



**HAPPY  
HANDS**  
EDUCATION CENTER

2025

# Annual Report

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 @happyhands\_educationcenter  
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## **ABOUT HAPPY HANDS**

Happy Hands is a Christian nonprofit school serving children who are deaf and hard of hearing from infancy through 4th grade. Founded in 1994, Happy Hands provides accessible, language-rich education using American Sign Language within a supportive Christian environment.

Students receive individualized instruction designed to meet their unique communication and learning needs. Programs include early childhood education, elementary instruction, speech and language therapy services, and family support. Happy Hands is accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International and the Oklahoma Private School Accreditation Commission and is licensed as a 5 Star Early Childhood Center by the Oklahoma Department of Child Care.

Happy Hands exists to ensure that deaf and hard of hearing children have full access to language, education, and opportunity during the most critical years of development.

### **Mission Statement**

Our mission is to empower children who are Deaf or hard of hearing to flourish in school and in life! We do this by educating children, nurturing families, and building hope.

## **OUR PURPOSE**

Happy Hands is a mission-driven organization committed to serving deaf and hard of hearing children and their families through high-quality education rooted in Christian values. We believe every child is created in the image of God and deserves equitable access to communication, learning, and meaningful relationships.

Our work focuses on early language acquisition, academic readiness, and whole-child development. By establishing strong language foundations early, we equip students for long-term educational success, emotional health, and confident self-advocacy. The impact of this work extends beyond the classroom, strengthening families and contributing to a more inclusive community for the Deaf.

Happy Hands views education as both an academic and transformational process, preparing students not only to succeed in school but to become confident, capable individuals who understand their value and purpose.

# A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

This year has been a testimony to God's faithfulness. Through the dedication of our teachers and staff, the support of families, and the generosity of donors and our community, our students continued to grow in language, learning, and faith. While we faced seasons of challenge, including grief and loss, we also witnessed incredible progress in our students academically, emotionally, and spiritually.

There is joy in our classrooms. It is visible in the confidence of a child who is finding their voice through language. It is evident in the peace families experience when their child is fully seen, understood, and supported. That joy reaches beyond our students and deeply impacts their families.

Our vision for the future of these children is immensely bright. We are profoundly grateful for every person who walks alongside Happy Hands and makes this life-changing work possible.

## A SNAPSHOT OF IMPACT

### **Students Served**

- 95 students served directly through classroom instruction
- More than 50 additional students and community members served through service projects, sign language classes, and school tours

### **Programs and Services**

- Deaf education and individualized instruction
- Speech and language therapy services
- Quality early care and education for infants through 4th grade
- Early Head Start community partner
- Federal food program providing nutritious meals for all students

### **Accreditation and Licensing**

- Accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International
- Accredited by the Oklahoma Private School Accreditation Commission
- Licensed as a 5 Star Early Childhood Center by the Oklahoma Department of Child Care

### **Years of Service**

- Serving deaf and hard of hearing children and their families since 1994
- 32 years of faithful ministry and education

# FAMILY STORIES OF IMPACT



## BRENT FAMILY

Happy Hands has deeply impacted our whole family. Elijah and his sister Milli are taught in ways that meet their language needs, help them grow in independence, and give them the chance to communicate fully. They hear the gospel every day, and we have seen their faith grow in ways that bless our home too.

Happy Hands has also poured into us as parents. We have learned about Deaf culture, gained ASL skills, and found support from people who truly understand our world. The teachers and staff love Jesus and love our kids, and we feel like we have found family beyond blood. One of my favorite moments was leaving school last year when Elijah suddenly said, "Jesus loves me." He was three years old and already confident in that truth thanks to the foundation Happy Hands gives these children.

## PETERSON FAMILY

We found Happy Hands after our second daughter was diagnosed with hearing loss. She failed her newborn hearing screen, and after a series of tests she received her hearing aids at seven months old. Happy Hands has taught us how to raise a child with hearing loss and how to support her siblings as they learn alongside her. We have grown in our communication skills through ASL and have learned how to meet her needs the best we can. God has provided so much support for our family through Happy Hands. We, along with our kids, have built wonderful friendships here.

Our youngest child is currently undergoing testing for a hearing diagnosis, and thanks to Happy Hands, we feel equipped with the right tools to help her. This place has truly become a source of strength, encouragement, and community for our family.

# FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT AND STEWARDSHIP

Happy Hands is committed to faithful stewardship, transparency, and integrity. Funding comes from generous donors, grants, tuition, and fundraising efforts. The majority of expenses directly support student programs, instruction, and essential services.

Happy Hands has always been and will continue to be committed to never turning away a deaf or hard of hearing child due to a family's financial situation. We believe every student deserves exemplary educational services and the opportunity for a Christian education, regardless of their access to sound or their family's financial resources. The generosity of donors and partners ensures that access to language, education, and faith is never out of reach.

# LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Happy Hands is guided by a committed Board of Directors and a dedicated leadership team who provide accountability, oversight, and strategic direction. Together, they ensure that the mission remains strong and that the organization continues to serve families with excellence and faithfulness.

## Director Team

- Jan Pride, M.Ed., Executive Director and Head of School
- Bri Kinnison, Director of Development
- Sarai Torres, Director of Operations

## Board of Directors

President Bret Barnhart <i>Owner, Barnhart Excavating</i>	Secretary Nelson Votaw <i>Sr. Director of Employee Benefits Tedford Insurance</i>
Vice-President Don Newberry <i>Tulsa County Court Clerk</i>	Members Matt Jackson
Treasurer Caleb Wright <i>Director of Business Operations Surgery Saint Francis Hospital</i>	Mary Ann Spears <i>Speech and Language Pathologist, Retired</i>  Marie Guard <i>Deaf Educator, Retired</i>

## **PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Happy Hands welcomes partnerships with foundations and organizations that share a commitment to educational access, early intervention, and equitable outcomes for children with disabilities. Grant funding directly supports instructional programs, therapeutic services, and operational capacity that strengthen student outcomes and family support.

Through collaborative partnerships, Happy Hands is able to expand access to language-rich education, maintain high standards of excellence, and serve families regardless of financial circumstance. We are committed to providing clear reporting, measurable outcomes, and ongoing communication to ensure that each partnership achieves its intended impact.

## **APPRECIATION FOR OUR SUPPORTERS**

Happy Hands is grateful for the individuals, churches, foundations, and community partners whose financial support makes this work possible. Their investment enables us to provide accessible, high-quality education and essential services to deaf and hard of hearing children and their families.

Philanthropic partnerships play a critical role in sustaining our programs and ensuring that students receive the instruction, therapies, and resources they need to succeed. We value long-term relationships built on trust, shared purpose, and measurable impact, and we remain committed to stewarding all funds with transparency and integrity.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

In the coming year, Happy Hands looks forward to strengthening programs, supporting families, and expanding opportunities for students. We remain prayerfully focused on sustainable growth, academic excellence, and faithfulness to God's calling.

As we look ahead, we do so with hope, trust, and gratitude for the community that makes this mission possible.