Deaf Week Fact Sheet #4

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 Person: Dr. Andrew Foster

Dr. Andrew Foster was a pioneer in Deaf education. He attended the Alabama School for the Deaf and was the first African-American to graduate from Gallaudet University. Dr. Foster spent much of his time and energy in Africa, establishing 31 Deaf schools there. At the time of his death, in a plane crash in 1987, there were 74 Deaf schools in Africa credited to Andrew's educational efforts.  
http://www.deafpeople.com/history/history_info/foster.html

Deaf Iowa Facts: Iowa State Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf

ISRID is a chapter of RID, The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. ISRID holds annual conferences to provide continuing education to interpreters in the state. The ISRID website provides resources for working interpreters, including information about licensure, as well as the opportunity to be connected to other interpreters across the state of Iowa. The website also provides resources for community members, including an "Interpreter Search" function that enables users to find interpreters in their area.  
http://new.iowastaterid.org/Home.php

Deaf Service Commission of Iowa’s concern for Deaf youth:

DSCI had five major concerns but with the Department of Human Rights’ reorganization, the three top priorities became the focus. Deaf youth became a lower priority. To assist Deaf youth, a week-long camp (Junior Commission Program Camp) was established around 2001 to invite 20 deaf, hard of hearing and hearing children. They came from mainstreamed programs and the Deaf school, while hearing children came from Deaf families. Many deaf children learned about their identity, which helped them overcome problems they have as a deaf or hard of hearing person. The experiences they had impacted their life and helped them mature. Due to costs, this camp program was suspended in 2009.  
http://www.deafservices.iowa.gov/

Myth: Deafness is disabling.  
Fact: Disability is a social problem more than an individual one. In a visual environment with inclusive technology, and where sign language is used or interpreters provided, deaf people experience no more barriers than anyone else. Visual technologies include videophones and video relay services, web and phone cams, instant messaging and texting, flashing lights for alarms, phones, and doorbells.

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