

SIGNS OF GROWTH

*Transforming Our New Home for
the Community Center for the Deaf*

Empowering the Deaf Community

A Transformative Campaign

Imagine a place where everyone is seen and understood—without saying a word. For Deaf individuals in Greater Cleveland, that place is the Cleveland Community Center for the Deaf (CCD)—a haven of belonging, support, and opportunity. A place where connection is created not with sound, but with understanding.

Community Center for the
Deaf and Hard of Hearing



CLEVELAND
Hearing & Speech
CENTER

INTRODUCTION

The Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center (CHSC) has been a cornerstone of effective communication for all since its inception in 1921. Among its pivotal initiatives is the Community Center for the Deaf (CCD), dedicated to eliminating barriers and providing essential services to Deaf individuals in Cleveland and Northeast Ohio.

THE CURRENT STATE OF CCD

At the CCD, Deaf community members receive critical, life-changing services:

- Case management and basic needs support, ensuring that no one falls through the cracks.
- Vocational rehabilitation, opening doors to meaningful employment.
- Education, classes, and support, promoting independence and confidence.

Most importantly, the CCD is a space where people feel seen, respected, and proud—because it's built by and for the Deaf community. Every staff member is either Deaf or fluent in American Sign Language. Every program is designed with the unique needs of Deaf individuals in mind.

A BUILDING WITH POTENTIAL—AND URGENT NEEDS

The CCD's new home—a former KeyBank branch on Pearl Road in Parma Heights—is an ideal location, easily accessible by two bus lines and closer to where many in the Deaf community live.

Yet the space falls far short:

- The layout is outdated and inaccessible.
- There is a lack of privacy for sensitive conversations and casework.
- No dedicated classrooms for workshops or training.
- Limited space for community gathering and socialization.

The space was built for a very different purpose. Our goal is to thoughtfully redesign it into a welcoming, accessible environment that meets the unique cultural and communication needs of the Deaf.

THE URGENT NEED FOR RENOVATIONS

While moving into our new location in Parma Heights was a critical step forward, the building needs significant updates to fully support our mission. Key renovation priorities include:

- **Optimized Accessibility and Safety:** Enhancing navigation within the facility with improved lighting, visual alarms, and soundproofing to create a communication-friendly environment. We must increase ADA accessibility to ensure all Deaf individuals can fully access our services.
- **Programmatic Excellence:** Our space must reflect the high-quality services we provide. Currently, casework happens in open areas, creating challenges for confidentiality and comfort. We need private spaces where individuals can discuss sensitive issues using sign language without feeling vulnerable.
- **Expanded Service Capacity:** Upgrading and expanding our meeting rooms, training areas, and service spaces to accommodate more individuals and reduce wait times. By increasing our capacity, we can reach even more members of the Deaf community.
- **Technology and Infrastructure Improvements:** Installing state-of-the-art assistive technology, including videophones, sound systems, and real-time captioning capabilities.
- **Community and Educational Spaces:** Creating dedicated areas for community gatherings, peer support groups, and educational workshops tailored to the needs of Deaf individuals and their families.

Introducing **SIGNS OF GROWTH**

The Signs of Growth Campaign is a bold initiative to renovate and transform the Cleveland Community Center for the Deaf into a vibrant, welcoming, fully accessible hub of services, support, and Deaf pride.

Our vision includes:

- Private meeting rooms for case management and counseling
- Classrooms and training areas for education and employment support
- Comfortable social spaces that foster connection and community
- Deaf-centric design that celebrates culture, language, and identity

All of this—free of charge to the people who need it most.

WHY IT MATTERS

The Deaf community faces significant barriers every day.

Many of our clients struggle with:

- Access to food and housing
- Unemployment and underemployment
- Systemic isolation and a lack of culturally competent support

These aren't just inconveniences. They're injustices. And they're preventable.

Research shows that meaning and connection can extend life by 5 to 7 years. That's not just data—it's a moral call to action. The Deaf community deserves the same opportunities for joy, growth, and longevity that any of us would want for ourselves or our loved ones.

The CCD is where that happens. And you can help make it possible.

ADVANCING SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC POLICY

For the first time, CCD is leading the charge on social justice initiatives as never before seen in our region, with a focus on equity and access for the Deaf. We've hired a dedicated lobbyist to advocate for public policies that protect and promote the humanity and rights of our community at every level of government. In tandem with this legislative work, we're expanding our advocacy efforts through targeted outreach, educational campaigns, and community engagement initiatives.

Through inclusive marketing and advertising materials, we are raising awareness, breaking down barriers, and empowering individuals to understand and champion the needs of the Deaf. By sharing stories, we are creating a more informed and inclusive region—one where policy and practice reflect the lived experiences of the communities we serve.

SUSTAINING SUCCESS FOR THE FUTURE

This is more than a renovation; it is an investment in sustaining the success of CCD for generations to come. With a fully equipped and thoughtfully designed space, we can continue breaking down barriers, fostering independence, and ensuring that Deaf individuals have the support they need to thrive.

CALL TO ACTION

We invite you to be a part of this transformation. Your support—whether through a donation, advocacy, or partnership—will directly contribute to creating an inclusive space where all individuals can communicate, connect, and succeed. Join us in making this vision a reality.

Will you join us? Your generosity will plant the signs of growth for generations to come. And the impact will be felt not in sound—but in the powerful, unspoken language of dignity, belonging, and love.

Let's build it together.

**To support the Signs of Growth Campaign, or to learn more,
please visit www.chsc.org/signsofgrowth.**

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