

# COMMUNITY CODE OF KINDNESS

## *Our collaborative position statement:*

The following organizations helped to create and adopt the following collaborative interactions for our national partnerships. We take individual and organizational responsibility for adding value and contributing to the ethical success of this grassroots kindness movement. We accept the personal and organizational commitment to advocate for these agreements by engaging in activities that enhance and spread kindness and compassion.

- Alexander Graham Bell Association
- American Society for Deaf Children
- Family Voices
- Hands & Voices
- Hearing First
- National Cued Speech Association
- National Center on Deaf-Blindness

*We invite all organizations to adopt this code of kindness.*

## OUR COMMITMENTS

- **We will** be kind and respectful to anyone with lived experiences as families with children who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf Plus, and Deaf-Blind. We will do this by carefully listening and talking to many people and communities because we want to understand.
- **We will** be honest about anything we don't know enough about concerning the experiences, resources, and topics related to children and adults who are Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, Deaf Plus, and Deaf-Blind to avoid providing misinformation.
- **We will** recognize the resources other organizations provide and refer and share appropriately.

## OUR AGREEMENTS

### *We agree to:*

- Respect families' decision-making processes.
- Give one another kindness.
- Try to understand others and help them understand us.
- Not question or doubt the lived experiences of others.
- Welcome different perspectives, opinions, and experiences.
- Pay attention to how our words impact others and how we define what others say.
- Interact in a friendly, respectful, and professional manner.
- Ask questions and listen to the responses.
- Make space for everyone to contribute.
- Listen deeply.
- Challenge ideas and opinions respectfully.
- Respect requests for confidentiality.
- Recognize that a variety of perspectives can exist on the same issue.
- Be kind and respectful always.