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The Holley Institute



Annual
Impact
Report
2025

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Letter from Executive Director, Erica Scorpio



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on 2025, I'm filled with gratitude for what we've accomplished together. This year brought about its challenges but also revealed the incredible strength of our community and the resilience of the families we serve.

The heart of our work has always been about connection—helping Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing (DDBHH) families feel less alone and empowering children to thrive. This year, I watched many children and their families make a multitude of small strides towards bigger goals of improving their communication skills, securing the correct support and advocating for fair and equal accessibility. These aren't just success stories; they are testaments to what happens when DDBHH children are given the right support and families find community.

Beyond individual impacts, we expanded our reach again by adding five more families to our Community Health and Literacy Program (CHLP) cohort increasing the total to 30, the largest cohort yet. We hosted our annual St. Nicholas Christmas Event (thanks to families who brought your children and made it unforgettable) and are slated to introduce a Bowling Fundraiser and 5K Walk event in 2026 to raise more for our families. We also added a Fall Family Literacy Weekend where families and DDBHH children come together to improve their ASL and English literacy in a supportive environment. We hosted Deaf Coffee Chats in our local community to bring DDBHH community members and ASL learners together to share skills. And will be hosting an ASL immersion weekend for those who wish to immerse themselves in American Sign Language at our village.

None of this would be possible without you. Your donations fund the early intervention services that change developmental trajectories. Your volunteer hours create the community events where families build lifelong friendships. Your advocacy helps us open doors in schools and organizations. You are part of every milestone, every breakthrough, and every moment of joy we witness.

As we begin 2026, I'm excited about what's ahead. We're developing new community partnerships to expand our reach, improving internal systems and providing educationally rich trainings to improve our mentor sessions in the CHLP. The need continues to grow, but so does our determination—and with supporters like you beside us, I know we'll rise to meet it.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for standing with Deaf and Hard of Hearing children and their families. Together we're building a future where every DDBHH child can reach their full potential.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erica Scorpio".

Erica Scorpio, Executive Director

Impact Story

THE COLLER FAMILY FROM ST. CLAIR SHORES

Camille Coller remembers the moment she learned her son, Zachary, was Deaf. Alone in a hospital waiting room during the COVID-19 pandemic, a wave of shock and uncertainty washed over her. Just two and a half years old, Zachary had been born with typical hearing and development, but over time, his parents noticed he was not responding to loud sounds. After months of appointments, they learned their son had Riboflavin Transporter Deficiency Syndrome.

They were suddenly faced with a future that felt unknown and terrifying. Where would they turn? How would they communicate with their son and help him thrive? That's when they found the Holley Institute, and they hope and community.

The Holley Institute became their lifeline. A dedicated Deaf mentor began visiting their home weekly, teaching the family American Sign Language (ASL). With each new sign learned, a connection grew stronger, and the silence began to fade. At the Holley Family Village, they found a supportive community of people who understood their journey. They were no longer alone.

Today, the Coller family is thriving. Zachary is a happy, confident boy, and his family can communicate with him and support his success every day. The Holley Institute didn't just offer services; it restored their hope and gave them a clear path forward.



"We received a lot of "I'm sorry" responses from our family upon sharing Zachary's diagnosis, but there was nothing to be sorry for.

We quickly realized although Zachary's future would be different than we imagined, with the support of the Holley Institute, he would have a successful one."

- Camille and Chris Coller

Programs

The Holley Institute has been providing vital programs to the DDBBH community for over 30 years.

PROGRAM	DETAILS	OUTCOMES
Community Health and Literacy Program	Trained Deaf mentors visited families' homes weekly to work with Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing (DDBHH) children and their families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30 families across Michigan received ongoing support.• Children demonstrated improved ASL and English literacy skills• Children progressed towards age- appropriate academic milestones
Family Literacy Weekends	Families gather at the Holley Family Village to participate in group ASL and literacy activities designed to strengthen language skills and family communication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children improved their communication and literacy skills• Families strengthened bonds by sharing common language, and foster connection
Summer Family Programs	Parents participate in workshops on topics such as navigating IEP meetings, advocating in schools, and understanding Deaf culture and identity development. Children engage in interactive activities that build confidence and social skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Families build a sense of community and shared valuable resources• Parents and children improve communication skills• Children develop social and creative skills
ASL Classes	Ten-week classes are taught by Deaf instructors and designed for beginner and intermediate signers. Participants range from parents and siblings to coworkers and community members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learners progressed from basic signs to conversations in ASL
Newborn Hearing Screening	The Holley Institute's trained volunteers screen over 3,500 babies for hearing loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hearing loss identified early means families can immediately access resources like audiological services, language services, family programs, and connect to the Deaf community.

3,200

Newborns screened at Henry Ford St. John Hospital for hearing loss by trained volunteers

75

Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Families supported year round with various program, events and resources

207

Students enrolled in our American Sign Language classes taught for a nominal fee

12

No cost ASL Story times where DDBHH practice American Sign Language and English literacy together

1620

Hours of Deaf mentor sessions in home with families in the Community Health and Literacy Program

\$1 Million Dollar Matching Grant

The Carls Foundation

\$10,000+

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Alliance for Vision Research

Thank you to our loyal and generous donors. Your generosity transforms lives, strengthens families, and builds community.

We're grateful for your partnership in this important work in 2025 and beyond.

Board of Directors

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We thank you for your
continued support of
our programs.

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