



*"What works for your child is what makes the choice right."*™



*SUPPORT. OUTREACH. ADVOCACY.*

[www.kyhandsandvoices.org](http://www.kyhandsandvoices.org)



**Presented by**  
**Sarah Roof, Executive Director of**  
**Kentucky Hands & Voices**

**Anita Dowd, President of Kentucky**  
**Hands & Voices and DHH Hero**

**AND DHH Heroes...**

**Blake Noland**

**Jena White**

**Holly Evans**



f SEEK THE WORLD

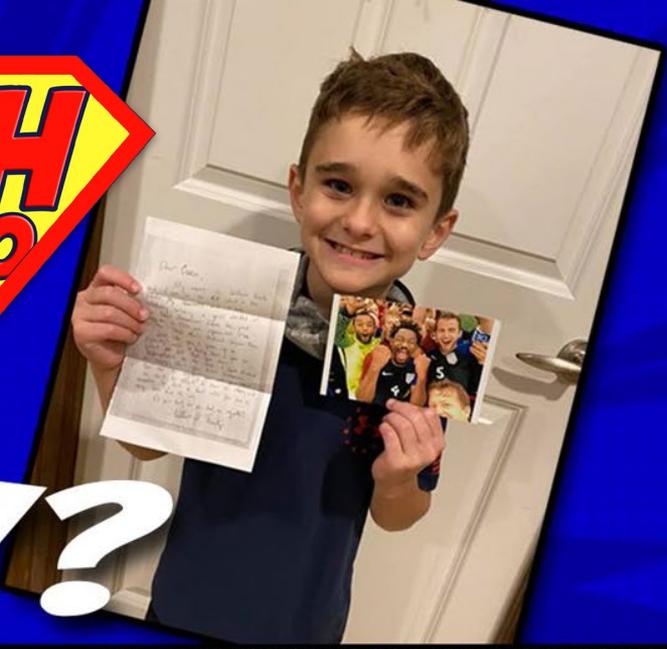
Journey by  Sorenson

# DHH HERO PROGRAM



KENTUCKY'S SOLUTION  
TO DEAF AND HARD OF  
HEARING INFUSION

- TRADING CARDS
- VOLUNTEERS AT EVENTS
- DHH HERO POWER HOURS
- SCHOOL CURRICULUM



**WHY?**



# JCIH RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING DHH ROLE MODELS



The Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH) has repeatedly recommended including DHH adults in the systems that serve families of children who are deaf in their position statements since 1995. Specifically, they state:

*“Families should be provided with information specific to language development and access to peer and language models...Families should be offered access to children and adults who are deaf or hard of hearing, as role models, mentors, and as appropriate and competent language models. Access to deaf or hard of hearing adults can support caregivers in fostering the child’s emerging self-esteem and identity formation. Information on spoken language, signed language, or use of both should be provided.” (p. 28)*



# OUTREACH EVENTS

- IN- PERSON & VIRTUAL EVENTS
  - PARENT CAFÉS
  - DEAF AWARENESS DAY AT THE LOUISVILLE ZOO
  - ICE CREAM SOCIALS/PICNICS IN THE PARK
  - SUPERHEARO 5K
  - TRIVIA NIGHT & SILENT AUCTION
  - NETWORKING DINNERS
  - HOME RUN FOR HEARING LOSS
  - FAMILY LEARNING VACATION FAMILY NIGHT
  - WALK4HEARING
  - CAMP LITTLE VICTORIES
  - MOM'S NIGHT IN
  - BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



*“Our participation has provided our son with a community of peers and has connected us to other families. Our family is able to share valuable information about educational resources, hearing technology and so much more. We celebrate in each other’s successes and reach out to support other families as they begin this journey.” ~ James W. (dad to Evan)*

# ***THE FUTURE***



# ***SIDEKICK PROGRAM***



***COMING SOON...***

# THE EXPERIENCE



# Holly Evans

- Grew up mainstream with interpreter using spoken SEE, ASL or Oral communication (depending on those around her)
- Currently uses ASL, PSE or oral
- Use of one cochlear implant in hearing situations/environment
- BA in Special Ed (EKU); MA in Rehabilitation Counseling (UK)
- Case Manager for DHH Services at Seven Counties, Communication Specialist (freelance), ASL class teacher for families with Deaf children
- Has two children and a new puppy



Real Name: Holly Evans  
Louisville, KY  
Graduate of Waggener Traditional, EKU (BS) & UK (MA)  
Super power: Super Silent Sleuthing Skills

***"YOU ARE STILL SOMEONE AWESOME OUTSIDE OF YOUR HEARING LOSS! DEFINE YOURSELF WITH THAT INSTEAD OF WHAT YOU CAN'T HEAR!"***  
- SILENT SLEUTH

As the Mom of two, Silent Sleuth uses her super powers on the daily. She requires sunlight in the form of walking & swimming to recharge her special powers of observation.

**SILENT SLEUTH**

A white dog with a blue bandana is standing on a blue background. In the bottom right corner, a woman's face is visible, smiling.



Valegro

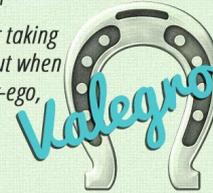


*"You can do anything you set your mind to. Might take a while to figure out yourself, but that's ok. I am still figuring out myself everyday."*  
-Valegro



*Real Name: Jena White  
Frankfort, KY  
Graduate of University of Kentucky  
Super power: Building anything from microbiology level to house level*

*You may find Jena crafting or taking trips with friends & family, but when she transforms into her alter-ego, Valegro, she will always be found aboard a horse.*

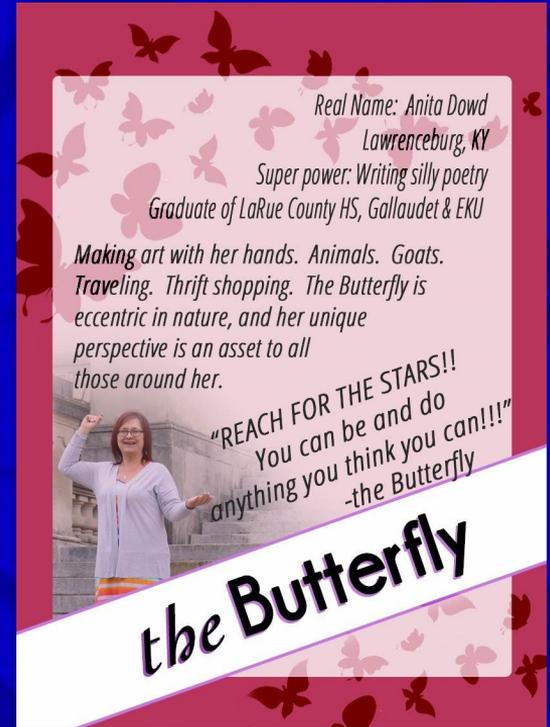


# Jena White

- Grew up mainstream with interpreter using spoken English, SEE and Pidgin
- Currently uses spoken English and ASL for communicating
- Use of bilateral cochlear implants
- BS in Agricultural Biotechnology at UK
- Full time momma to 2 children and farmer, administrator/office support for 3 organizations maintaining their websites & social media accounts
- Huge horse lover with 6 horses and does a discipline called dressage, or horse ballet.
- *"I do not like labels so I do not identify myself as Deaf although I do accept my condition. I much rather people know me as who I am as a person, not with my disability and abilities."*

# Anita Dowd

- Grew up mainstream with no accommodations using spoken English (use of interpreters in college)
- Currently uses spoken English, ASL, PSE depending on the situation
- Use of one hearing aid
- Executive Staff Advisor at KCDHH
- President of Kentucky Hands & Voices, Hands & Voices National Board Member
- Has two adult daughters that have hearing loss (the oldest has a cochlear implant)





*Captain*  
**GREEN THUMB**



*Captain GREEN THUMB*

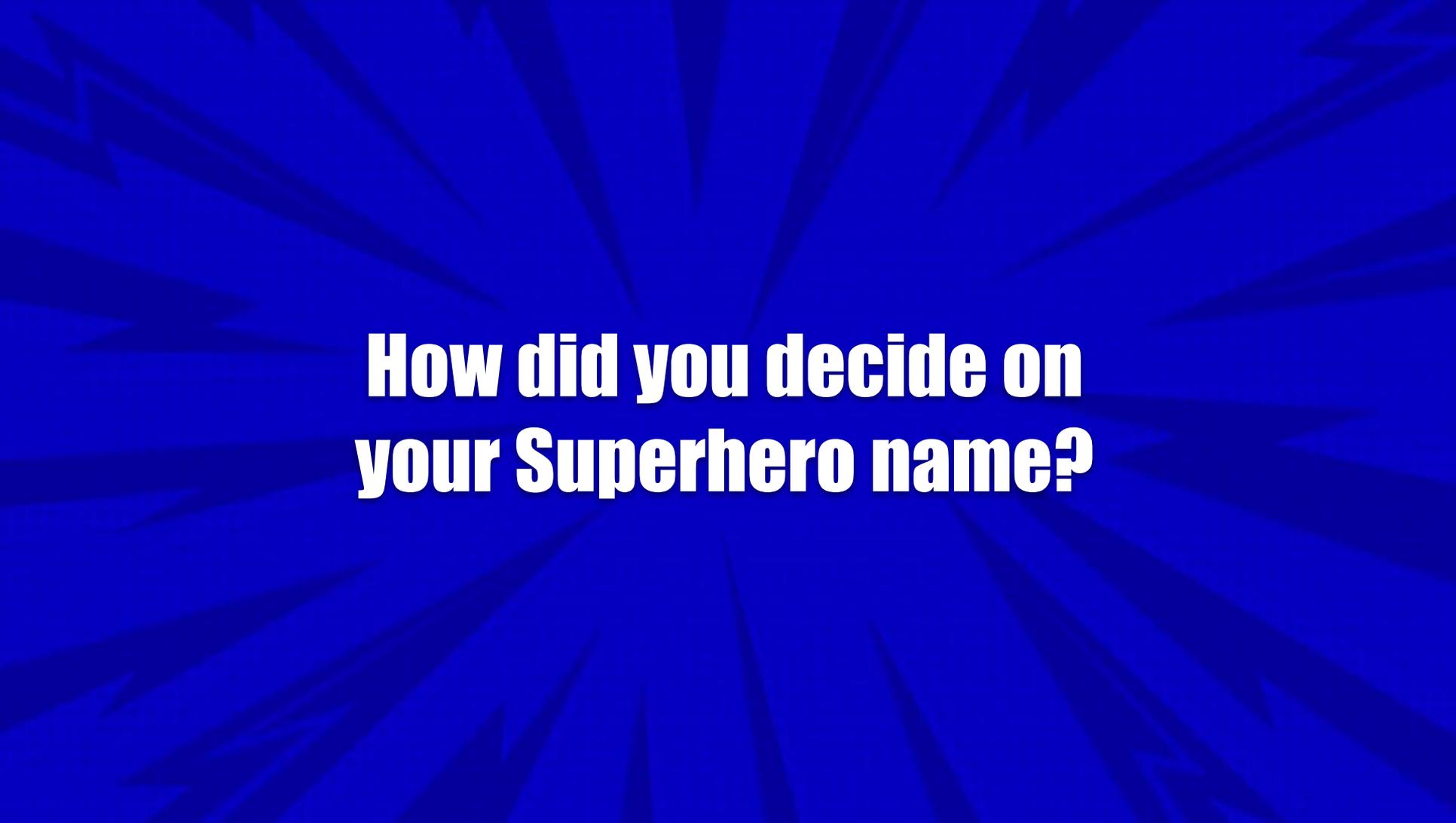
*Real Name: Blake Noland  
Louisville, KY  
Graduate of DuPont Manual HS  
and Gallaudet University  
Super power: Growing ginormous plants*

*When not rescuing plants from the throws of misguided gardening, Captain Green Thumb enjoys playing with his dog, hiking in the woods and hanging out with his friends.*

*"GROW to who you want to be!"  
- Capt. Green Thumb*

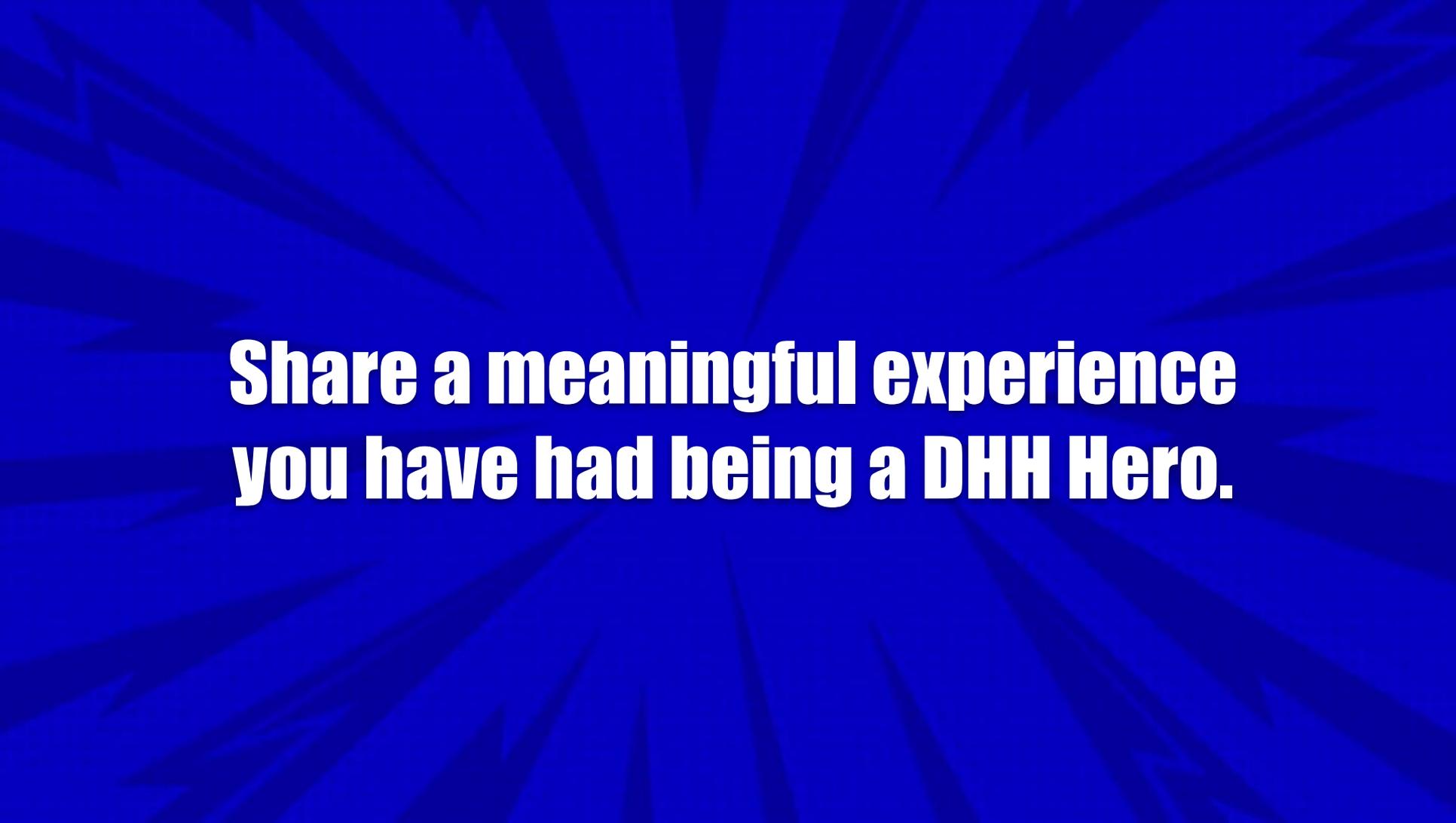
# Blake Noland

- Grew up mainstream with interpreter as only deaf in elementary and middle school using SEE and Oral Communication, Deaf Ed program in high school, and deaf school for college at Gallaudet University
- Currently uses ASL (and oral when needed)
- No amplification devices
- Information Coordinator for the DHH at KCDHH- advocating for DHH Kentuckians pertaining to ADA for medical, businesses, employments, etc.
- Furdaddy to Zora, the Aussie



**How did you decide on  
your Superhero name?**

**Tell us about your educational  
background and your  
communication modality  
choices growing up.**



**Share a meaningful experience  
you have had being a DHH Hero.**

# ***BE A SUPERHERO***



***"WE ALL HAVE THE CAPACITY TO BE  
A SUPERHERO. IN ORDER TO BECOME ONE,  
YOU JUST HAVE TO FIND YOUR UNIQUE POWER  
OR ABILITY AND EXPLOIT IT FOR THE GREATER  
GOOD. THE CAPE AND MASK ARE  
OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES,  
BUT A KIND HEART IS ESSENTIAL."  
- ROBERT CLANCY***

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## We're Here to



# HELP

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 Kentucky Hands & Voices

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 888-398-5030