



EHDI Conference March 2010

At the end of February, we were notified that IL GBYS was one of ten finalists for the Antonia Brancia Maxon Award. This award was presented at the National EHDI (Early Hearing Detection and Intervention) conference held March 1-2 in Rosemont, IL. Although IL GBYS was not awarded we are all still winners! Because of the unique collaboration efforts in our state and the determination of our team we have well exceeded our first year expectations. Since our program started mid May of 2009 we are helping triple the amount of parents than our anticipated goal!

Our Mission:

Guide By Your Side provides unbiased, emotional support and resources by trained Parent Guides to families with children who have a hearing loss.

Through the generosity of private grants and personal donations, Guide By Your Side is able to provide free services to families. Families can be referred to the program from providers or call directly to participate.

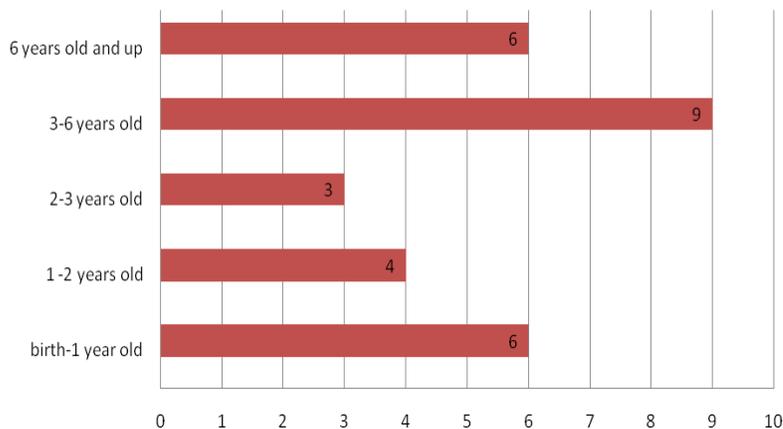
If you would like to refer a family, request brochures/posters or make a donation please contact the GBYS Program Coordinator, Carrie Balian.

Program Information:

- 1 Program Coordinator
- 10 Parent Guides (PG)
 - Located throughout the state
 - Backgrounds vary in communication opportunities, amplification opportunities
 - PG who is a native Spanish speaker
 - PG who is Deaf
 - PG who is Hard of Hearing

Our program is now accepting applications from parents who are interested in being a Parent Guide. Applications will be accepted through May 31, 2010. An informational webinar will be held on April 19th at 8pm. Anyone who is interested can contact the Program Coordinator for more information.

Ages of children when enrolled in GBYS



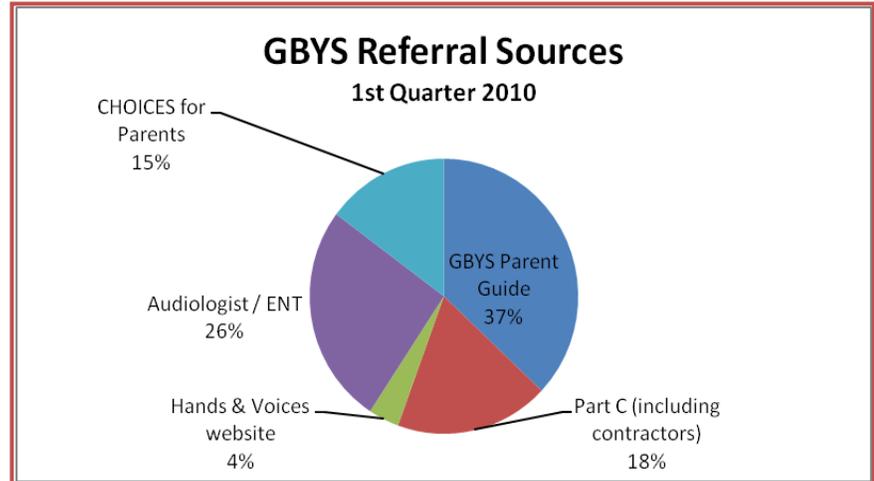
Comparison of ages of children enrolled in GBYS from Oct – Dec 09 to Jan – March 2010

	Oct–Dec 09	Jan–Mar 2010
Birth-1 year old	20%	21.5%
1-2 years old	7%	14%
2-3 years old	53%	11%
3-6 years old	7%	32%
6 years and older	13%	21.5%



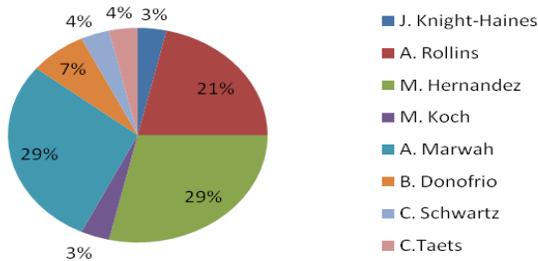
Quarter Reporting for Jan – March 2010:

- Families referred 30, Families matched 28 (Unable to reach 2)
- **Ethnicity** of the families referred:
 - 36% Latino (10 families)
 - 43% Caucasian (12 families)
 - 3.5% Asian (1 family)
 - 3.5% Multiracial (1 family)
 - 14% African American (4 families)
- **Age** of children enrolled in GBYS:
 - 21.5% Birth-1 year old
 - 14% 1-2 years old
 - 11% 2-3 years old
 - 32% 3-6 years old
 - 21.5% 6 years and older
- **Primary Language** in the home:
 - English - 18
 - Spanish - 7
 - English & Spanish – 1
 - Other - 2



- **Insurance** information of enrolled families:
 - ALL Kids – 14 families
 - Private – 14 families
- **Newborn Hearing Screening** results as reported by the parent:
 - Did Not Pass – 14 children
 - Passed – 12 children
 - One pass/one DNP – 1 child
 - Not Screened – 1 child
- **Medical History** suggestive of:
 - Syndrome associated with a hearing loss – 4 children
 - No known syndrome or etiology – 24 children
- **Unilateral vs. Bilateral** hearing loss:
 - Bilateral – 25 children
 - Unilateral – 3 children
- **Gender** of children enrolled in GBYS:
 - 20 male, 8 female

Parent Guide Matches Jan 2010 to Mar 2010



What have we accomplished?

Since our launching in late May 2009, we have had 78 families referred to Guide By Your Side. During this past quarter we have seen an increased number of families enroll with children over six years old who have a hearing loss. While some of these families were concerned about their child's recent diagnosis others had concerns and questions about their child's behavior, social and educational concerns.

Outreach: The Program Coordinator and Parent Guides have also provided individual presentations during conferences for ILAA, EHDI, ITIH and other workshops for families with children who have a hearing loss. In addition, the Program Coordinator presented GBYS in Southern Illinois and St. Louis to key hospitals. Additional webinars are being scheduled to present GBYS to St. Louis schools. During this outreach we were asked to work with the MO EHDI team to guide them into implementing a GBYS program within their state.

Community: In March one of our GBYS Parent Guides hosted a local parent meeting between some of her families. This came about after three families from one town were referred to GBYS and then all were matched with her as their Parent Guide. After talking with each of them she learned that they all wanted to meet other families with children who have a hearing loss as well as talk with other children who used different modes of amplification. So, our Parent Guide reached out to three of her friends and their children who have a hearing loss to join her as "guests" during this parent meeting. A total of six of her families from the same or nearby towns gathered. Five out of the six families even used the same audiologist yet none of them had known each other before this meeting. The meeting was a huge success! In fact, one of the families lived so close to the family who hosted the gathering that they were able to walk there! The three "guests" were able to answer questions and share their experiences about living with hearing loss. My point in sharing this is that GBYS is making connections happen earlier for and between our referred families. Now these six families have other parents to connect to within their area and their children have new friends!