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THE MILL NECK FAMILY OF ORGANIZATIONS

NEWS, INFORMATION & EVENTS

| SUMMER | 2020

Message from the CEO

Dr. Asiah Mason

This week marks the 6th month of my tenure as the CEO of this wonderful organization. During my CEO installation ceremony, I promised that Mill Neck would be the model of best practices in creating a world that is accessible, inclusive and loving for deaf and hard of hearing people.

Our philosophy is that we do our work by being Truthful, Helpful, Kind and Mission-True. We use our heads for business and our hearts for giving, positively affecting the lives we touch every day.

Mill Neck will be a place where strong ethics, integrity, hard work and passion are the norm.

I joined a team of staff members who are knowledgeable, highly skilled, passionate, agile, adaptable and ready to roll up their sleeves.

I sincerely believe that God brought me here to Mill Neck. In the six months I have been leading this organization, my staff and I have had to make many difficult decisions. We made them because they will benefit Mill Neck in the short-term, especially in addressing the impact of COVID-19, and in the long-term addressing our mission and stewardship for the future. We are not only surviving, we are making positive strides while dealing with uncertainties.

I am working closely with a Board of Trustees who are engaged and supportive.

The situation is likely to change without much warning. We have to be nimble, and be ready to change our plans quickly. I am committed to sharing information accurately and quickly so we don't have to be anxious about our shared future.

Remember to take care of yourselves, your family, and your loved ones. Onward! May God guide our path.



IN THIS ISSUE: SPOTLIGHT ON OUR 2020 GRADUATES!

Look for special tributes to our 2020 Mill Neck Graduating Class! We will be telling a story about each of our five graduates and include a beautiful picture!

Spotlight on 2020

Mark Huang



Mark Huang entered Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf at 14 years old. He came from a NYC Special Needs Program. His family wanted a school that would focus not only on education and, but also an environment where sign language was the main communication mode.

Mark also uses augmentative communication devices. He loves his experiences in our kitchen the most. His family hopes he finds a job in the restaurant industry. Mark will graduate with a Skills & Achievement Commencement Credential. He will be working with Mill Neck Services and be seeking a job close to his home. We wish you well, Mark!

Focus on Interpreting Services



Mill Neck Interpreting Services is out in the field every day – at press conferences, hospitals, and in the community. We have taken the next big step of adding Video Remote Interpreting (VRI). While people who are deaf and hard of hearing who use ASL ideally benefit from in-person interpreters, the Coronavirus has made us all cautious. Using video-conferencing tools, we can readily provide ASL video remote interpreting services where ever the need arises.

College students can participate in college classes and will graduate on time. Patients can receive “Telehealth” services with their physicians, or psychologists. Hospitals can communicate with their patients. Families who don't know sign language can reach out to the deaf children through this unique service.

When needed, onsite and live interpreters are always available such as at hospitals to provide emergency services. We are blessed to have a team of dedicated professional interpreters for whom full access to communication and the deaf individuals come first.

The Promise of Hope



Rev. Dr. David H. Benke Chairman of the Board

“We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.” [Romans 5:3-5]

The power of hope in human hearts is breathed by God, directing us through times of suffering to hold on, hold up and move forward, even during difficult times. St. Paul’s truth has illuminated big and small decisions in the daily journey of Mill Neck for the past six months during this COVID-19 crisis and cries for social justice reform.

Our CEO, Dr. Asiah Mason, has wept with, rejoiced with, and directed her staff from a deeper wellspring of hope through it all.

Difficulty – suffering – leads to endurance, no doubt. Character is revealed, no doubt. For Mill Neck and its leadership, the core commitment to our mission of education, empowerment, and service of deaf people has shone brighter through the storm.



We are an agency and community of hope. Hope does not disappoint. Dr. Mason is no mere optimist. She walks and works in hope. The Mill Neck staff walk and work with her in this hope. The Board collaborates and guides us in hope. Our future belongs to God. God’s love, so generously poured into us at Mill Neck, will bring true and lasting hope to deaf people.

That is our promise of hope.

Spotlight on 2020

Nataly Osorio-Reyes



Nataly Osorio-Reyes will be our salutatorian. She entered Mill Neck when she was 1 year old. Nataly along with her family have been an integral part of our school. Nataly is multi-lingual— not only does she possess fluency in American Sign Language, she is also fluent in Spanish and English. She has amazing ability to switch

Nataly has participated volleyball, basketball, soccer and other teams, and has been a member of Mill Neck’s Academic Bowl team for the past four years. Nataly will graduate with a New York State Diploma as well as a CDOS Credential. She has chosen to attend Gallaudet University in September. Best of Luck, Nataly!



We Are Mission True



The Mill Neck Family of Organizations aims to strengthen the capabilities, skills and resources of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community locally and worldwide. By empowering this community, we will provide effective communication, a quality education, vocational training and spiritual support with the goal of creating independent, productive and meaningful futures.



Spotlight on 2020

Tehran Hendricks



Tehran Hendricks joined Mill Neck just 4 years ago. He lives with his Grandmother and Aunt, and has roots in Jamaica. His Mother sent him to live in NY because she wanted him to have education opportunities not available in Jamaica. Through the grace of donors, we purchased his first

hearing aids. When he first began to hear sounds, his smile lit the room. Tehran participates in every activity possible – he is quite the showman on stage. He will graduate with a NY State Diploma as well as a CDOS Credential. He loves to help others and has a personality that is winning and caring. Tehran will leave his mark wherever he goes!



Spotlight on 2020

Genesis Simpson



Genesis Simpson is our valedictorian. She joined Mill Neck when she was 6 months old in our Parent-Infant program. Genesis has been very active in a variety of sports and school activities throughout the school and the campus. She has been a member of the Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf Academic Bowl team for the past 4 years.

Genesis will graduate with a New York State Regents High School Diploma with a Credential in Career Development and Occupational Studies. Genesis has chosen to attend Gallaudet University in September. Good Luck, Genesis!



About The Mill Neck Family of Organizations

The Mill Neck Family of Organizations is a Lutheran faith-based organization that serves all God's children. It is dedicated to creating a world in which Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals are included, empowered, celebrated and embraced as equals through quality education, employment, audiological and spiritual programs and services. The programs include, Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, Mill Neck Interpreting Services, Mill Neck Day Habilitation, Mill Neck Community Habilitation, Mill Neck Employment Services, Lutheran Friends of the Deaf, and Mill Neck Foundation. In addition, the historic Mill Neck Manor House is a stunning mansion available as a rental venue for special events.



Spotlight on 2020

Joel Pastrana



Joel Pastrana entered Mill Neck Manor School when he was 11 years old. He attended a public school in the Bronx, and decided to come to our school. Over the years, Joel has become a leader in the school, working on several projects as well as the President of Student Body Government.

Government. He created our 2020 School Yearbook. Joel speaks Spanish and English, and learned ASL after joining Mill Neck. Joel will graduate with a NY State Diploma and CDOS Credential. He was accepted to the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, but chose to stay closer to home and will be attending LaGuardia College in NY. We're proud of you, Joel!

Donors Corner

We are grateful each day for our donors and supporters. Our Mill Neck Foundation enables us to provide essential teaching and community supports that helps improve the lives of deaf and hard of hearing students and adults. Your support is crucial to helping us accomplish our Mission. www.millneck.org/donate



Mill Neck Family of Organizations

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DayHab Snapshot



Mill Neck's Day Habilitation Services (DayHab) provides one to one and small group support to deaf adults with developmental disabilities who either live on their own or with their family. The service is designed to allow people to live safe and healthy lives while learning independence and becoming self-reliant. It is intended to also give relief and support to families who struggle with the care of their disabled adult children. We have been supplementing these services with very popular weekly video calls – Thankful Thursdays. Families and clients alike look forward to keeping their connection strong with Mill Neck.

