

# Monthly Communicator

NJ Department of Human Services | Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

JANUARY 2015 | [www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/home/index.html](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/home/index.html)

Chris Christie, Governor

Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner

David Alexander, Director

## Recovery Network for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communication Access Services

**C**enter for Family Services Recovery Network for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Hearing Loss (RNDHH) program provides communication access services for people seeking alcohol and drug addiction services who are Deaf and hard of hearing. Communication access and support services are available at no cost to DMHAS licensed facilities for all levels of care from detoxification (short or long term) through residential.

Communication Access Services Include:

- Qualified Sign Language Interpreters to provide ASL, Oral or Tactile Interpreting, or Signed English services
- Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART)
- Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs)



For more information about Communication Access and the full range of services offered by RNDHH contact: 856-874-8229 or 856-874-8230 - Video Phone 856-428-8373 TTY 856-428-0949 - Fax [rndhh@centerffs.org](mailto:rndhh@centerffs.org) [www.centerffs.org](http://www.centerffs.org)

## Communication Applications for Mobile Devices

By Traci Burton, DDHH Field Representative



Many constituents ask about apps for their mobile devices to assist them in basic, everyday face-to-face communication. Whether you are using a phone or tablet, Android or iOS operating system, there's an app for that. Voice recognition and speech technology has come a long way and there are a few apps that are gaining popularity. This article will focus on some of the applications used to facilitate in-person, basic communication needs.

**Closed Capp** is for Android users and it captions your face-to-face conversations. Voice recognition technology is used to enlarge speech to the screen of your mobile device. Have the other person speak into



your phone then read the transcription of what was just said to you. It costs \$3.99 and can be purchased at [www.livecaptionapp.com](http://www.livecaptionapp.com).

**Dragon Dictation** is free and for iOS devices. Speak into your device and voice recognition technology allows you to see the text. For Android users, the free Dragon Mobile Assistant does the same as Dragon Dictation, but has the added features of verbally accessing other applications, posting on social networks, as well as dictating text and e-mail messages.

**Evernote** is free, but because it uses Google Android's text transcription service, you do need to be online to use it. You can use the app to record audio notes such as lectures or meetings, but now it also allows you to turn those audiofiles into text. Unlike Dragon

*Continued on page 3*



## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

David C. Alexander, Ph.D., Director - NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



## Happy New Year!

I hope you and your families enjoyed the holiday season. Looking forward to 2015, I would like to remind our readers that a principal goal of the division is to enhance public awareness of hearing loss. DDHH staff is in frequent demand by the community to provide sensitivity training on a wide range of topics ranging from assistive technology devices to deaf culture. Our staff has successfully worked with entities such as the police, first responders, courts, senior citizens and state government agencies to name a few. Much more work and outreach needs to be done. Enhanced awareness and education about hearing loss is key to improving accessibility and services. If you are interested in having a DDHH staff person speak with your group, or if you would like more information about our training programs, please contact the division at 609 588-2648.

The division also plans workshops to enhance the awareness of people who are Deaf and hard of hearing of services and supports available from state and federal government agencies. To start off the new year, the division will be hosting a social security workshop on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at 100 Daniels Way, Freehold, NJ. Please refer to the flyer in this edition for further details about this upcoming workshop. This workshop is one of several being planned and is based on consumer feedback provided to the DDHH. Assistive listening devices, captioning and American Sign Language interpreters will be available.

David C. Alexander, Ph.D., Director  
NJ Division of the Deaf and  
Hard of Hearing



# Monthly Communicator

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## We Welcome Your Articles and Ads

The Monthly Communicator is published 11 times per year. Deadline for submissions for the February issue is January 1 and should be e-mailed to: [monthlycommunicator@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:monthlycommunicator@dhs.state.nj.us).

The deadline for the Monthly Communicator is the first of the month for the next month.

Kindly follow these guidelines for submissions:

- Should be less than two pages
- Plain font, such as NY Times #11 or similar
- Type flush left, no tabs
- No art imbedded within
- Send as Word attachment or an e-mail itself
- Art, logos, photos may be sent as attached JPG
- Submissions are not normally repeated
- Content should be of interest to readers, events should be accessible to people with hearing loss, no direct selling products, but educational info about new technology is acceptable
- Editor has discretion regarding editing, without final approval of submitter



### NJ Deaf Senior Housing Progresses

**N**J Deaf Senior Housing (NJDSH) is building supportive housing to benefit people who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing. We are planning on buying property within the year and have ground breaking in 2016, if all goes as planned. The building will have specialized and costly equipment designed to help Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing residents. Flashing light fire and carbon monoxide alarms, doorbells and visual phones will be in each unit and throughout the building. There will be ceiling 'loops' for direct signaling to hearing aids. Contrasting colors in rugs and walls will help people with low vision navigate within the building. The building will rent to a variety of incomes, and will include market rate and low income apartments.

Our development partner, Cardinal Capital Management (CCM), is putting together funding, works with a Deaf Architect to design the project and will hire Deaf management for the building. We anticipate this will cost CCM \$20 million to buy property, design, and build. NJDSH has a goal of raising \$2 million. This will be used for social services and a social worker for the project to help Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing residents and community access the many available state and county services. The social worker will help residents understand and apply for these services. NJDSH is also hoping to fund some of the money needed to build the project.

CCM is planning to build housing to benefit Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing in four states: New Jersey, Florida, New Mexico and Kentucky. The President of CCM, Erich Schwenker, spent two days in November in New Jersey. On November 24 and 25, Mr. Schwenker met individually with NJDSH board members. They discussed community outreach, social services, goals of the project and fund raising. NJDSH is grateful for the time, dedication and expertise which Mr. Schwenker shared with the board over the two days. NJDSH was very happy that CCM valued and encouraged the new project roles.

Mr. Schwenker and NJDSH board members met with New Jersey State, Morris County and Town Planners. They also viewed potential property in Roxbury, Randolph and Cedar Knolls. State Representative Anthony M. Bucco met with Mr. Schwenker in his office to learn about Deaf Housing in New Jersey and said he was in favor of this project. His father, State Senator Anthony R. Bucco helped start Lake Street School for the Deaf in Mountain Lakes in Morris County. The people who met with CCM and NJDSH about the housing which will benefit us were all positive and helpful.

NJDSH now is also looking for major donors to contribute to the goal of \$2 million. Investment opportunities are also available. Of course donations of any amount are valued, even a \$5 contribution will help and show support. Please visit [www.njdsh.org](http://www.njdsh.org) to learn about the project and the next fund raiser, the Annual Holiday Luncheon on December 13 at the fabulous **Bottagra Restaurant** in Hawthorne. Another great fundraiser is the NJ Devils vs. the Toronto Maple Leafs on February 6 at the NJ Devils Hockey Arena. Four tickets have been donated to NJDSH and two or more of the tickets can be bought online at [www.StubHub.com](http://www.StubHub.com).

### Mobile Devices...

continued from cover

Dictation, Evernote saves both the audio and the text file together so you can use the app's search ability to find a recorded note.

Voice Assistant costs \$2.99 and is available for the iPhone and iPad. This newly redesigned app has a fast access feature that makes it even easier to post to e-mail, Twitter, and Facebook. Use the auto copy feature to send your transcriptions to other apps such as Evernote or Pages. Voice Assistant uses intelligent speech recognition so it learns with every use. It also has grammar correction and on-screen editing with suggestions for corrections.

Virtual Voice is free and uses the text to speech and speech recognition features of your Android device. It was created for the deaf and those who are unable to or uncomfortable using their voice. You must be online or have 3G data enabled for it to "listen."

Verbally offers communication without pen and paper for short conversations. The app has a keyboard and commonly used words for quick typing. Tap the SPEAK button once you are done typing, or set the app to speak as you type. The other person can type or use another app, such as Dragon Dictation, to respond. This is a free app for iPad.

These apps are not designed to be used in lieu of an interpreter or live captioned services necessary in certain situations. Use this information as a tool, or even a starting point, when researching what may best fit your daily needs, keeping in mind what is appropriate for the running system of your mobile device.

*Traci Burton can be reached at [traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us) or 609-588-2648 with any questions.*



# NJ Deaf Senior Housing Fundraising

By Jane Cyran, Ph.D, NJDSH Secretary



**F**undraising for the **New Jersey Deaf Senior Housing (NJDSH)** for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, hard of hearing and late-deafened has received a large boost by wonderful donations from organizations in New Jersey. The Board of Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf (*NWJAD [www.nwjad.org/about.html](http://www.nwjad.org/about.html)*) has generously pledged \$10,000 to the project. This pledge is for merchandise such as a large screen TV and furniture for the social room. Many thanks to the board members President Kevin Mona, VP Peter Wall, Treasurer Tom Montemorano and Trustees Joey Garth, Lynne Jacob and Lori Adams for this generous and so far the largest gift to NJDSH.

■ NJ Deaf Golfers also showed their support by generously donating \$1000. Treasurer Richard Sarkisian sent this donation on behalf of the members. NJDSH is wishing all the golf members get a “hole in one” in their next golf game since they have been so thoughtful and supportive.

■ Recently, Lila Taylor sent a letter to many organizations in New Jersey to ask for contacts that might be able to donate to NJDSH. Agatha Munn, a

NJ Deaf-Blind Club member, was very helpful and sent information on many possible donors such as the Helen Keller Organization. Pat Dobbs, *[www.HearingLossRevolution.com](http://www.HearingLossRevolution.com)*, offered to give a workshop on communication strategies for people with hearing loss and donate the proceeds. The housing will have specialized and costly equipment designed to help people with hearing loss. Flashing light fire and carbon monoxide alarms, doorbells and video phones will be in each unit and throughout the building. There will be ceiling ‘loops’ for direct signaling to hearing aids. Contrasting colors in rugs and walls will help people with low vision navigate within the building.

■ Kathy Kady-Hopkins from ASL IRS Interpreter Referral, Inc. (*[www.aslirs.com/](http://www.aslirs.com/)*), Lucinda Brooks, and Ronnie Bernhard sent names of friends that might be generous donors. Lila Taylor sent names of contacts in banks and a large construction company. Tom Smith, Social Services Coordinator of NJDSH, suggested contacting the Father John Foundation to request a grant. Monsignor John P. Hourihan, devoted most of his priestly life to caring for people with disabilities, especially the Deaf and homeless families.

■ Lori Timney sent many different types of fund raisers. Chung Williamson, NJDSH Treasurer, has received four tickets to the Friday, February 6, 2015 hockey game between the NJ Devils and Toronto Maple Leaves at the Prudential Center Hockey Arena in Newark. These tickets are being sold to raise funds for and can be bought on StubHub (*[www.stubhub.com](http://www.stubhub.com)*).

■ The NJDSH Web site (*[www.njdsh.org](http://www.njdsh.org)*) will have new pages that will list all supporters and donors. Our development partner, Cardinal Capital Management, who is putting together funding, works with a Deaf architect to design the project and will hire Deaf management for the building. We anticipate this will cost CCM \$20 million to buy property, design, and build. NJDSH has a goal of raising \$2 million. This will be used for social services and a social worker for the project to help residents and community access the many available NJ and county services. The social worker will help residents understand and apply for these services. We are also hoping to fund some of the money needed to buy specialized equipment and for building the project.

■ We now are also looking for major donors to contribute to our goal of \$2 million. Investment opportunities are also available. Of course we value donations of any amount, even \$5 will show support.

■ Please consider supporting us to help reach our goal. You may donate at *[www.NJDSH.org](http://www.NJDSH.org)*. If you have any questions, please contact Lila Taylor at *[president@njdsh.org](mailto:president@njdsh.org)* or phone 973-453-2539.

## HLAA-NJ Elects New Trustees, Presents Awards at 2014 Annual Meeting, Hears Rich DeSante Comment on Media Response to Hearing Loss Issues

Speaking to a crowded room of about 60 Annual Meeting attendees on November 15 as well as New Jersey State government officials, vendors and exhibitors, Keynote Speaker Rich DeSante, lead staff writer and reporter from the Glen Rock Gazette, related that gaining advocacy space in the nation's print media will continue to be a tough row to plow.

"I would be disingenuous, if not irresponsible, to stand here and say that situation is going to turn around dramatically soon," he said, "even though our society's most compelling complicator and enabler, technology, is also revolutionizing the way the deaf and hard of hearing are being assisted.

On the bright side," he continued, "I think history has proven how effective grassroots can be when they take hold everywhere."

DeSante cited two factors at play here, which were responsible for HLAA's success in promoting one of its advocacy stories (about Paige Arbeiter's recent scholarship award), and for the media's apparent general overlooking of issues like hearing loss.

"What was an eye opener for me, as the only full-time news and feature writer on staff at a weekly paper, was the depth of supporting information and numerous quotes from educators deeply involved in Paige's story that was included in HLAA's written advisory . . . AND the tightly-organized and well-ordered news style it was written in. Never discount that when you're approaching a writer or editor. If more public relations practitioners had that background, training and realization,



*Board of Trustees members at 2014 Annual Meeting: (l to r) Alice Glock, Dr. Ann Marie Olsen, Pat Dobbs, Arlene Romoff, Dr. Jeff Liebman, Beverly Sudler, Ken Keuhlen, Joel Strasser, Linda Schaab, president; Latisha Porter-Vaughn, Alyse Betso, Gina Thomas, Marvin Schaab. Not in photo: Marie Nordling, Amy Mogland, Sandy Spekman, Joleen Marsillo, Wayne Roorda, Dr. David Cooper.*

the "crumple and toss reflex" in newsrooms across the country would be considerably reduced."

Conversely, DeSante said, "it's difficult on the health issues side to grab space and attention when competing with so many other medical scourges that are actually life-threatening, or that are permanently disabling in the sense of motor or other impairments. Complicating that, especially with respect to cancer, heart, kidney, liver disease, diabetes, Alzheimer's and even obesity, is the extensive space, air time and Web presence devoted to "lifestyle" or self-help advice believed to combat their onset. That's not a bad thing," he said, "but equally clear to you here today that it's not an avenue packed with relevance to auditory deficiency."

Citing one recent study of health issues media coverage, DeSante said, "the single disease getting the most attention was cancer. Number two was diabetes/obesity, categorized then as an emerging epidemic by the medical community. Those were followed by heart disease, HIV/Aids and autism, mental health issues, Alzheimer's and ALS. Specific diseases, including cancer, diabetes and heart disease received the most coverage, about 42% of the total. Public health issues, such as food contamination, tainted vaccines and binge drinking were next, accounting for about 31% of all health coverage." In that study, "the terms deafness, hard-of-hearing and auditory deficiency appeared nowhere in those statistical rankings of media

coverage. I would assume they were included, along with various 'low-profile' maladies in that ubiquitous category known as 'other.'"

But, as Keynoter Rich DeSante said in his remarks, "I think history has proven how effective grassroots can be when they take hold everywhere."

The Annual Meeting also included an inspiring talk by Dr. David Alexander, director of New Jersey's Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, who spoke of several successful programs, including the recently inaugurated New Jersey Hearing Aid Project, which provides low income residents who are over 65 with refurbished hearing aids.

During the meeting, which was also staffed and augmented by CART

captioner Jeanette Voight, and interpreters Anna Steckel and Steve Toth, four trustees were elected or re-elected to the board, including Latisha Porter-Vaughn, Alice Glock, Gina Thomas and Marvin Schaab.

Several awards were presented by President Linda Schaab, to Ann Marie Olsen, Joel Strasser, David Cooper and to Garrett Zirkman, who had raised and presented checks for \$1,065 to HLAA-NJ as part of his bar mitzvah service project.

Wayne Roorda, Walk4Hearing chairman, reported on the success of the 2014 Garden State Walk4Hearing held October 19 at Mercer County Park West in Hamilton/West Windsor, which attracted more than 1,000 walkers, including 52 walk teams, 32 of which were alliance teams, and raised more than \$79,000.



*Presentation to Garrett Zirkman by President Linda Schaab, in appreciation of his bar mitzvah gift presentation of over \$1,000 raised through a fund-raising car wash project for HLAA-NJ.*

## Chapter News

The Morris County Chapter will meet **January 10, 2015** at the Madison Community House, 25 Cook Ave., Madison, New Jersey.

### **HLAA Works on Greater Access to HAC Phones**

In November 2014, representatives from HLAA, TDI, and Gallaudet University met with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) staff in the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau to discuss hearing aid compatible (HAC) wireless phones. At that meeting, HLAA was able to report on the results of our HAC Survey: "Can You Hear Me Now, Revisited," as well as compare that to a similar HAC survey released in 2011.

➤ More than 800 people responded to HLAA's recent HAC Survey. Thanks to those people, HLAA was able to provide the FCC with information about the experiences of consumers who have tried to purchase a hearing aid compatible mobile phone.



### **HLAA Joins Consumer Groups Commenting on Captioning Quality**

HLAA, TDI and other consumer groups filed comments with the FCC to provide input on how to measure captioning quality. Captioning providers report that live programs are particularly difficult to caption correctly if, for example, more than one person speaks at a time, if people speak very quickly, or if the captioner is not given the proper spelling of the names in advance. Consumers agree that all of that makes captioning difficult, which is why captioning in advance is preferable for providers and consumers alike whenever possible. HLAA also understands that when the captions must be produced live, mistakes will be made.

### **HLAA Supports Greater Access to Movie Captioning**

HLAA and other consumer groups' have also reached agreement with the Madison Community House, 25 Cook Ave., Madison, NJ, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to hear speaker Terrance A. Williams - see ad below for more information.

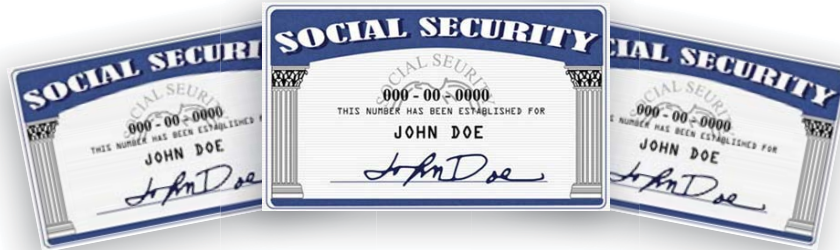
The NJ Department of Human Services'  
Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing presents:

# Social Security Workshop for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community

Did you know that you may be able to receive benefits and health insurance while working? Learn more about Social Security and SSI employment supports. Come join us!

**Tuesday February 3, 2015**  
**2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**100 Daniels Way • Freehold, NJ • 07728**



### Guest Speaker:

Carl Robinson, *Public Affairs Specialist*  
Social Security Administration

To reserve seating, **please RSVP:** (609) 503-4862 (VP) or  
[Catherine.purrazzella@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:Catherine.purrazzella@dhs.state.nj.us)

- ASL Interpreters, CART, and ALDs will be provided
- If you need additional special services, please contact Catie Purrazzella

*Produced by the NJ DHS Office of Publications 12/14*



## We Are the Champions!

*The champions of the 8th Annual Indoor Soccer Amistad Tournament in Landover, Maryland. This team has won five 'deaf only' soccer tournaments and one tournament where other teams were of hearing.*



## Deaf and Hard of Hearing Movie Night

The Living Proof Recovery Center invites members of the recovery community who are Deaf, hard of hearing, or experiencing hearing loss to a closed-captioned movie night on Friday, January 9 and Friday January 23 from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Family and friends are most welcome!**

For more information contact:  
**Living Proof Recovery Center**  
 108 Somerdale Road, Voorhees, NJ  
 855-967-3268 Voice  
 recoverycenter@centerffs.org e-mail

Living Proof  
Recovery Center



# Dear NJ Relay



Dear NJ Relay & CapTel

I have been an avid CapTel user for some time now. It has helped me so much, and I use it multiple times every single day. This leads me to my question: I have tried cleaning my CapTel phone many times, and it still seems dirty and covered in my grandchildren's fingerprints. Do you have tips or suggestions on how to best maintain my phone?

Avid CapTel User

Dear Avid CapTel User,

We're very glad to know you get great benefit from the phone. CapTel phones are very easy to maintain, and to help you do just that, below are a few tips.

### For the phone unit:

Take a damp (but not soaked) cloth, and wipe the phone in all areas, including the headset. Make sure to not use this damp cloth on the CapTel phone screen. Another option is to use a specially designated electronics cleaning cloth that you can purchase from the store (see photo).

### For the CapTel Screen:

For the CapTel phone screen, use a lint-free cloth (such as a microfiber cloth) or lens wipe and clean the screen free of any dust, fingerprints or other dirt.

If you do this on a regular basis, your phone should remain clean and look new.

Thanks,  
NJ Relay & CapTel





## The First Annual Transition Conference for Individuals Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

**April 11, 2015**  
**9 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.**

Students, parents, professionals are welcome!

**NJ School for the Deaf  
(Katzenbach Campus)  
320 Sullivan Way  
West Trenton, NJ 08625**

For more information about our **FREE** conference,  
please e-mail: *Alyse Betso*: [abetso@alternativesinc.org](mailto:abetso@alternativesinc.org)  
Professional credits available –  
Communication access provided



## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Catholic DeaFest Saturday, March 21, 2015, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Free Admission ❖ Free Lunch ❖ Doors Open at 9 a.m.  
Opening prayer at 9:45 a.m. ❖ Closing Mass is at 4 p.m.**

**Guest speaker: Fr. Paul Zirimenya  
"Love Jesus First"**

Fr. Paul is from San Francisco, California. He is Deaf Priest and is from Uganda, Africa  
St. John's of God Community Services  
1145 Delsea Drive (Route 47) Westville Grove, NJ 08093

Please Register at: [catholicdeafestnj@gmail.com](mailto:catholicdeafestnj@gmail.com) or call Kate at 856-283-3962 VP  
[www.deafcatholicnj.wordpress.com](http://www.deafcatholicnj.wordpress.com) [www.facebook.com/njcatholicdeafest](http://www.facebook.com/njcatholicdeafest)

**Deadline – March 7, 2015**

**Individual registration required**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ VP: \_\_\_\_\_

Deaf \_\_\_\_\_ HOH \_\_\_\_\_ Deaf&Blind \_\_\_\_\_ Hearing \_\_\_\_\_ I need C.A.R.T. \_\_\_\_\_ CDI \_\_\_\_\_

All Presentations will be in ASL and voice-interpreted. Building is fully accessible CDI = Certified Deaf Interpreter

# Monthly Communicator

JANUARY 2015 Vol. 36 No. 1

**NJ Department of Human Services**

Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

PO Box 074

Trenton, New Jersey 08625 - 0074

## Calendar of Events 2015

**Thursday, January 29**

**NJ Relay Advisory  
Board Meeting**

**10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**Veritext Corporation**

**290 West Mt. Pleasant Avenue,  
Suite 3200**

**Livingston, NJ 07039**

**Friday, January 30**

**DDHH Advisory Council Meeting  
East Brunswick Public Library**

**9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**Speakers:**

**Anmarie Buraczeski and  
Michelle Cline**

**“Deaf Advocacy Project on  
Domestic Violence &  
Sexual Assault”**

**Saturday, May 16**

**New Jersey Deaf Senior  
Housing, Inc.**

**2015 Fashion Show &  
Gift Basket Auction  
Fundraising Event**

**12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**The Molly Pitcher Inn  
88 Riverdale Avenue,  
Red Bank, NJ**

**[www.NJDSH.org](http://www.NJDSH.org)**

**Happy New Year!**

**from the staff at the DDHH and the Monthly Communicator**

**DDHH Regular Office Hours: Monday – Friday; 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM**

**Office Closed: Thursday, Jan. 1 - New Year's Day and**

**Monday, Jan. 19 - Martin Luther King's Birthday**