



**Our Mission:**

**Guide By Your Side provides unbiased, emotional support and resources by trained Parent Guides to families with children who have a hearing loss.**

Through the generosity of private grants, personal donations and funding through the Illinois Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program, Illinois Hands & Voices and CHOICES for Parents, Guide By Your Side is able to provide free services to families. Families can be referred to the program from providers or call directly to participate.

If you would like to refer a family, request brochures/posters or make a donation please contact the GBYS Program Coordinator, Carrie Balian.



*Pictured back row:* Eva S., Melissa J., Christen N., Emily G., Lydia H., Anita M., Jen E., Melissa A., Lucy E., Eliza E., Pauline B., Kelley H.

*Pictured front row:* Jaclyn U., Ali R., Carrie B., Andrea M., Christa J.

**Program Information:**

- 1 Program Coordinator
- 17 Parent Guides (PG)
  - Located throughout the state
  - Backgrounds vary in communication and amplification opportunities
  - Guides who are native Spanish speakers
  - Parent Guide who is Deaf



**Guide Spotlight**

Eliza has been a guide since 2011 and serves Cook county. She has two children one of which who has a hearing loss.

**Comparison of ages of children enrolled in GBYS from Oct-Dec. 2014 to Jan-Mar 2015**

	<u>Oct-Dec</u>	<u>Jan – Mar</u>
<b>Birth-1 year old</b>	17%	25%
<b>1-2 years old</b>	7%	20%
<b>2-3 years old</b>	17%	10%
<b>3-6 years old</b>	17%	20%
<b>6 years and older</b>	42%	25%

**GBYS Promotions**

We participate in a leveled Recognition Program that was created for all Guide By Your Side (GBYS) organizations to ensure that all programs provide the same basic training which is labeled as the “Guide” Level. There are two additional levels, “Lead” & “Senior”, which guides can achieve based on completing basic competency tasks and additional activity points. We have recently had two guides promote to a new level. Don’t hesitate to congratulate the following GBYS team members the next time you speak with them.

**Achieving the “Lead” Level:**

**Kelley Hemesath**

**Achieving the “Senior” Level:**

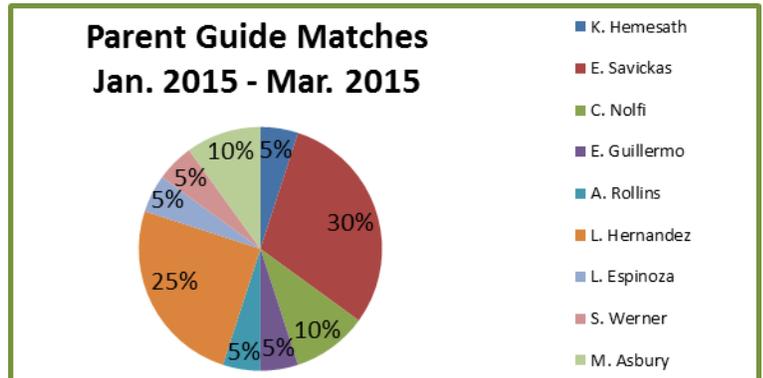
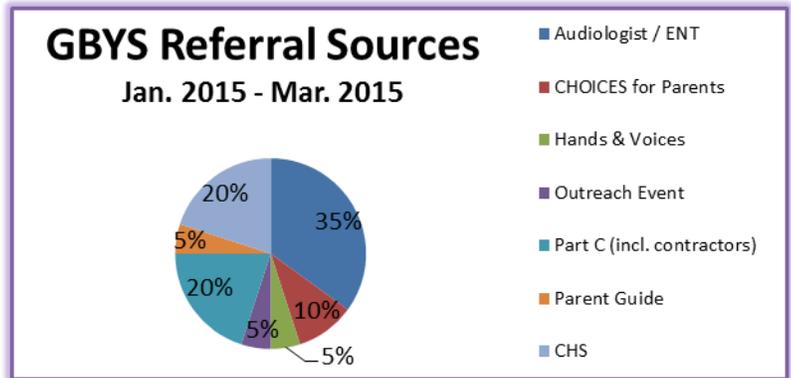
**Alison Rollins**

Please welcome our three new guides to the team: Melissa Joyce, Christen Nolfi and Eva Savickas



**Quarter Reporting for Jan. 2015 – Mar. 2015:**

- 23 Families referred , 20 Families matched
- **Ethnicity** of the families referred:
  - 40% Latino (8 families)
  - 40% Caucasian (8 families)
  - 5% African American (1 family)
  - 15% Multiracial (3 families)
- **Age** of children enrolled in GBYS:
  - 25% Birth-1 year old
  - 20% 1-2 years old
  - 10% 2-3 years old
  - 20% 3-6 years old
  - 25% 6 years and older
- **Primary Language** in the home:
  - English – 9 families
  - Spanish – 5 families
  - English & Spanish – 3 families
  - Other – 1 family
- **Newborn Hearing Screening** results as reported by the parent:
  - Did Not Pass – 8 children
  - Passed – 10 children
  - Pass/Did Not Pass – 0 children
  - Was not screened – 2 children
- **Gender** of children enrolled in GBYS:
  - 16 male, 4 female
- **Medical History** suggestive of:
  - Hereditary – no children
  - Condition assoc. with a hearing loss, 6 children
  - No known syndrome or etiology - 14 children
  - Hearing loss and additional needs- 4 children
- **Unilateral vs. Bilateral** hearing loss:
  - Bilateral – 14 children
  - Unilateral – 6 children
  - Auditory Neuropathy – 1 child
- **Insurance** information of enrolled families:
  - ALL Kids – 3 families
  - Medicaid –6 families
  - Private – 8 families
  - Dual coverage – 3 families



*Guide By Your Side (GBYS) is a collaborative program of Illinois Hands & Voices, the Illinois Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) Program and CHOICES for Parents.*



Stay up to date on events and resources by becoming a fan of Illinois Hands & Voices, Guide By Your Side!

