

Speaking from The Volta Bureau



Dear AG Bell
Community,



HEALTHIEST NATION 2030
April 2 - 8, 2018 | National Public Health Week

April is a month of awareness about health – physical, emotional, psychological – and harnessing that recognition into positive change towards a healthier nation. This week, we are proud to join the [American Public Health Association \(APHA\)](#) in celebrating [National Public Health Awareness Week \(N.P.H.A.W.\)](#) and highlighting issues paramount to improving our nation’s health, such as early hearing detection and intervention.

Since 1995, APHA hosts N.P.H.A.W. to highlight public health achievements and improve the general health of the American people by educating the public about health issues. It’s received increasing support over the years and sponsors new themes annually. This year, it’s “Healthiest Nation 2030: Changing Our Future Together,” with a Friday-specific theme of “Advocate for everyone’s right to a healthy life.” A dedicated website for this week can be visited [here](#) with resources including a toolkit, logos and printable information.

To achieve APHA’s goal of making America the healthiest nation by 2030, it must spotlight this country’s hearing health situation. More than 12,000 babies annually are born in the United States with hearing loss, and this number doubles (due to illness or late onset hearing loss) when children reach kindergarten. More than 90 percent of these children are born to parents who can hear and who (for the most part) are in the dark about how they can help their children communicate.

Key to improving this nation’s hearing health situation is through education, prevention and accessibility. To these ends, [AG Bell](#) helps [APHA](#) reach its “**Healthiest Nation 2030**” goal by connecting families with quality hearing professionals who guide them in how to care for their deaf or hard of hearing children,

offering a cadre of services providing supplemental support and by facilitating a network of parents undergoing identical situations. We are a cradle-to-career resource, with publications keeping parents informed and financial aid programs assisting the children's development.

Our extensive nationwide system of state chapters and global affiliates work with parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing to get the services they need, and with lawmakers to ensure parents can access these resources.

Our programs such as Leadership Opportunities for Teens (LOFT) teaches children with hearing loss self-advocacy skills and sharpens them into the leaders of tomorrow.

Explore the LOFT page [here](#) to learn more and visit our Give page [here](#). Your donations will empower students who are deaf and hard of hearing - who use listening and spoken language - and give them the opportunity to learn self-advocacy, self-reliance and leadership skills.

Everyone deserves the opportunity to live a long, healthy and productive life.

Until next time,



Emilio Alonso-Mendoza
Chief Executive Officer
Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf
and Hard of Hearing

"The first wealth is health." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

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