind program that serves Deaf/Hard of Hearing youth living in the Central Ohio area between the 3rd grade to the 12th grade. The program aims to assist children in acquiring self-confidence, positive self-esteem, team work and leadership skills through the Deaf Kids & Teens Club, the Deaf Adventure Camp and school visits.

If you or someone you know is deaf or hard of hearing in the 3rd to the 12th grade and would like more information about how to be a part of the Deaf Kids & Teens Club, please contact Kassandra Schrienk, Director of Community Services at (614) 841-1991 V/TTY or email at DKTC95@dsc.org. A complete description of the Deaf Kids & Teen Club and Deaf Services Center, Inc. can be found at www.dsc.org