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For Immediate Release

Where Communication Happens!

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Deaf Services Center Expands Services for Employment Supports, Foreign Language Translation, and Continuation of American Sign Language Classes

Columbus, OH – May 20, 2016 – Deaf Services Center, located in Worthington, OH, recently received a 3-year **CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) accreditation**, which allows DSC to provide a full range of employment support services in partnership with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities.

By being CARF accredited, it allowed DSC to launch **Employment Support Services** and offer support to persons with disabilities to decide on a career, knowledge of how to gain employment and be trained for a new job. In addition, DSC can provide education to employers on how to work with individuals who have disabilities.

Since its October 2015 inception, DSC has already served over 20 customers with additional individuals ready for services. DSC encourages all customers to contact DSC to make an appointment so that DSC can assist them to get started.

Deaf Services Center's **Interpreting Department** has expanded to include **Foreign Language Translation** services due to high demand for these services in the community. Languages provided by DSC Community Interpreting & Translation services include but are not limited to: American Sign Language (ASL), Spanish, French, Somali, Japanese, Mandarin and Nepali. We also provide a variety of other languages as well. To schedule interpreting services, call 614-841-1991.

Deaf Services Center was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the **Dorothy E. Ann Fund of the Columbus Foundation** to continue the Community American Sign Language (ASL) Classes through 2016.

Deaf Services Center's Community ASL classes provide services to the Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Hearing communities living in the Central Ohio area by eliminating communication barriers. Anyone ages 14 or older can sign up for the classes that are typically held once a week for 10 weeks. Times vary but is usually from 7:00pm to 8:30pm and is often held at Deaf Services Center but may be at alternative locations.

The Community ASL Classes provide opportunities to enhance communication and bonding between parents, children, neighbors and friends. This allows for students to develop some knowledge about the language, learn about Deaf Culture and mingle with ASL users around community. Several of our students have gone on to take courses at their local high schools, colleges and universities.

Because of the generosity of the grant from the **Dorothy E. Ann Fund**, there is no instructional fee for the course. Students will only be required to purchase class materials for \$30. These materials must be paid for in full at time of registration. In order to provide excellent instruction, each class is limited to 20 participants.

The **Dorothy E. Ann Fund** also funded **DSC's Deaf Kids and Teens Leadership Program and Camp** for the 2016 year by providing opportunities for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind children to learn about career options, to attend a communication barrier free camp and to socialize with other peers like them. Oyo Camp,

the summer camp program, is slated for July 31- August 6th for ages 7-18. Camp Registration is now available at www.dsc.org.

Mr. Moore, CEO of DSC, stated that “DSC has been growing steadily for the last few years to meet the specific needs of the community we serve. It is imperative that our community’s needs are met by people who are trained to perform such services. DSC appreciates the support of all of our programs from our donors, volunteers and the community at large.”

Deaf Services Center (DSC) is the largest non-profit organization serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the great state of Ohio. DSC provides community centers in the Northwest, Central, and Southeast regions along with offering interpreting and Speech-To-Text services throughout Ohio and neighboring states such as Michigan, Kentucky and West Virginia.

DSC also provides community advocacy, case management, education, information and referral, American Sign Language (ASL) classes, Deaf youth programming and camps, Kids of Deaf Adults (KODA) programming, Regional Infant Hearing Program (RIHP), Deaf Equipment Modification Program (DEMP) and employment support services.

If you or someone you know is interested in taking Community ASL classes, would like more information about the employment support services and/or request foreign language services, please contact John Moore, Executive Director of Deaf Services Center at (614) 841-1991 V/TTY or email JohnMoore@dsc.org.

About Deaf Services Center

DSC is a central source of community services for people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing living in Central, Southeastern and Northwestern Ohio. Services include interpreting, case management, peer support, advocacy, ADA technical assistance, sign language classes, speaker bureau, information and referral, deaf equipment modification program (DEMP), youth program, and rural outreach serving the Southeastern Ohio region which also includes our **Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing of Portsmouth (CSDHH)** and the Northwest Ohio region covered by **Interlink – Toledo**. These services are coordinated by two separate departments: Community Resources and Interpreting Resources. For more information, log on to www.dsc.org or call 614-841-1991.

About Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)

Founded in 1966, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) is a private, not-for-profit organization that promotes quality rehabilitation services. It does this by establishing standards of quality for organizations to use as guidelines in developing and offering their programs or services to consumers. CARF uses the standards to determine how well an organization is serving its consumers and how it can improve.

When the service or program is CARF-accredited, it means a provider has passed an in-depth review of its services. It is your assurance that the provider meets rigorous CARF guidelines for service and quality - a qualified endorsement that your provider conforms to nationally and internationally recognized service standards and is focused on delivering the most favorable results for the customers.

About Dorothy E. Ann Fund of the Columbus Foundation

The Dorothy E. Ann Fund (D.E.A.F.) was established in March 1997 to address the needs of deaf and hard of hearing youth. D.E.A.F. supports initiatives that strengthen the potential of Deaf or Hard of Hearing youth by working with schools, agencies, and other nonprofit organizations. The fund’s mission is to support the deaf by achieving a better understanding with the community-at-large, promoting hands-on experiences that develop career skills and supporting projects that advocate total participation in education, family, and community functions.

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