

**NC Department of Health and Human Services**

# **North Carolina's Homegrown Parent-to- Parent Support Programs**

**Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Conference  
Denver, CO**

**March 17-19, 2024**

**Marcia Fort, Au.D., NC EHDI Coordinator**

**Keila Armas, NC EHDI Parent Consultant**

**Alaine Jacobs and Leslie Rhodes, Parent Partners**

# Learning Objectives

1. Participants will be able to discuss the importance of parent-to-parent support for families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH).
2. Participants will be able to describe challenges to running a homegrown parent-to-parent support program.
3. Participants will be able to describe events and activities that programs have found helpful in supporting families.

# NC Family Support Landscape

- BEGINNINGS for Parents of Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- Children's Developmental Service Agencies (CDSA)
- The CARE Project
- NC EHDI Parent Consultants
- NC EHDI Parent-to-Parent Support Team
- Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC) – not specific to DHH children
- Grassroots Parent-to-Parent Groups – unique groups based on the needs and personalities of the communities they serve.

# NC's Parent-to-Parent Support Program Goals

- Offer mutual support.
- Share information through educational opportunities.
- Organize social events for the whole family.
- Provide a safe space to share and express feelings.
- Learn from each other – advocacy.

# NC's Homegrown Parent-to-Parent Support Programs

- **Hitch-Up – Hearing Impaired Children Have Unlimited Potential**
  - Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill
  - Charlotte (3 groups)
- **Real COHL – Realizing, Empowering, and Learning for Children with Hearing Loss**
  - Statesville
- **Triunfa Caracol Latino Facebook Groups – (Spanish-Speaking families)**
  - Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill
  - Charlotte
  - Asheville
  - Wilmington
- **Eastern NC Parents and Professionals of Children Deaf/HoH Facebook Group**

# Hitch-Up

- First started 23 years ago
- Groups across the state
- Still maintain mission today
  - emotional and social support
  - educational opportunities



Photo Credit: Triangle Hitch-Up

# Triunfa Caracol Latino



Edit

## TRIUNFA CARACOL LATINO (Área del Triángulo y sus alrededores) >

Private group · 155 members



Edit

## TRIUNFA CARACOL LATINO (Área de Charlotte y Alrededores) >

Private group · 65 members



Edit

## TRIUNFA CARACOL LATINO (Área de Asheville y sus alrededores) >

Private group · 16 members



Edit

## TRIUNFA CARACOL LATINO (Área de Wilmington NC, y Alrededores) >

Private group · 13 members

Asheville

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/1557471418020790/?ref=share\\_group\\_link](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1557471418020790/?ref=share_group_link)

Charlotte

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/998519321067404/?ref=share\\_group\\_link](https://www.facebook.com/groups/998519321067404/?ref=share_group_link)

Triangle Area

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/539695949501696/?ref=share\\_group\\_link](https://www.facebook.com/groups/539695949501696/?ref=share_group_link)

Wilmington

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/1804733096577360/?ref=share\\_group\\_link](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1804733096577360/?ref=share_group_link)

Photo Credit: NC EHDI Program

# Triunfa Caracol Latino- Estamos Juntos en esto (We are together in this.)

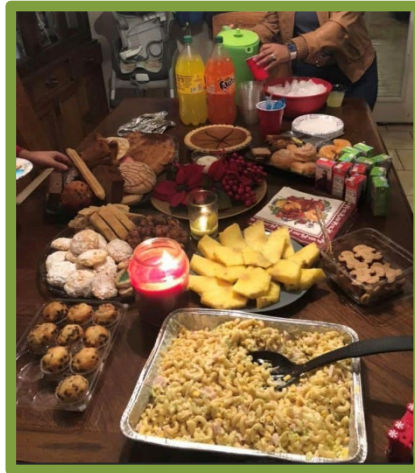
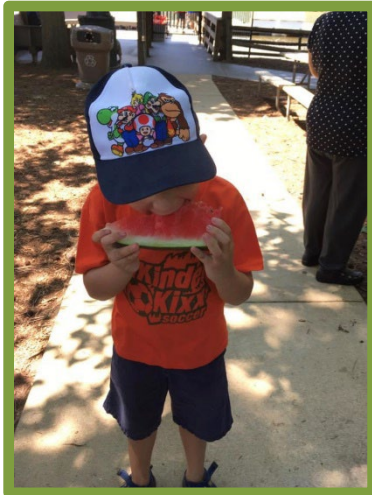


Photo Credit: NC EHDl Program



# Rural Eastern North Carolina

- Established Eastern NC Parents and Professionals of Children Deaf/HoH Facebook Group
- Collaborates with large medical center and early intervention



Photo Credit: NC EHDI Program

# Parent-to Parent Support Team Leadership Group

- Meets monthly via zoom to support each other.
- Share ideas of what is working and what is not.
- Support the start-up of new parent-to-parent support groups, in-state and out-of-state.
- Mentor new leaders, in-state and out-of-state.
- Participate in EHDI training opportunities.
- Learn about resources so they can better explain to families.

# Questions?



Photo Credit: Getty Images

# Parent Leader Contact Information

**Alaine Jacobs**

[alaine.munn07@gmail.com](mailto:alaine.munn07@gmail.com)

**Keila Armas Valesquez**

EHDI Parent Consultant

Mobile: 919-906-6173

[Keila.armasvelasquez@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Keila.armasvelasquez@dhhs.nc.gov)

**Leslie Rhodes**

[LLT629@gmail.com](mailto:LLT629@gmail.com)

# Contact Information

## **Marcia Fort, Au.D., CCC-A**

Unit Manager, Genetics and Newborn Screening  
North Carolina Early Hearing Detection and Intervention  
(EHDI) Coordinator

Division of Child and Family Well-Being, Whole Child  
Health Section

Office: 919-707-5630

Mobile: 910-624-4224

[Marcia.Fort@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Marcia.Fort@dhhs.nc.gov)