

Joanne N. Travers, MIM

Massachusetts, U.S.A. / traversjo@comcast.net / 978-312-1200 cellular

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Solid experience in hearing health, business and non-profit management.
- Raised/Managed over \$1,000,000 funds for non-profit international development projects.
- Nineteen years project management, professional development, program development, and community outreach experience (Massachusetts, Dominican Republic, Croatia, Bosnia, Armenia, other countries).
- Proven success in special education advocacy, school based in-service, and parent consultation.
- Competent in the field of disability with exceptional knowledge and experience in accommodations and services for children who are deaf and hard of hearing.
- Qualitative knowledge in learning challenges, vision disabilities, and other special needs.
- Proven skills in management of challenging circumstances.
- Strategic business thinker and problem solver with solid leadership and organizational skills.
- Demonstrated skills in communication, writing, public speaking, and organizational management.
- Effective communication and interpersonal skills across public, private, and non-governmental sectors.
- Parent of two children who are deaf and hard of hearing with other disabilities. Successfully advocate in public and private school settings (preschool through college transition) for the last 18 years.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- 2001-present **Partners for A Greater Voice, Inc.** Ipswich, Massachusetts
Founder and Executive Director. This tax-exempt charitable corporation works in developing countries to build capacity in hearing health, parent support, special education for the deaf and hard of hearing, and oral habilitation. More than 30 missions in hearing health and aural deaf education was made possible with help from more than 65 volunteer professionals, and which included more than 150 training and education workshops across a broad range of hearing health and habilitation topics. Programs have impacted hundreds of healthcare providers and educators, more than 600 parents, and 15 educational institutions. Projects include starting a school in Boca Chica, parent groups, building (2) auditory verbal therapy rooms, and creating center based classrooms, and countless school and hearing device donations. Training, education, and support have been provided to Hospital Los Alcarrizos Audiology Clinic, CASSA, Instituto de Ayuda al Sordo a Santa Rosa, CAES, the Dominican Republic Ministry of Education (Department of Deaf Education), and many other schools for the deaf and communities in the Dominican Republic. Projects also supported schools and parents in India and Honduras at several institutions and communities. Outreach to parts of Africa ensues.
- 2010-2014 **Coalition for Global Hearing Health, Inc. (CGHH)** Delaware
Corporate Officer and Board of Director. CGHH is a non government global organization comprised of humanitarian otolaryngologists, audiologists, educators, and other professionals working in low resource communities. Served on the board and acted as liaison for Family Community Empowerment. Presentations at annual conferences have been in areas of parent empowerment, building resilience, community/parent outreach, education for deaf and hard of hearing children, sustainability and capacity building. (Washington DC 2010, Los Angeles CA 2011, Pretoria SA 2012, Nashville TN 2013)
- 2014 **Northeast Regional Case Manager** Boston, Massachusetts
Case Management, Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Boston, Massachusetts. (3 month contract position).

Joanne N. Travers: Massachusetts, U.S.A. traversjo@comcast.net / 978.312.1200

PAST EXPERIENCE:

1999-2001 **Middlesex Community College** Bedford/Lowell, Massachusetts
International Programs Coordinator. Managed and implemented \$700,000 in USAID, US State Department and other grants in economic development such as:

Area Studies Programs:

- Directed Portuguese Area Studies, LUSO-American Development Foundation.
- Managed Portuguese Studies Training course for community college faculty, FLAD
- Managed Asian Studies Development Conference, EAST-WEST Center Hawaii.
- Managed Japanese Institute for the Center for Asian Studies Seminars.

International Training Grants:

- USAID, "Fostering Growth Among Human Rights NGO Managers in Croatia".
- Community Connections in Economic Development, US-Ukraine Foundation.
- USIA Professional Development, Addis Ababa Business College, Ethiopia.
- USIA Curriculum Development-Faculty Exchange, Yerevan State University.
- USAID/World Learning, Bosnian Journalists, "The First Casualty Is Truth".

International Visitor Projects:

- Reception, Dr. Jose Ramos-Horta, Nobel Peace Prize Recipient.
- Korean Seminar, Dr. Ray Olsen, College of Du Page.
- Angola Education Ministry Officials' Study Tour.

1996 -1998 **North Shore Community College, Part Time Instructor,** Massachusetts.

1997 **Massport International Marketing, Project Manager,** Massachusetts.

OTHER EXPERIENCE:

Participant, Disability Awareness Starts Hear (DASH). Work with school principal and teach a session about deafness to third grade students. Also participate in Rotary Early Act projects that benefit low resource children with hearing loss. Stuart School, Topsfield, Massachusetts. (2013, 2014).

Hearing Health representative at the UNICEF Global Inclusion of Children with Disabilities. Representative of Coalition for Global Hearing Health at World Assembly Meeting, New York. (September, 2013).

Appointed to Statewide Advisory Council. Commissioner Heidi Reed, Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (2008-2011).

Lead Coordinator, Disability Awareness program series. Created, wrote, coordinated and implemented this project for middle school students. Worked with school administration, parents, and faculty. This program ran for five months and introduced students to disability challenges and differences, starting with a variety of documentaries, seminars and workshops, and ending with assistive and communication device experiences. AbleVision filmed and created a television segment on this program. Glenn Urquhart School. (Feb-June 2010).

Facilitator, Parent Advocacy Training (PAT). This universal communication, negotiations and special education rights course is designed for parents of school age children who are deaf or hard of hearing. It is offered to caregivers of children who are deaf or hard of hearing throughout the country to help them learn Individualized Education Program (IEP) strategies in communication and negotiations. It facilitates

Joanne N. Travers: Massachusetts, U.S.A. traversjo@comcast.net / 978.312.1200

positive collaboration of IEP team members and processes. Facilitated several six-hour courses in Massachusetts and Colorado. Program now offered free online by A.G. Bell Association. (2007-2009).

Parent Consultant Intern. Advocacy training sponsored by the Federation for Children with Special Needs. Consult and advocacy support for parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. (2000-2005).

Volunteer Parent Specialist. Family Ties (2000-present).

President. Massachusetts Chapter of Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf. Incorporated and facilitated mentoring and family activities for this 501(c)3 corporation. (2003-2011).

Board of Director. Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf, Washington, DC. (elected, 2004-2009).

Founder, Editor, and Coordinator. Parent Connection. Provided parent grief support. Coordinated social gatherings, workshops and conferences tailored to meet the needs of parents and deaf and hard of hearing children mainstreamed in public schools. Workshop topics included advocacy, the IEP process, social-emotional growth, building a child's self esteem, school accommodations and services, assistive technologies, internet resources, etc. Provided in-service and IEP support to families of children who are deaf and hard of hearing. Eastern Massachusetts (1994-2004).

In-Service Teacher Workshops offered on professional development days. Ipswich, Massachusetts (1999-2001).

Program Development, Hearing Loss and Technology. Wrote and self published this 80 page manual for third graders to guide discussion and activities on understanding deaf and hard of hearing persons and experiences. The 15 hour program was designed to instill an understanding of differences and positive perspective of persons with hearing loss. Components have been adapted and implemented in preschool through third grade. Collaborated with Ipswich public school faculty, staff, and parents. Distributed this publication to other school districts throughout the United States. (1996-2006).

PUBLICATIONS:

"Global Hearing Health, Tips for Working Internationally". *Volta Voices*, A.G. Bell Association (Wash. D.C., 2010).
El Oido. A Partners for A Greater Voice Spanish publication (Dominican Republic, annually, 2005-present).
"Creating Sustainable Programs in Habilitation". Partners for A Greater Voice newsletter (Wash. D.C. 2010).
"Chatter Box". Editor and author, *Parent Connection Newsletter* (Massachusetts, quarterly 1994-2002).
Hearing Loss and Technology. A public school program guide in disability awareness (Massachusetts, 2004).
The CASSA Story, "Developing a Sustainable School for the Deaf in the Dominican Republic" (USA, 2010).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

Coalition for Global Hearing Health, *Needs Assessment and Outcomes in Sustainability*. Nashville, TN (2013).
Coalition for Global Hearing Health, *Understanding and Engaging Families*, Pretoria, S. Africa (June 2012).
Coalition for Global Hearing Health, *Empowering Families*, Los Angeles, California (June 2011).
Clarke School for the Deaf, *Parent Panel, Presenter*. Springfield, Massachusetts (October 2010, 2008, 2006).
Coalition for Global Hearing Health, *Creating Sustainable Education*, Washington DC (June 2010).
A.G. Bell Association, *Global Hearing Health Initiatives, Building Self-Advocacy/Self-Esteem, Parent Advocacy, Hearing Loss Awareness* (2010, 2008, 2006, 2004).
Parent Connection, Social Event Facilitator and Presenter of a breadth of topics on hearing impairment including assistive technology, the IEP process, disability rights, advocacy, social emotional growth, building self-esteem, etc. Massachusetts (bi-monthly, 1995-2005).
University of New Hampshire and Northeast University Boston, guest speaker for graduate level seminars in audiology and speech language pathology. (2006).

EDUCATION:

Whole Being Institute/Kripalu. Certified in Positive Psychology, 200-hour Yoga Teacher Certification (2014-2015).

University of Denver, Denver, Colorado. Masters in International Management.

Graduate School of International Studies and Daniels College of Business (1993).

Harvard Extension and Summer School, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Continued education (1987-1989).

HablaEspaña, Spanish Language classes, Boston, Massachusetts (2009-2011).

University of Hartford, West Hartford, Connecticut. B.A. in Marketing, Communication, Graphic Design (1982).

Brillantmont Ecole, studies in French, Lausanne, Switzerland (1981).

SPECIAL SKILLS:

Languages: Native English Speaker, Spanish Proficiency, French Knowledge.

Computer Skills: Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, Word, Access.

Social Media Connections: Facebook and Linked In.

Interests: Yoga, Positive Psychology, Skiing, Music, Writing.