

History of PGV Programs

Dominican Republic 2002- 2015

Needs Assessment, Awareness of Hearing Loss and Oral Deaf Education November 8 - November 16, 2002

Country tour that Assessed needs by *Joanne Travers* with interpreter *Estebania Concepcion*. Workshops/Activities included: Understanding Hearing Loss, What is Auditory Oral Education? Need for Parent Support and Groups, Hearing Health Management, Audiology and Hearing Aids, individual parent consultation, home and school visits, etc. (Boca Chica, Andres 4 days, Santo Domingo, San Cristobal, Santiago, San Pedros de Macoris, La Romana.)

Parent Support and Teacher Assessment April 26 - May 1, 2003

Workshops/Activities: Parent consultation, groups and support, home visits, interactive teacher discussions. Candidate interviews for US based training program. (Boca Chica, Santo Domingo) *Joanne Travers and Estebania Concepcion*

US Based Training, Preparing a New Generation of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children in the Dominican Republic

October 25 - November 12, 2003

Workshops/Activities: Intensive learning experience for eight delegates. 24 Professional training workshops, classes and site visits were specific to participant objectives during the training period. Over 35 organizations and individuals were involved in delivery information on dozens of topics. Action planning was required, from which projects were implementation in the DR as a result of this learning experience. (Massachusetts, USA.)

Training/Audiology Hearing Screening Mission July 5 – July 10, 2004

Activities: Evaluated over 100 children and assessed cochlear implant candidacy for 15 children. Workshops in Cochlear Implants, Assessment and Evaluations, ABR, FM Systems, and Parent Support. (Santo Domingo, Boca Chica 1 day) *Joanne Travers, Dr. Todd Sauter, and Frank Lepine*

Professional Development, program for teachers and parents in Auditory Learning and Development

December 4 - December 11, 2004

Workshops/Activities: Auditory Oral Education, Auditory Checklists, Fostering collaboration between teachers and parents, working with technicians, therapy demonstrations and parent consultation. (Sto Domingo, Boca Chica 1 day) *Joanne Travers, Jane Driscoll, Lindsay Rodriguez and Barbara Manning*

Visit to DR with Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf March 6 – March 8, 2005

Workshops/Activities: Foundations in Literacy Development, Building International Affiliation, parent consultation, follow up on scholarship recipients, (Santo Domingo) Parent and Teacher consultation, (CASSA, Boca Chica 1 day) *Joanne Travers, Greg Zick, and Galya Hutsell*

International Visitor Training Initiative, Yadixa Messina Arvelo March 8 – March 19, 2005

Workshops/Activities: Site visit activities at area hospitals, schools for the deaf, and mainstream settings. Learning experiences involved cochlear implants, individual therapy, mainstream education, itinerant work. (Massachusetts)

Audiology and Auditory Development Mission, (The Rotary Foundation matching grant) May 28 - June 4, 2005

Workshops/Activities: Teacher training in Auditory Development and hearing evaluations for over 60 students and 8 staff. Fitting of hearing aids, parent consultation, acoustic modifications to classrooms, teacher training, training in basic audiology and hearing aid support. Additional workshop at a Pediatric Hospital and nursing program. Centro Alternativo

Experimental del Sordo (CAES), San Pedro de Macoris. *Joanne Travers, Elizabeth Tracz, Julie Neumann, Dr. Dan Hendrix, Susan and John Woolard*

CASSA: Teacher Training in Auditory Development and Hearing Evaluations October 1 - October 7, 2005

Workshops/Activities: Auditory Development and Building Literacy Skills, Audiology Assessment and fitting children with hearing aids, Parent Consultation. (CASSA, Boca Chica). *Joanne Travers, Lindsay Rodriguez, Dr. Lisa Walker*

Program follow through, San Pedro de Macoris and Boca Chica January 23 - January 27, 2006

Workshops/Activities: Soundproofing classrooms, parent discussions, meetings with Rotarians, parent and teacher meetings at CASSA, Boca Chica, other business meetings. *Joanne Travers and Estebania Concepcion*

Seizing Every Opportunity for Social and Emotional Development July 1 - July 7, 2006

Workshops/Activities: Social and Emotional Considerations, Building a Child's Self Esteem, Individual therapy demonstrations, parent consultation. (Santo Domingo, CASSA, Boca Chica). *Joanne Travers and Eleanor Jones*

CASSA: Auditory Learning and Literacy Development February 3 – February 8, 2007

Workshops/Activities: Importance of Literacy Development of the Deaf Child, Understanding the Classroom Environment, Parent Consultation and Support. (Santo Domingo, CASSA, Boca Chica). *Joanne Travers, Jane Driscoll, Michael Moon, Laura Peterson, Iraida Williams, Kelly Kelleher*

CASSA: Auditory Learning: Natural Communication and Lesson Plan Development June 23 - 29, 2007

Workshops/Activities: Developing Lesson Plans, Understanding Natural Communication, Learning Through Play Parent Consultation and support. (CASSA, Boca Chica, Santo Domingo (1 afternoon). *Joanne Travers, Diana Sanchez and Enriche Sanchez*

International Visitor Project, Yadixa Messina and Onelia Aybar November, 2007

Visiting teachers from Dominican Republic participated in vocational visits to various sites in Massachusetts. Organization's first Gala that celebrated 5 years of Greater Voice projects; Lions Club of Ipswich donated.

Parent Support Groups, Diploma Program, Therapy Room Construction January, 2008

Workshop/Activity: Parent / Teacher relationships that benefit children, Auditory development, Emotional and social support given to parents. Donations made. (CASSA) PUCMM discussion on 'diploma program'. PUCMM faculty and student meeting on deafness and auditory methodology, technology and cochlear implants. Meeting with Instituto de Ayuda al Sordo about constructing therapy room. Hospital tour and discussion with ENT about the fellowship programs and projects related to hearing loss. *Joanne Travers and Iraida Williams*

Teacher Training, Parent workshop, PUCMM April 2-6, 2008

Workshop/Activity: Workshop and meetings in Boca Chica, Moca, Cotui, and Pimental delivering content to parents and teachers in audiology and teaching the deaf to listen and talk; meetings with parents. Business meeting on diploma discussion, CI discussion with teachers, and consultation to families that received cochlear implants at Instituto de Ayuda al Sordo Santa Rosa. *Joanne Travers and Katelyn Driscoll*

Audiology Mission: Coordinated support for Utah State May, 2008

AUD students planned an Audiological Mission to Dominican Republic to evaluate and aid children (Boca Chica (CASSA), Moca, Pimental). Peace Corps support. Donations of more than 50 aids. *Neal Riemer*

CASSA: MED Students (3) from Smith College complete Externship May/June, 2008

Twenty-day site visit to support teachers and students in Boca Chica. Activities included observation, in class support, development of day-to-day classroom activities and therapy. *Marianne Watson, Kritsy Lietz, Amanda Asar*

Literacy Development June 2008

Workshop/Activity: Over 20 training hours completed in the capitol on early child literacy development, including individual therapy sessions and parents consultation (participants from: Santa Rosa, CASSA, Moca, CAES, National Escuela del Sordomudos); Daily workshops on Cochlear Implants, New Teacher Orientation, Access/Classroom Acoustics, parent support and transitioning to the mainstream. *Joanne Travers, Laura Peterson, Janet Lane*

CASSA: Exploring Language through Thematically Structured Vocabulary November 20 - November 26, 2008

Workshop/Activity: Explored a thematic approach to building language through thematic instruction: Baseball. Structured classroom activities and afternoon teacher discussions involving cognition listening, language, outdoor play, and literacy. Parent Workshops on Building Self-Esteem (Santa Rosa and CASSA). Diploma discussion at Santa Rosa. Business discussions and consultation to Director of CASSA on academic programs and services. *Joanne Travers, Marianne Watson, Suzie Aaberg*

CASSA: MED Student and Board Member completes Externship January 7 –26, 2009

Christine Derosiers taught in the DR for 3 years, and spent her three-week externship (Smith College) at CASSA. Activities: modelling and teaching ways to develop listening and spoken language, fostering subject matter and curriculum under the frameworks of Dominican education system. Purchased supplies/tools and explored strategies in audition.

CASSA: Language Learning through Literacy, Program Assessment March, 2009

Assessed academic programs at the school and met with teachers. The visit supported classroom activities, facilitated learning to listen, and developed language strategies through literacy. Activities: Book Bag projects, individualizing therapy for students, creative solutions for classroom storytelling involving discussion, questions and answers. Workshops: Parent meetings, teacher discussion focused on literacy. *Laura Peterson and Joanne Travers*

CASSA: Audiology and Fostering Independence in the Use and Care of Technology November 14-17, 2009

Evaluated 50 students currently enrolled in CASSA. Over 20 children received hearing aids as well FM technology. Jackie Solorzano.(LsLs) worked in class. Activities: Evaluations, ear molds, personal FM system and fittings, in class support. Workshops: Parent Involvement, Experience Books, Personal FM Systems, Literacy activities using technology as the theme, “Hurray for Harold”. *Joanne Travers, Dr. Dierdre Anderson, Dr. Melissa Mendrygal*

International Visitor Training Initiative: CASSA January 5-13, 2010

The Director of CASSA, Diorka Nolasco a Teacher of the Deaf Tomasa Rodriguez were invited to New England for a US-visitor training program. Activities: Site visits at preschool program in New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Administrative meetings with Directors of Schools, Internships in Audiology, Planning and implementation of CASSA curriculum with an Auditory Development focus.

CASSA: Literacy and Language through Audition, March, 2010

Classroom support and Workshops focused on storybooks, emerging literacy strategies and using audition to develop language and conversational speech. Parent workshops fostered literacy and language at home. *Laura Peterson and Joanne Travers.*

CASSA: Audiology Mission and continuing Literacy/Language Development September, 2010

Audiology evaluations, technology assessment, speech perception, literacy/language development. *Dr. Marissa Mendrygal, Dr. Robin Asmar, Laura Peterson, Joanne Travers*

CASSA: Continued support in Auditory Development, November, 2010

Learning through play and thematic based learning. Parent Participation. *Joanne Travers and Marianne Watson*

CASSA: Assessment of Language and Literacy Development, March, 2011

Explored teacher communication, documentation and progress. Also explored land and building options; none were revealed. Land tied up privately. *Joanne Travers, Laura Peterson, Elizabeth Boschini*

CASSA: Audiology Mission September, 2011

Transferred Hearing Health and Audiology Management to local Dominican, Misael Restituyo. Training on FM Systems, hearing instruments and ABR was conducted. Team also investigated Lions Club support for CASSA. *Dr. Todd Sauter, Dr. Dierdre Anderson, Joanne Travers, Richard Denton, and Misael Restituyo*

International Visitor Training Initiative, February, 2012

Misael Restituyo, Audiology Specialist from Centro Cristiano de Servicios Medicos in Santo Domingo, continued his professional development in Educational Audiology and Oral Habilitation by visiting US schools, habilitation programs and individual auditory verbal specialist in Massachusetts.

Center Based Learning, July 29-August 3rd, 2012

A container of supplies was shipped and materials equipped/furnished four preschool classrooms. Material was delivered to Instituto de Ayuda al Sordo before a Partners mission team arrived for training workshops. Collaboratively designed and set up Center Based Learning in four preschool classrooms. FM systems were also installed. Parent meetings focused on Building Resilience at both Ayuda al Sordo Santa Rosa and at Centro Cristiano de Servicios Medicos (CCSM). *Joanne Travers, Neal Riemer, Ashley Kachelmeyer, Victoria Vendola*

Constructing Therapy Room for Hearing and Speech Center, Hospital Elias Santana, 2012-2013

Joanne Travers visited hospital Elias Santana in Los Alcarizos (Santo Domingo) several times to design, construct, and equip a speech and hearing room. PGV advised CCSM administration and funded the project, with donations and money raised in 2012. Joanne has also consulted staff on habilitation, parent support and parent groups since 2011, working with clinic staff at CCSM. She works strategically with the hospital to develop sustainability of individual therapy services for children with hearing loss, and invited Estella Maria Rivera (from CASSA) to deliver individual services at the newly constructed site.

Building a Sustainable Hearing and Speech Center, Hospital Elias Santana, April and June, 2013

Marianne Watson and Joanne Travers visited hospital Elias Santana (CCSM) in Los Alcarizos twice in 2013. Introductory courses in Auditory Development were given to more than 40 teachers with a follow up workshop on importance and relevance of individual therapy. Topics included Hierarchy of Speech, Amplification, Ambient Environments, and individualized listening and spoken language therapies. Parent Workshops were given on Resilience, Advocacy, Jill Bader's Ten Step Strategies, and Auditory Learning in an individual therapy environment. The therapy room was completed in April of 2013, stocked completed full of therapy toys, education materials, books and related resources. In addition to the therapy room, an adjacent resource room includes books and content binders containing information in: Technology, Advocacy, Auditory Development and Practice, and information for Parents.

Auditory Habilitation and Emerging Literacy at Center for Hearing and Speech, CCSM November, 2013

Laura Peterson and Joanne Travers visited the Center for Hearing and Speech to assess and work with staff. PGV continue to assess sustainable outcomes and to assess the community via outreach. Visits to a school for the deaf, a preschool, and one other therapy setting are explored. Parent workshop: parent education in auditory learning, advocacy.

Teacher Workshop: Learning Language, Auditory Development, Literacy Development, Individualized learning in a therapy environment.

Essential Programs to Coach and Empower Parents. August, 2014

Neal Riemer and Joanne Travers travelled throughout the Dominican Republic to visit more than 150 parents in seven different communities. The introduction to PGV's new parent program was successfully received. Certified in Positive Psychology, Joanne facilitated strengths-based, storytelling, and empathetic listening exercises to engage and empower parents. More than 170 parent education surveys were also collected.

OTHER:

2003- present: GIVE THE GIFT of HEARING:

In 2003, more than 25 new Rexton hearing aids were donated to students at Instituto de Ayuda al Sordo to kick start PGV's Give the Gift of Hearing program. An additional 50+ new hearing aids from Siemens were dispensed to students at CASSA over the next few years. There has been over 40 donors that contributed to Give the Gift of Hearing since.

Furthermore, PGV has donated over 400 high quality hearing aids (analogue, programmable or digital). The Give the Gift of Hearing program expanded in 2013 to include donations to support listening and spoken language therapy. This support is building. In 2013, six \$150 sponsorships were made to support individual therapy at CCSM. In 2014, PGV gave ten more children this individual support.