

# 2020 DeafCAN! HOPE Newsletter



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All people and religions can be inspired, hopeful and energized, even amid fear and cold, in the birth of a poor refugee baby. In a year of challenge for us all, let us not forget the many who have struggled more than us, and dig to find the heart and energy to reach out to them however we can – because ‘they’ are us. At DeafCAN!, those most impacted have definitely been the DeafBlind and incarcerated. They both are still so heart-breakingly isolated, but not forgotten.

As we think forward to 2021, we are hopeful and eager. DeafCAN! has been fortunate to receive several COVID-related grants to help us keep serving as many as we can. We also received new funding from foundations in the Greater Harrisburg area, an entirely new region for us, to support our work there with a large and growing Deaf Bhutanese population, 50 individuals identified so far, relocating together from all across the United States.



***Harrisburg Bhutanese get two 'scares' - pumpkin carving with knives***



***...and prep for Flu vaccines!!***

But, hey, what about the Deaf Bhutanese and other refugees and immigrants in Lancaster, 'the Refugee Capital?' "What are you going to do for them?" We began reaching out there as well and plan to have a site in Lancaster in early 2021 for classes and case management support. We already have small sites at churches in West Chester, Philadelphia, and Harrisburg. So, are we hopeful? Absolutely! The new US administration has promised to increase from the horrific quota of 15,000 suffering people provided refuge into the US in 2020, to 125,000 in 2021. **We are hopeful.**



***DeafCAN! helps MG and RJ, from the Philippines, laid off because of COVID, get new hospital jobs to help others with COVID!***

In Pennsylvania, state officials agreed to finally encourage and advocate that Deaf individuals using sign languages other than ASL (Nepali, Arabic, Russian...), should be provided a second qualified interpreter in that language to achieve "effective communication." **We are hopeful.**

World Deaf Refugee Day, COVID-willing, will be celebrated in Lancaster, PA in June 11--13, bringing positive, welcoming people from all over the United States. Millersville University in Lancaster has already offered their beautiful downtown Ware Center to host the "World Deaf Refugee Day." DeafCAN! is part of a national committee planning the event. Our theme is "Every Action, SIGN, and Voice Counts" which ties in with the larger World Refugee Day theme of "Every Action Counts." **We are hopeful.**

And, following CDC guidelines, Pennsylvania has also listed those who live (inmates) and work in prisons as high priority for receiving the vaccine. They are not forgotten, and **we are hopeful.**



***Most Deaf inmates throughout PA have been on 'lockdown', without visitors, since March!***

Whenever any of us can glimpse, feel, and act outside of our own needs, hope and humanity grow, and we can often forget about ourselves to merge into the greater needs of others.

So, enjoy a few of the photos attached and let us, together, open back up our borders of all kinds, 'vaccinate' ourselves from the many social viruses we are plagued with, and move forward together into 2021! Two-thirds of our work is supported entirely by contributions and grants. **Thank you for your support and building the hope DeafCAN! brings to others.**