

Allen “Al” Alvord

Allen “Al” Alvord was born profound deaf and relocated from Chicago, Illinois to St Louis, MO to attend St Joseph Institute for the Deaf before moving on to receive 3 different degrees from 3 different colleges; an AAS in Automotive Technology, a BS in Accounting/Business from Gallaudet in 1994 and an MA in Education from Lindenwood University in 2011.

He has a wide range of experience in his field ranging from automotive mechanic, accountant, sales, marketing, county appraiser, manager/representative for Communication Access Center for the Deaf and an American Sign Language teach for high school and college level students for 20 years. Currently he works as an Outreach Specialist for Relay Missouri.

He is actively involved in the Deaf community as a president of St Joseph Alumni Association, treasurer/workshop committee for Catholic Deaf Society and president of Missouri American Sign Language Teaching Association. My past affiliations are with the Catholic Deaf Society and other organizations.

In my free time, I enjoy traveling, remodeling /landscape, visiting antique malls, spending time with family and friends. I traveled many states and want to travel to Europe and Australia someday. Also, as a ministry, I assist senior citizens, low income folks and friends on projects around their homes.

Michelle Vincino

Michelle Vicino, a native of Chesterfield, Missouri and Relay Missouri’s Account Manager, joined the Sprint Relay Team in 2009. Born hearing and suffering from spinal meningitis as an infant, Michelle has had a progressive hearing loss since the age of 4. She attended college at the University of Missouri – Columbia and California State University – Northridge before graduating from Rochester Institute of Technology in 2004 with a Bachelor’s of Science in Marketing. She went on to work for a large beer manufacturer in Denver, Colorado while working as an Outreach Specialist for the Relay Colorado program. As a Relay user herself, her utilization of the Sprint products and services, gives her credibility in their market as well as the ability to meet the needs of the population she serves since she understands, first-hand, what consumers are experiencing.

Mary Stodden

Mary Stodden, a retired high school librarian, has been an advocate for those with hearing loss for nearly 30 years. She currently is the chairperson for the Hearing Loss Association of America Greater St. Louis Chapter, a member of the St. Charles City Disability Board, on the Board of Trustees for the St. Charles Community College and a member of the Vocational Rehabilitation Council for the State of Missouri. Stodden received the lifetime achievement award from the the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing People in 2004, the Woman of Worth Award in 2011 and the St. Charles School District Specialized Teacher Award in 2012.

Opeoluwa Sotonwa, LL.M

Mr. Opeoluwa Sotonwa joined the MCDHH staff in 2014 as the Executive Director. Mr. Sotonwa has been an advocate for disability rights issues since becoming a lawyer in Nigeria. He holds a LL.M. (Master of Laws) from the Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C., where he graduated Cum Laude. Mr. Sotonwa is currently an Appointed Board Member of the National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA) and was formerly the organization’s Vice President. Mr. Sotonwa is a member of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), as well as several think-tank organizations that focus on disability rights advocacy around the world. He was formerly with the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH), where he

coordinated statewide advocacy referrals for deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians. Mr. Sotonwa is a member of Missouri Society of Association Executives, Relay Missouri Advisory Committee, Missouri Department of Mental Health Deaf Advisory Council, Missouri Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project Advisory Committee, and Missouri Newborn Hearing Screening Standing Committee . A consummate advocate; Mr. Sotonwa brings a lot of passion and a constituent-centered leadership approach to the Commission.