

The SignWriting
Online Dictionary For The Deaf

...teaching the born-deaf to read and write...

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SignWriting Online Dictionary For The Deaf

Improving the literacy skills of
the born-deaf...

Used by 1000's on the web...

Background

The SignWriting Literacy Project for Deaf People is solving a problem that, up until now, seemed unsolvable. There have always been profoundly-deaf children who are born-deaf and never learn to read and write a spoken language well. Our invention, SignWriting, is a key to unlocking the road to literacy, by providing Deaf children a way to read and write their own Sign Language. This in turn inspires them to read and write spoken languages, because for the first time, the world of written literature becomes an active part of their lives. And classroom documentation is now proving this to be true.

Our Center For Sutton Movement Writing, which sponsors the Literacy Project, is a 501(c) (3) educational nonprofit, now 26 years old, located in the San Diego area. We are an international organization, servicing Deaf Education in 18 countries. Deaf literacy skills are improving because of our revolutionary work.

Practical application of SignWriting is producing amazing results and is currently the subject of research at the University of New Mexico. The study is documenting SignWriting's success in the classroom. Using the system, Deaf children are actually teaching their teachers how to read and write signs, and translating their documents into English to share with their hearing parents. For many born-deaf children, this is the first time they have ever written any language, a major step in building self-esteem.

Sign Language Dictionaries Teach Language

Dictionaries between Sign Language and English are important parts of learning to read and write for the born-deaf. In the past, there was no way to read and write Sign Language. But with SignWriting, it is possible for Deaf people to write signs themselves, and find words, a major improvement over older dictionary methods that showed photos of a person signing, with no way to write those signs. Now, with our new and ever-expanding SignWriting Dictionary, edited by a staff of Deaf native signers, learning becomes an interactive experience for Deaf children, because they can sign the words they are learning to read and write, just as a hearing person might "sound out" pronunciation.

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PROJECT

The SignWriting Online Dictionary For Deaf People

Project Description

Since 1995 our organization has harnessed the power of the Internet to great advantage. We now have up to 1000 unique web visitors a day from over 18 countries (the number fluctuates daily). Since going online, we have seen an explosion in the use and acceptance of SignWriting worldwide. Our proposal is to better serve current and future users by making the SignWriting Dictionary available via ordinary Web browsers. Beginning and advanced users, as well as teachers and linguists will have immediate access to the latest version of the SignWriting Dictionary free-of-charge. Users will type search-words in English and get equivalent signs in American Sign Language, written in SignWriting.

Phase One

Setting Up The First Dictionary on the Web

Funds in this proposal cover the database and website development costs, as well as the software licensing and server hosting fees for three years. The result will be our first working English-American-Sign-Language-Dictionary on the web. It will be a small dictionary to begin with, approximately 1000 signs. Once tested with Deaf children and their teachers, we can then move on to Phase Two, creating larger dictionary databases.

Phase One Estimated Budget

Database development	20 hours @ 125.00 hr.	2,500.00
Web publishing, HTML programming and design	40 hours @ 95.00 hr.	4,000.00
Database hosting	36 months @ 149.00 mo.	5,364.00
Server set-up fee.....		75.00
Database Web-Setup Costs		\$11,939.00
Data Entry of 1000 signs and words	80 hours @ 30.00 hr.	2,400.00
TOTAL PHASE ONE		\$14,339.00

PROJECT DIRECTOR

Valerie Sutton
858-456-0098 voice
858-456-0020 fax
Sutton@SignWriting.org
www.SignWriting.org

Future Phases

Enlarging The Database Adding New Features

Future projects will include the continued development of the SignWriting Dictionary. As the dictionary grows, more and more grammar points will be included, such as verb conjugations, descriptions of pronouns, facial adverbs, adjectives, idioms, etc. We also plan a multi-lingual database, between different signed and spoken languages, bringing deaf and hearing people together from different countries.

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Our Mission

Improving literacy levels of the born-deaf.



Requested by Teachers. Our literacy materials are sorely needed. Educators have suggested and requested them.

Why Is It Needed?. Not all born-deaf children learn to read and write well. Many schools graduate born-deaf children with little or no English skills. Why is this? One reason is that the born-deaf's first native language is not English, but Sign Language. Learning to read and write your second language before learning to read and write your first language is very difficult. Before SignWriting was invented, there was no solution.

SignWriting makes it possible for deaf children to read and write Sign Language and English side by side. For many deaf children, SignWriting is the bridge to literacy. The purpose of the Literacy Project is to test this in the schools and to then disseminate the documentation to other educators for review. Documentation already received has been outstanding and the results are quite successful. Kids who could not read before are reading in ways that people would never have dreamed.

Target Population. The age of the students varies depending on the school. Our focus is K-12. However, Deaf people of all ages can use our materials. Some Deaf adults have greatly benefited from our materials too. We have created a special web page for each school, which documents the students' progress, and provides information for parents & teachers.

How Many Served?

Software & Web: Thousands receive free software, free lessons online, and free documented feedback posted on our popular SignWriting Web Site: www.SignWriting.org.

Donated Materials: Hundreds of deaf children per year plus groups of Deaf adults, are receiving donated books, videos and software. Their parents and teachers benefit from our donated materials too. This includes two residential schools for the Deaf, four mainstreaming hearing impaired programs at elementary schools, and one private-tutor with 7 deaf children. The schools are all over the USA. Our organization is located in Southern California.

SignWriting Email List: 180 members include teachers, administrators and researchers. Issues surrounding literacy for the deaf are discussed. This service is provided free by our non-profit organization, and is helping educators learn of new developments.

Part-Time Employment For Deaf People

Deaf staff members help prepare the materials.

No Duplication... No other agency duplicates our services, since this is a new way to teach the deaf. No funding is received from the United Way.

Contact Person... Valerie Sutton, inventor SignWriting, President & Executive Director. voice 858-456-0098 • tty 858-456-0010 • fax 858-456-0020 • email: DAC@SignWriting.org

Non-Profit

Internal Revenue Code

Educational corporation
501 (c) (3)

Identification Number

95-3068257

California Revenue Code

Public benefit educational
corporation, section 23701d

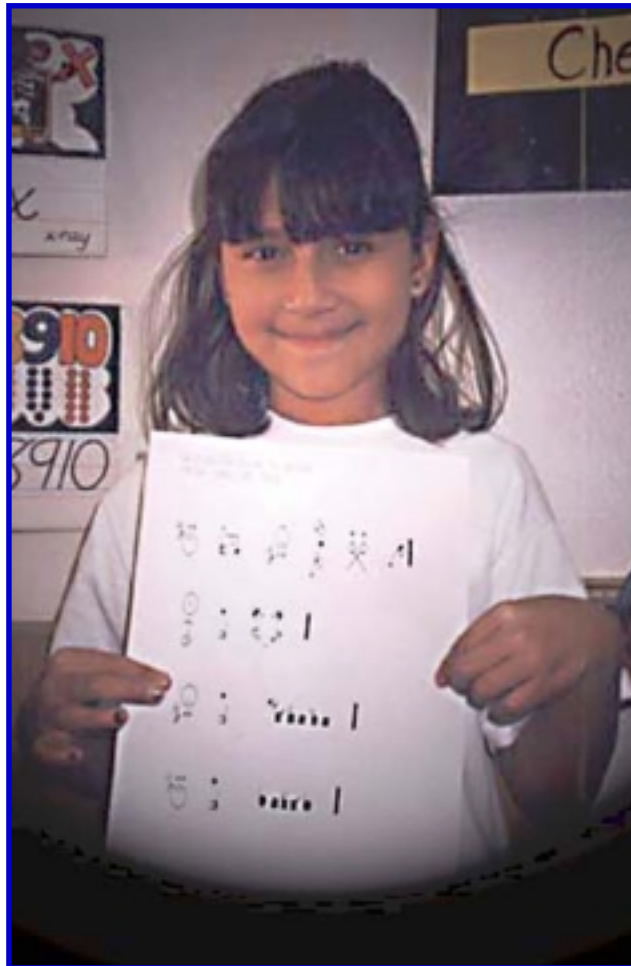
Non-Profit Number

LA: EO: 78: 561

Resale Number

SREA 24-761838

All donations are
tax-deductible for both
Federal Income Tax and
California Franchise Tax.



Proud of her typing!!

Center For Sutton Movement Writing

The Deaf Action Committee For SignWriting (the DAC) is sponsored by the Center For Sutton Movement Writing, Inc., a non-profit, tax-exempt, educational, membership organization founded in Southern California in 1974. Directed by Valerie Sutton, the Center collects funds for publishing books and video tapes, developing computer software & fonts, training instructors, paying Deaf staff members to develop educational materials, designing and posting a free educational web site, and presenting free workshops. The SignWriting Literacy Project, directed by the Deaf Action Committee for SignWriting, started in 1998.



FRANCHISE TAX BOARD

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95867

Telephone (916) 355-0392

September 28, 1976

In reply refer to
344:RDM:vc:g

Center For Sutton Movement Writing, Inc.
6097 Deerford Row, La Jolla, CA. 92037
Identification Number: 95-3068257

Purpose: Charitable & Educational
Form of Organization: Corporation
Accounting Period Ending: December 31
Organization Number:

Based on the information submitted and provided your present operations continue unchanged or conform to those proposed in your application, you are exempt from state franchise or income tax under Section 2370ld, Revenue and Taxation Code. Any change in operation, character or purpose of the organization must be reported immediately to this office so that we may determine the effect on your exempt status. Any change of name or address also must be reported.

You are required to file Form 199 (Exempt Organization Annual Information Return) or Form 199B (Exempt Organization Annual Information Statement) on or before the 15th day of the 5th month (4-1/2 months) after the close of your accounting period. See annual instructions with forms for requirements.

You are not required to file state franchise or income tax returns unless you have income subject to the unrelated business income tax under Section 23731 of the Code. In this event, you are required to file Form 109 (Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return) by the 15th day of the 3rd month (2- 1/2 months) after the close of your annual accounting period.

Contributions made to you are deductible by donors as provided by Sections 17214 through 17216.2 and 24357 through 24359 of the Code, unless your purpose is testing for Public Safety.

If the organization is incorporating, this approval will expire unless incorporation is completed with the Secretary of State within 30 days.

Exemption from federal income or other taxes and other state taxes requires separate applications.

*We are returning duplicates of documents submitted with the application.

Jim Giroud
Supervisor
Exempt Organizations

~~XXX~~ cc: Secretary of State (Corp.) cc: Stanley P. Witkow
cc: Registrar of Charitable Trusts

Address any reply to: P.O. Box 2350, Los Angeles, Calif. 90053

Department of the Treasury

LA:EO:78:561

PROOF OF 501 (c) (3) STATUS

District Director

Internal Revenue Service

Date: **MAR 28 1978** In reply refer to: **J. Jones**
L-178, Code 411 EOG-2:1

Determination Section (213) 688-4553

- ▷ **Center For Sutton Movement Writing, Inc.**
6097 Deerford Row, La Jolla, CA. 92037
Identification Number: 95-3068257

Purpose: Educational
Accounting Period Ending: December 31

Based on information supplied, and assuming your operations will be as stated in your application for recognition of exemption, we have determined you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

We have further determined you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code, because you are an organization described in section 509(a)(2).

You are not liable for social security (FICA) taxes unless you file a waiver of exemption certificate as provided in the Federal Insurance Contributions Act. You are not liable for the taxes imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Since you are not a private foundation, you are not subject to the excise taxes under Chapter 42 of the Code. However, you are not automatically exempt from other Federal excise taxes. If you have any questions about excise, employment, or other Federal taxes, please let us know.

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

If your purposes, character, or method of operation is changed, please let us know so we can consider the effect of the change on your exempt status. Also, you should inform us of all changes in your name or address.

If your gross receipts each year are normally more than ~~\$5,000~~^{10,000}, you are required to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax, by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your annual accounting period. The law imposes a penalty of \$10 a day, up to a maximum of \$5,000, for failure to file a return on time.

You are not required to file Federal income tax returns unless you are subject to the tax on unrelated business income under section 511 of the Code. If you are subject to this tax, you must file an income tax return on Form 990-T. In this letter we are not determining whether any of your present or proposed activities are unrelated trade or business as defined in section 513 of the Code.

You need an employer identification number even if you have no employees. If an employer identification number was not entered on your application, a number will be assigned to you and you will be advised of it. Please use that number on all returns you file and in all correspondence with the Internal Revenue Service.

Please keep this determination letter in your permanent records.

Sincerely yours,

W. H. Connett

District Director

Payments made to you for books, instruction, or any other services do not constitute a deductible charitable contribution to the purchaser. They should be so advised.