

## Parents Supporting Parents: Two Denises

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ized that Danisha needed to be in a signing environment. That is when Danisha was enrolled at PSD in Philadelphia in the early intervention program, a place that offered Denise T. and her family ASL classes. But this was also the place that helped enlighten Danisha's family about ASL, Deaf culture, and the pride connected to being Deaf.

Through PSD's services, Danisha's family learned to accept her as a Deaf person, as a person who does not need to be fixed, an individual who is perfect just the way she is. Denise T., through tears of joy, summarized her experiences: "Our family is so much richer because of Danisha. Through her, we have discovered a beautiful visual language, a people, and a culture."

Denise was actively involved in her granddaughter's

life and also as a volunteer at PSD for 15 years. She served on the board of trustees as a parent representative until Danisha graduated. She continues to serve as the community representative for the school's Partnership Action Team for Community, Home, and School on the board of trustees.

In addition to her volunteer work at PSD, Denise T. worked in the criminal justice system for juveniles. Her advice to parents is, "Be involved with your children before the criminal justice system has to step in. But most importantly, teach your children to learn to live independently without you for someday they will have to. That is the best thing you can do for them."

And so, there in Sulphur, Okla., at the American Society for Deaf Children conference, these two Denises – one a grandmother and the other a mother – brought their stories of their journeys and reminded us once again why ASDC exists and why we must do everything in our power to ensure that ASDC remains strong and dynamic for the Shakiras, the Danishas and every Deaf child in our world.

## Clerc Center Offers Resources and Opportunities

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ter co-sponsors with Gallaudet University the annual Gallaudet National Essay, Art, and ASL Contest for Deaf and

Hard of Hearing Students. Encourage your child to send in an entry for the 2010 contest—place winners in the 15-19 age category receive scholarships for the postsecondary program of their choice and place winners in the 9-14 age category receive cash prizes. Winning entries are published in the contest magazine, Celebrate! All participants are recognized in the magazine. The theme of the 2010 contest is "Helping Others: How I Can Make a Difference in My Community."

### Trainings and Workshops Around the Country

The Clerc Center offers technical assistance and professional development workshops to families, educators, and other professionals working with deaf and hard of hearing children. Topics include literacy, social and emotional health issues, and transition guidelines. For more information about workshop locations, or to request that a workshop be offered through your local school or program, visit the Clerc Center website. For personal assistance, e-mail [training.clerccenter@gallaudet.edu](mailto:training.clerccenter@gallaudet.edu) or call (202) 651-5855 (Voice/TTY).

### Products and Resources Available Online

In addition to our SRP program, parents and professionals will find a range of products in our on-line catalog. Our literacy series focuses on establishing early literacy skills in the preschool through elementary school years. We also have a number of other useful products for sale, so check out our catalog at <http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu>.

The Clerc Center is ready to work with you! Together we can make a difference. Contact us with your thoughts or questions today at [clerc.center@gallaudet.edu](mailto:clerc.center@gallaudet.edu).

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