



NVRC Annual Letter 2025



Dear Friends,

As I look back on my first full year as Executive Director, I'm reminded how much our journey followed the rhythm of the seasons.



Spring brought momentum

new families discovering our services and fresh partnerships helping expand communication access across Northern Virginia.



Summer brought growth

record program attendance, cultural events at capacity, and deeper engagement across the region.



Autumn brought celebration and transformation

with Celebrate Communication and the strengthening of systems to meet rising needs.



Winter offers reflection

gratitude for a community that makes NVRC not just an organization, but a center of connection and purpose.

Across each of these seasons, our mission remained at the center of everything we do: **empowering Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals and their families through education, advocacy, and community involvement.** Whether through technology demonstrations, hearing screenings, peer mentoring, outreach, social engagement, or advocacy, NVRC worked alongside individuals, families, educators, and partners to remove barriers and build inclusion. Each season reflected not just change in time — but growth in impact.



Moments That Defined the Year

Three experiences deeply reminded me *why NVRC exists:*

Omnium Circus

Workshop — Laughter filled the room as participants balanced feathers, juggled silk scarves, and tried to spin plates. The joy reflected what happens when communication and inclusion come together.

Deaf President Now

Screening — A powerful moment of unity across Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, Late-Deafened, CODA, and hearing allies. The applause felt like recognition, pride, and shared history.

Celebrate Communication —

Aisles filled with families, seniors, interpreters, educators, vendors, technology innovators, students, and partners. It captured everything NVRC stands for: access, empowerment, belonging, and collective impact.

These moments captured our core values: Communication, Community, Collaboration, Contribution, and Encouragement.

Strengthening Our Regional Impact

This year, we deepened our role as a trusted resource supporting Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, Late-Deafened individuals, seniors aging into hearing loss, technology users, sign language interpreters, educators, families, and partners.

NVRC continues to provide:

- ❄ Free hearing screenings and one-to-one peer mentoring
- ❄ Access to our technology demonstration room, featuring assistive listening devices, captioned phones, alerting systems, and visual smoke detectors
- ❄ Support for cochlear implant users and people with tinnitus
- ❄ Training for professionals, caregivers, employers, and first responders
- ❄ Virtual programs that increased connection for those unable to attend in person

NVRC's staff are the heartbeat of our mission — educators, mentors, outreach specialists, and coordinators who bring decades of lived experience, compassion, and personal connection to every interaction. Their commitment allows us to show up, build trust, and serve with purpose.



Showing Up Across the Region

We focused on being present across Northern Virginia, Maryland, Washington DC, and beyond, engaging at community gatherings and building bridges through cultural connection and advocacy.



We supported and collaborated with:

Civic & Service:

Lions Clubs, Optimist Clubs, Rotary Clubs, Hard of Hearing Groups

Deaf & ASL Groups:

NVAD, VAD, EDT, DeafPlus Advocate, GWADA, MSADA, MADA, Greenbelt Deaf, HCDA, Happy Hands, Gaithersburg Silent Dinners

Professional Organizations:

RID, CCAAD, Howard County Deaf Association, Business Roundtable, Fairfax Business Network, Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce

Higher Education:

Gallaudet University, George Mason University, NOVA Community College

Communication access is essential everywhere — and NVRC is committed to being where the community lives, learns, and leads.



Interpreter Services and Access



Our Interpreter Service strengthened this year while remaining one of the most affordable in the region. We proudly launched our first *Interpreter Appreciation Day* and began developing mentorship opportunities and professional training — including a future CEU Classes and a ProTactile workshop to expand access for DeafBlind residents.

Our donor-supported **Communication Access Fund** ensured individuals and organizations could receive interpreting or CART services when cost was a barrier. For many, it was a *lifeline to communication when it mattered most*.



A Heartfelt Thanks to NVAD

The **Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf (NVAD)** provided extraordinary support this year. Their generosity helped expand cultural programs, deepen community outreach, and reinforce vital resources. *Their partnership exemplifies the power of Deaf-led collaboration.*

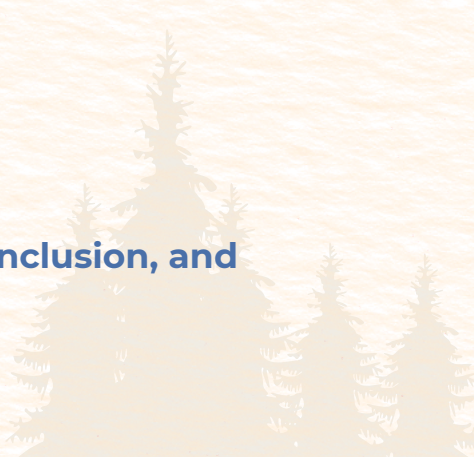
A Year of Generosity and Resilience

2025 confirmed that community giving is essential to NVRC's future.

With government funding less predictable, individual donors, foundations, and corporate partners are key to sustaining our mission. This year we saw:

- ❄ Increased community giving during campaigns and events
- ❄ Strong year-end engagement
- ❄ Our first-ever Stock Donation

Every contribution — large or small — protects access, inclusion, and connection.





Looking Ahead

In 2026, we will continue strengthening services, expanding partnerships, and increasing our presence throughout Northern Virginia. We remain committed to building a future where every individual — Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, DeafPlus, Late-Deafened, and their families — can thrive.

Join Us in the Year Ahead

- ❄️ Renew or begin your membership
- ❄️ Make a year-end contribution
- ❄️ Consider becoming a sustaining monthly donor
- ❄️ Stay connected, volunteer, and share our message



Northern Virginia Resource Center
for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Persons

Membership remains \$25 through January

(voting membership valid through December 31, 2026)

Starting February 1, membership will be \$40 to support expanding programs.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Darren Marquardt
Executive Director

and the NVRC Team: Bonnie, Debbie, Cheryl, Barbara S, Aseel, Julie and Barbara E-K

Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons

Your Support Makes a Difference!



Yes, I would like to support NVRC!

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 Other amount: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mail to: 10467 White Granite Drive, Suite 312 Oakton, VA 22124



**Scan to our
donation page**