



Drawing

Data Layers

Evaluation

▼ Areas of Interest

SELECT

NAME

Deaf Equity - Twin Cities - 8/14/2021
This is the community of individuals in the Deaf, Deaf Blind and hard of hearing community in the twin cities metro area. The locations in this map represent the places where members of this community obtain services, gather for social

These details are updated automatically

▼ Important Places



SELECT

PLACE NAME

 

Describe this point

Communities of Interest

● Twin Cities Metro Deaf, Deaf Blind and Hard of Hearing community

Deaf Equity - Twin Cities - 8/14/2021

This is the community of individuals in the Deaf, Deaf Blind and hard of hearing community in the twin cities metro area. The locations in this map represent the places where members of this community obtain services, gather for social activities and workshop, and find employment and recreation. Many members of this community live near these services and places of employment, and near light rail and transit centers as they are important for accessibility to members of this community.

Deaf and DeafBlind people from other states sometimes move here because the services are so good. Minnesota is the second largest DeafBlind community (Seattle is the largest). There is great interagency collaboration for Deaf and Deafblind services.

This community uses American Sign Language to communicate. Community members appreciate face-to-face interactions because they can see facial expressions. And they also appreciate physical environments that make it easy to see signing (e.g., good lighting, no window glares.)

Some community members also use Black American Sign Language, while at least one community member is learning written Korean and Korean Sign Language. Yet another community member also knows the Shona language, as well as other African languages. One member is learning International Sign Language. Most community members who are sighted use written English. For DeafBlind community members, tactile communication is key.

The community is very intersectional, with multifaceted identities. Many members of the community are active members of other communities, such as the Korean adoptee community, the Black community, the queer community, and the Muslim community. (Minneapolis has the best Pride fest around!) The community is multiracial, including Black, Latino, and White members. The community is multifaith, including Muslim members. Community members are Deaf, DeafBlind, or hard of hearing.

Some community members grew up in Minnesota, others elsewhere in the US like Chicago and New York, and some were born outside the US. One community member came from Africa, where they experienced fighting and wars while they grew up; they value the equality and freedom they get here compared to when they lived in Africa.

The community is small, but also close-knit, almost like a second family. Many community members learn more Deaf culture and life from their fellow community members.

Some community members grew up in poverty. Some members of the community have family members that are also Deaf, but others come from families who hear.

Some community members use public transportation as well as bike to travel. Several members of the community love how walkable the metro area is. They really appreciate how accessible the city is.

Community members participate in sports and working out. Sports activities they like to do include yoga, bowling, rugby, and more.

COVID-19 was an experience that community members found difficult because it was hard to access information. DeafBlind community members especially felt very isolated; transition to Zoom was not as easy for them as it was for hearing and sighted people. Captioning did not always work well. Asian members were impacted by bias against Asians during COVID-19. Black members of the community were also especially impacted by the events related to the death of George Floyd.

The community loves that there is a local school (Metro Deaf School) that is for Deaf and Deafblind community. Parents don't have to send their children to a residential school outside of the Twin Cities. Hearing people overlook the Deaf school. The community would like there to be better signage so the hearing community can see its presence.

The community appreciates Vocational Rehab Services through DEED, which has Deaf job counselors. The community also has mentorships and internships. Community appreciates the education opportunities here, including Adult Basic Education.

They feel like there is great mental health services available. There are also certified Deaf interpreters in Minnesota. The community loves the theaters because the theaters bring in interpreters. There are also domestic violence services for Deaf survivors as well.

Community would like to see a driver's ed class with an interpreter. Community would also like to see a gathering place for Deaf artists. Public transportation is sometimes difficult for the DeafBlind community. Minnesota Deaf Muslim needs more money. Not all crosswalks have the vibration notification that it is safe to cross, which is makes safety a big concern in downtown areas.

The community is concerned about cultural genocide. The Deaf chemical dependency program is gone, and other services are being split up. Deaf education is a big issue. There's an ongoing discussion about sending children to a specific-Deaf school vs. a mainstream school. On the other hand, community wants to ensure that Deaf children have services continued and available to them and, more importantly, know that Deaf students know their rights and how to advocate for themselves. It's also important that parents of Deaf kids know where to learn about Deaf culture and how to advocate for their kids.

Some members see this forced cultural assimilation with the other facets of their identities, like race, religion, gender, ethnicity, being adoptees, and more. These community members suffer from secondary trauma.

It's hard for legislators to hear the Deaf community because the community is so widely dispersed across the state. Community members felt that the Twin Cities-area community is generally throughout the Twin Cities, so the community region mapped is more general guideline than a clear cut area.

Important Places

Metro Deaf School

Commission for Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing

Deaf Club

Oldest Deaf Club in the US. and is a MN Historical Landmark. This provides social activities for for the Deaf community. Also provides a place for Deaf Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, Deaf ASL Eagle Wrestling team, the Deaf Knitting club, and many other groups to meet. This Deaf club is going through major fundraising for renovation to provide an elevator as the building is not accessible to senior citizens and those with mobility issues.

to meet.

Merriam Park Library

Merriam Library will have books specifically related to deafness

Rondo Library

The Rondo is on the bus line, but has more space to use.

State Services for the Blind

Minneapolis Central Library

Griggs-Midway Building

Minnesota Deaf Muslim Community office is located here

Thinkself Advocacy

ThinkSelf is a Minnesota-based 501c3 nonprofit serving Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled and hard of hearing individuals from a wide range of backgrounds, and domestic violence advocacy and Adult Basic Education.

DeafBlind Services Minnesota, LLC

As well as MN DeafBlind Association

Anderson Center

Every few years, this Center has a Deaf resident artist and host Deaf-related events

Ebenezer Building

Deaf and DeafBlind group home

MCTC

Both Deaf students attend here and Deaf staff work here

Gabe's Bar

Popular place to socialize, many Deaf people eat here after events at Metro Deaf School

Mall of America - Bloomington

Another big place to socialize after Deaf - Blind events. Also many employment opportunities for deaf and Deaf/blind residents at MOA

Black Deaf Advocates

Mailing Address

Minnesota Deaf Queers

Serves the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing LGBTQIA+ Community.

Deaf Equity

Provides Education, Community Engagement, Empowerment and Advocacy support.

Family Tree Clinic

Has a Deaf program to provide ASL Fluent services.

Vona Center for Mental Health

Has Deaf and signing fluent therapists.

Bread of Life Church

Provides Religious services in ASL

Target Field

This is the baseball field where the MN Twins play. It is located on the light rail and so is very accessible and provides many job opportunities for Deaf and Deaf-Blind communities. A majority of Deaf Blind community works at Target Field.

US Bank Stadium

This is a stadium where the NFL Minnesota Vikings play and hosts many special events. This is a place that is very accessible for members of the Deaf and Deaf Blind community and provides many employment opportunities for members of the community.

Lifetrack Resources

This is a place that provides services for members of the Deaf and Deaf Blind community

Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults

This is the Saint Paul Regional office for the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults. Provides direct support services to blind or deaf-blind people to help them live as independently as possible

Deaf Yoga

This is a service offering yoga for the Deaf Community. During COVID this has been an online program only. Met at the Deaf Club.

Saint Paul Curling Club

Only Deaf Curling Club that is associated with the Deaf Olympics
