



June 2014

**Helen Keller  
National Center  
for Deaf-Blind  
Youths and Adults**

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Operated by  
Helen Keller Services  
for the Blind

Dear Colleague:

Thirty years ago this month, President Ronald Reagan issued a presidential proclamation designating the last week of June as "Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week." Every year since, the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths & Adults (HKNC) commemorates the week with a national advocacy campaign in recognition of the achievements and capabilities of people who are deaf-blind.

In 2014, Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week is June 22 to June 28. This year's theme, "**SHE'S DEAF-BLIND AND, WITH TECHNOLOGY, SHE HOLDS THE WORLD IN HER HANDS...JUST LIKE HER LOVED ONES,**" highlights the fact that, through technology, people who are deaf-blind can now access the world around them independently.

In an increasingly digital world, HKNC is working with deaf-blind individuals to stay connected to their friends, family, and peers through the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program. This program ensures that qualified individuals with a combined hearing and vision loss can obtain accessible telecommunications devices and the necessary training to use them.

Enclosed is the 2014 poster designed pro bono by Grey Healthcare Group, NYC, celebrating the 2014 campaign. For a sample proclamation, suggested activities, and other promotional materials go to [www.hknc.org](http://www.hknc.org) or [www.helenkeller.org](http://www.helenkeller.org). Please share this information among your staff and/or with your many community resources.

HKNC is the only national agency that provides information, referral, support, and training exclusively to youths and adults who have a combined vision and hearing loss, their families, and the professionals who work with them.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas J. Edwards  
President & CEO