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www.happyhands.org

Happy Hands

Donald W. Reynolds Education Center

8801 S. Garnett Road
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 893-4800 Main
(918) 893-4899 Fax

*To empower children with a hearing loss
or communication disorder to flourish.*

A Christian School For Children With Hearing Loss or Communication Disorders

Double Blessings!

In August 2008, our family was expanded by not one but two. Alexys and Kaylah were born at 4lbs 13oz and 5lbs 1oz, a good size for twins. Although everything went fine with Alexys, Kaylah was a little blue but after a few minutes on oxygen she was good. Four days in the hospital and we were ready to go home, but the night before Alexys had an apnea spell. She was immediately sent into the NICU, where she was given various tests and put on oxygen. Kaylah and Mom were released the next day. We had one baby at home and another in the NICU -- our new family torn apart before we were even given the chance to be together. We were in tears as we watched Alexys with tubes and wires coming out of her, hearing the monitors every so often indicate that she was 'forgetting' to breathe.

A week later our prayers were answered. Alexys came home. It took a little while for our family to adjust to two babies, but soon everything seemed to flow like any normal household.

As the girls reached their second Christmas, we worried about their speech delay. The doctors told us it was 'normal' for twins. As an education major, Mom knew something wasn't right, and we decided to proceed with a specialist. We went for further testing which showed a mild bi-lateral hearing loss in both girls. Confusion, concern, worry, fear, and devastation were just a few of the emotions we felt. At the time we had no knowledge of what to do, where to go, how to help them, or even what would be in their best interests. All we knew was that we loved our children and nothing would stop us from finding answers. We were accepted into Sooner Start and were told about Happy Hands, but it wasn't until a Sesame Street event at the BOK when a Happy Hands parent approached us, that we knew Happy Hands was where we were supposed to be.

The following Monday we took our first step in Happy Hands and before we left we had shed joyful tears, completed enrollment papers, and



found a new strength for our girls and their future. Alexys and Kaylah started Happy Hands shortly afterward. Most parents cry when their children start school, but we rejoiced that our girls were welcomed with open arms and warm smiles. There was such a peace! We knew our girls would be loved, knew there was a plan, and this was just the beginning. We watched as our girls joined in the activities and interacted with the other children. It was one of the best moments of our lives.

Once again, we thought we were settled but our lives were altered again. April 2011, Alexys and Kaylah both failed their next scheduled hearing test. We were sent through the same procedures as before, praying that God would give us strength to see it through. Results of the tests showed another significant loss of hearing for both girls. The Happy Hands staff words of encouragement, prayers for strength, knowledge of deaf education, and solid foundation kept us grounded as we encroached upon what we felt was a burden at the time.

Here we are six months later and both girls have more language than we thought possible. Mom, Dad, and big sister are all taking ASL classes and learning as much as possible. God has given us the strength to carry on and a wonderful school/ministry to be a part of. Happy Hands is more than a school – it's our family!

HAPPY HANDS

Happy Hands Holiday Market – Dinner and Silent Auction

Thanks to everyone who helped make our Happy Hands Holiday Market, Dinner and Silent Auction, a huge success! On Saturday, Nov 12, we turned the Union 8th grade center into Santa's workshop with sparkling star decorations, Christmas trees, beautiful Christmas centerpieces, and over 200 wonderful gifts wrapped and ready to be given this Christmas! With your support, we raised over \$11,000 to provide educational services to our children with hearing loss or communication disorders. Special Thanks to our presenting sponsor, Dr. Jacque Scholl of the Scholl Hearing Center, for enabling us to have such as wonderful venue. Thanks also to Louie's Grill and Johnnie Carinos restaurants for providing

the wonderful meal, and Lawn America for providing the holiday lights so we could Shine!



If you missed our Silent Auction, we have good news! We still have Christmas cards, Al's book on the history of Happy Hands, cookbooks, and other great items for sale in our Happy Hands office! 100% of the proceeds will go to services for the children!

When people have a need ... God sends a child ...

Throughout history, when people have a need, God sends a child... who grows up strengthened and enabled to solve that need. When the children of Israel cried out for salvation from their Egyptian bondage, God sent a child, Moses, who was raised with special training and preparation to lead them to the promised land. Years later, when the children of Israel cried out for relief after suffering under the hand of the Philistines for 40 years, God sent forth a child Samson, who was raised with special training and preparation to free the children of Israel from this oppression. When you and I and all of humanity needed a savior, God sent a child Jesus, who was raised up sinless and prepared to reconcile us to God.

At Happy Hands, we have been called to help "raise up" a new generation of children with hearing loss and communication disorders to know the Lord and be

academically and socially prepared to lead where God would have them to go. Now more than ever we need your help to finish the year financially strong. Our scholarship fund is empty due to the increased needs of our families affected by the hard economic times. **Please help us by donating today at www.happyhands.org or mailing a check. 100% of the proceeds will go toward services for the children.**

Help us now...Invest in a Child... Who knows what promises and achievements lie in their future.



Luke 2:10, 12 *"And the angel said ... to you is born, in the city of David, a savior ... and this will be the sign for you: you will find a baby ..."*

The Sights and Sounds of Christmas!

Happy Hands Annual Children's Christmas Program will be December 15th at 7:00 p.m. The children will be presenting the sights and sounds of Christmas for their parents, families and friends. This is a special time for our Happy Hands family as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and the wonders of the Christmas season. Our thanks to the South Tulsa County Quota Club for their assistance with refreshments.



We are happy to have an **“About Me”** section in our **Happy Talk** to introduce you to our **Administration and Staff**.

This month we will meet ...

KENDRA STINE

I was born in Kansas City, but lived about 30 miles north of KC in Dearborn where my parents built our home in the country. I have one married sister who lives close to my parents and a big extended family that is very close. It is probably what I miss the most about living away from home, not seeing all of my family all the time.

I loved growing up in a rural area and attending a small school. I always wanted to be a teacher, but it wasn't until my junior year in high school when a boy transferred to my school from the Kansas School for the Deaf (KSD) that I realized there were teachers for deaf students. After a tour of KSD, I met a woman who suggested I look into The University of Tulsa. I immediately fell in love with the campus and the Deaf Ed program.

I started my freshman year at TU in 2006. Later that year, I met my husband, Jonathan, through church. We have been married a little over three years. I worked at Happy Hands part time through all four years of college and graduated Magna Cum Laude with my B.A. in Deaf Education in May 2010. The same month I graduated, Happy Hands was moving into its brand new building and they hired me as the Kindergarten teacher. This is my 2nd year teaching at Happy Hands, and I can't imagine working elsewhere.

Isn't it amazing the paths and plans God has for us? It's amazing where God places us throughout life to show us His plan, our true desires, and the work He has laid out for us. I believe He makes each person



special, giving them unique gifts and talents to work for Him and share His glory. God's plan for my life was to reach the children at Happy Hands, giving me a burning desire to teach younger children, to know that God gave me a gift for helping deaf children learn to read and write, and that the best place for me to make the biggest impact was with Kindergarteners. It was ALL God's perfect timing.



Happy Hands is blessed to have a quality teacher like Miss Kendra. In addition to serving as our Kindergarten teacher, Kendra recently worked with the Development Department to apply for a technology grant for our reading program from Cox Communications. We are proud to announce that Miss Kendra and Happy Hands received a \$2,500 Cox Connects grant. Thank you Miss Kendra for the many ways you bless Happy Hands and the children!





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Non-Profit Org.
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PAID
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Mission:

Wish List Items

Paper Towels
Diaper Wipes
Postage Stamps
Copy Paper, White and Colored
Board Books for Children
Gift cards to The Apple Tree,
Walmart or Target
QT gas cards for parents

WE RECYCLE!

If you have any of the following, please drop them off at Happy Hands in the lobby. This is a year round fundraiser!
Thank you!

- Old Cell Phones (no accessories)
- Printer Ink Cartridges
- Copy Machine Ink Cartridges



Help Us "Go Green"!

In an effort to "go green" and save some green, we would like to send you Happy Talk electronically. Please send your email address to Darla Otto at Darla@happyhands.org to be added to our growing list of on-line readers!

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE OR LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Visit our website to learn about upcoming Happy Hands events, see what is happening in our school, and access pictures and stories of our amazing children and families! www.happyhands.org