Deaf Week Fact Sheet #3

Did you know that...

In conjunction with the National Association of the Deaf and the World Federation of the Deaf, Iowa recognizes the week of September 22 – 28 as DEAF AWARENESS WEEK. We share the following information with the Iowa community:

Famous Deaf People: Matt Hamill and Ashley Fiolek

Deaf people have found great success in sports. Two such American athletes are Matt Hamill and Ashley Fiolek. Matt Hamill, sometimes known as “The Hammer,” is a Deaf American mixed martial artist and wrestler in the Ultimate Fighting Championship. He was a three-time NCAA Division III National Champion in wrestling. The biographical film, “The Hammer” was released in 2010 starring deaf actor Russell Harvard.

Ashley Fiolek is the youngest Women’s Motocross Champion to date. She began racing at age seven and won the WMA Pro National Championship in 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012 and 2013. Ashley appears in a commercial for Red Bull and rides for the Honda Red Bull team, the first female athlete to be signed with Honda’s factory team.

www.ashleyfiolek.com  www.matthamill.com

Deaf Iowa Facts: Deaf Clubs in Iowa

Deaf Community has nine Deaf clubs in Iowa. All clubs are affiliated with IAD, the Iowa Association of the Deaf. Current Iowa Deaf clubs include the Cedar Rapids Association of the Deaf, Central Iowa Club of the Deaf, Cedarloo Association of the Deaf, Des Moines Association of the Deaf, Mascia Club, Sioux City Association of the Deaf, Council Bluffs Silent Club, North Central Club of the Deaf and Quad Cities Chapter of IAD. Clubs have monthly meetings and host a variety of social events. You can find more information on the IAD website under “Affiliates.” www.iowadeaf.com

Deaf Service of Iowa’s concerns: Mental Health Services

Another concern among Deaf Iowans is access to quality mental health services, including substance abuse and aftercare services. This broad concern includes the need for improved access for deaf clients from a variety of service providers, from social work agencies to hospitals. Professionals who provide mental health services are rarely trained to deal with deaf clients. When direct communication between deaf client and health care professional isn’t available, a qualified interpreter must be found to facilitate communication.


Myth: Sign language is universal.

Fact: American Sign Language is a visual-gestural language used by Deaf people in the United States and Canada. Nearly every country has its own sign language. Signed languages, like spoken languages, can have regional dialects. Sign languages use grammar and syntax that differ from the spoken languages used in their countries of origin.

http://wtdeaf.org/human-rights/crpd/sign-language

This document was compiled by the American Sign Language Program faculty at University of Iowa. More fact sheets and resources can be found at: http://clas.uiowa.edu/dwllc/asl