

## Vice President Report

### **Celebrating Unity**

Hello! First and foremost, Happy New Year and I am honored to be your new MDA Vice President. Secondly, a warm welcome is extended to our new MDA Board members Christopher Samp and Rachel Schulbaum (Hand Wave). We look forward to your leadership and contribution to your new roles as we move forward in unity for the year 2021.

In the month of January, we organized two virtual events. Jan 17th , 2020 *Sunday Solidarity: Building Beloved Community* along with Detroit Disability Power and 12 other partner community organizations. 120+ healers, artists, organizers, caregivers, and new friends gathered virtually as we hosted 12 workshops where discussed topics that connected disability justice to racial justice, reproductive justice, mutual aid, artistic expression, collective care, and, of course, the enduring legacy of the Rev. Dr. King! It was truly refreshing to see all of us learning together about inclusive organizing, accessible movements, about history, and about ourselves. If you were not in attendance, we hope you can join us at next year's celebration; but don't worry, we'll keep you up to date about other MDA happenings before then.

Jan 18th, 2020, the eve before our country sworn in President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, we hosted, *Day of Service "How to be an Ally for the Deaf Community"* a virtual workshop educating participants about the Deaf community and learning few sign languages and how to be an ally for the Deaf community led by our Public Relations Coordinator Christopher Samp! This event was also streamed LIVE to MDA's facebook page. You can check it out [here](#).

We recently developed a BIPOC committee with the goal to strengthen our outreach with other BIPOC community members and organizations, to support the National Association of the Deaf with BIPOC priorities and to have collaborative educational workshops/training/events. If you are interested in joining this new committee, sign up [here](#).

Black history month **in February is recognized as an** annual celebration of achievements by many **African** Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in our U.S. **history AND present**. We invite you to ...

As always, drop me a line if you have questions, comments or concerns, [vicepresident@michdeaf.org](mailto:vicepresident@michdeaf.org).

In solidarity,

Teddy Dorsette III