



PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact: info@sign1news.com
 (716) 427-4461

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Sign1News Receives Adoption Excellence Award from Federal Agency *Adoption initiative brings national awareness to Deaf children in foster care*

ATLANTA, Ga. – [Sign1News](http://Sign1News.com), a digital news network that produces news and provides information in American Sign Language, was recently awarded the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](http://www.hhs.gov) (HHS) 2019 Adoption Excellence Award in the category of Media/Social Media/Public Awareness.

“Honestly, I was speechless,” said Sign1News CEO Karen Graham. “I didn’t know the agency knew we existed, let alone our adoption initiative that helps find permanent homes for Deaf and hard-of-hearing children. To win an award for that is simply mind-blowing.”

Sign1News launched its groundbreaking adoption initiative, “Chosen: A Family Connection,” in early 2019 to help Deaf and hard-of-hearing children in foster care find permanent families.

The initiative eventually caught the attention of Deborah Burrus with the [Georgia Division of Family and Children Services](http://www.ga.gov). Burrus nominated the Atlanta-based media network for its contributions in supporting adoption and other permanency options for children in foster care.

“There are a number of Deaf, hard-of-hearing and DeafBlind children who feel removed from the possibility of having a real home, a real family that can communicate with them,” said Jethro Wooddall, Sign1News “Chosen” spokesperson. “We can show where they are and find a family to match them with, giving them a forever home.”

HHS established its [Adoption Excellence Awards program](#) in 1997 to recognize states, child welfare agencies, organizations, courts, businesses, individuals and families for their exceptional accomplishments in helping children in foster care find permanent homes.

The federal agency hosted the awards ceremony that honored 12 recipients on Nov. 12. The presentation took place at the Children's Bureau celebration of National Adoption Month at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building in Washington, D.C. The event also included the launch of the National Adoption Recruitment Campaign and a national photo exhibit, which featured older youth who are available for adoption.

For Graham, winning this national award is a major step for Sign1News in building its alliances with foster care and adoption agencies.

"I truly hope this award opens doors for other state agencies and non-profit adoption groups around the country to recognize Sign1News' "Chosen" adoption initiative as a viable resource. Our goal is to work together in an unprecedented partnership to share stories of Deaf and hard-of-hearing children in foster care, who are waiting for ready, eager and willing families to open their homes, hearts and hands to them."

About Sign1News Your Life. Your Language.

Sign1News, LLC is the first and only digital network, partnered with world news leader CNN, to offer online news and information in American Sign Language. The company provides equal access to local, regional and national news and information to the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community via daily newscasts, live breaking news, feature stories and real-time streaming of events. Sign1News is broadcasted in more than 45 countries and has more than 50,000 followers on its digital platforms.

For more information, visit <https://sign1news.com/>. You may also follow Sign1News on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn at @sign1news.

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