



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ACTION

GALA 2026 MEDIA KIT

Friday, November 6, 2026
The Pittman Hotel, Dallas, TX

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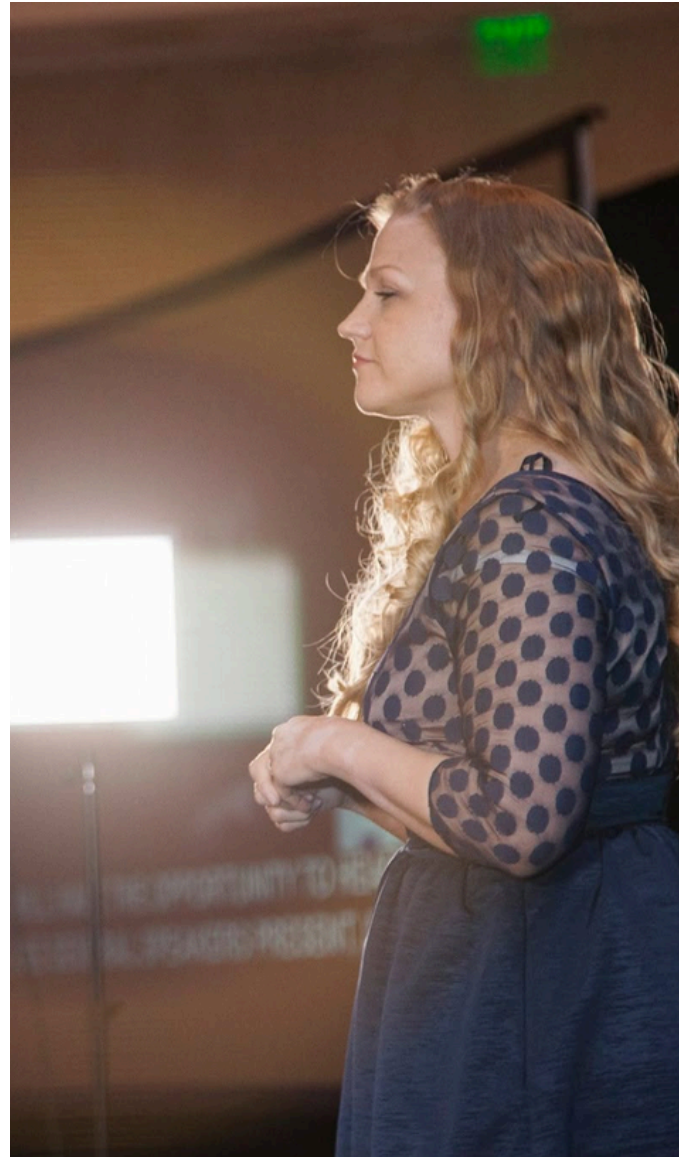
Our Gala

**An evening to reflect on the powerful legacy
of service that has shaped our past and invest in our future.**

Join us for an unforgettable evening as Deaf Action Center presents its gala, **50 Years of Action**. This formal celebration brings together community leaders, advocates, and supporters to reflect on the powerful legacy of service that has shaped our past and to invest in the future we are building together.

Guests will enjoy an inspiring program highlighting the transformative impact of our work, uplifting stories from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community, and opportunities to deepen your connection to our mission. The evening will feature a curated dining experience, live entertainment, and meaningful moments that honor those who have helped advance access, equity, and opportunity.

Make your plans now to join Honorary Chair Kevin Carr, CODA and owner of Dallas's own award-winning Community Beer Co., and Heather Hughes, DAC's very first Deaf Executive Director (*Pictured Right*), as we celebrate fifty years of Deaf and Hard of Hearing access services to the Dallas community — a historical narrative, past success stories, and the areas of focus for the next fifty years.



**Friday, November 6, 2026
The Pittman Hotel, Dallas, TX**

6 – 7pm – Registration, happy hour, networking, and history exhibit.
7 – 9pm – Dinner and program.
9 – 10pm – The After Party.

Deaf Action Center



Since 1975, Deaf Action Center (DAC) has been the only Deaf-run nonprofit in North Texas providing fully ASL-accessible programs and services.

Deaf Action Center is led by members of the communities we serve. Many of our staff are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, making our employees uniquely equipped for the work we do.

Our Mission:

We are committed to providing a quality service to those we serve. Our mission is to provide the Deaf and Hard of Hearing the means to ensure advancement through education, economic security, and good health.



Our Vision:

We focus on compassion, understanding, and equipping the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community with tools to thrive independently and collaboratively while expanding services to meet client needs.

2025 Impact Report



HOUSING

79 Unique Housing Clients Served.

We assist Deaf and Hard of Hearing people with public housing applications in their native language, ASL. Individuals and families come to DAC for help with eviction diversion, rental assistance, and mediation or other alternative dispute resolution with landlords. We also provide case management services related to housing stability.



ACCESS

256 Unique DHH Clients Served.

Our services range from educating clients on how to self-advocate for effective communication access. We also provide information and resources that enable clients to make informed decisions for themselves. Additionally, we give presentations to Deaf, Hard of Hearing and non-Deaf groups on the Americans with Disabilities Act, Deaf culture, and accommodations in employment settings.



SENIOR CITIZENS OPERATION PROGRAM (SCOP)

84 one-on-one services provided. 91 group presentation/activities provided.

Our seniors participate in educational and recreational activities that keep them socially engaged and physically moving. Our educational programs cover topics such as nutrition, financial literacy and communications technology. We also provide direct services such as translating written documents into ASL so that they may make informed decisions.



INFORMATION, REFERRAL, AND ASSISTANCE (IRA)

442 Unique Clients Served.

We work to equip those who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing with the skills, information, and resources they need to effectively navigate life. We bridge the gap between the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and non-deaf communities by making referrals to other organizations that offer additional services needed by our community members.



INTERPRETING

274 unique customers served through 7,114 assignments, with 119 interpreters and captioners providing 17,482 hours of service.

We offer American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting and Communication-Access Real Time (CART) services at competitive prices for businesses, hospitals, schools, conferences and more. Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) is also available. Our interpreters are screened and vetted to ensure they are either qualified or certified to meet your needs.



ASL CLASSES

22 Classes & 164 Participants Taught.

American Sign Language (ASL) classes are taught by a Deaf instructor, providing an introduction to both ASL and Deaf culture. Classes range from introductory materials to basic conversational knowledge and were offered both virtually and in-person at our Dallas office in 2025.

Hands of Our Gala



Kevin Carr, Honorary Chair:

Kevin Carr is the founder and owner of Community Beer Co., Dallas's award-winning craft brewery built on the motto "Beer for the Greater Good." Kevin is a CODA (Child of a Deaf Adult). His mother, father, and grandparents all are Deaf, and he grew up interpreting for her and navigating hearing-centered systems on her behalf. That early, personal experience with communication access shapes why he's honored to serve as Honorary Chair for DAC's 50th Anniversary Gala. Since opening Community Beer Co. in 2011, Kevin has built his business around bringing people together, a value he now extends to DAC's mission of connecting the Deaf and hearing communities of North Texas.

Dr. IV Mirus, Featured Presenter:

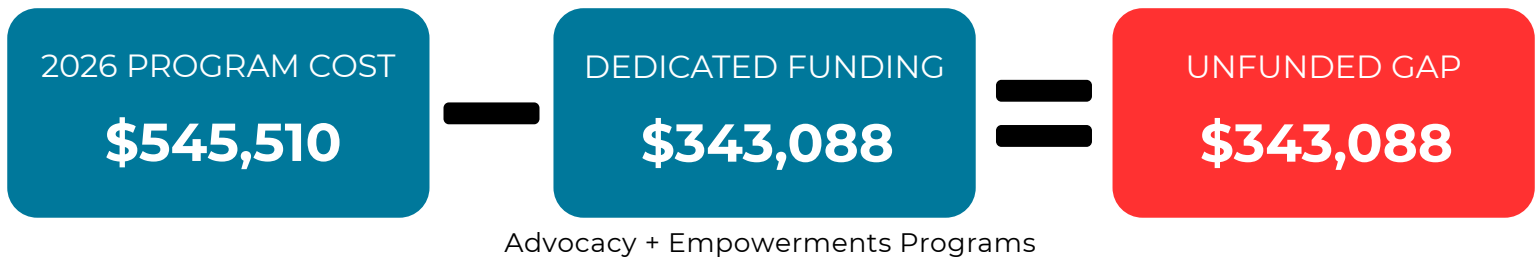
Dr. Carl "IV" Mirus IV, MD, MPH is an emergency medicine physician and Assistant Professor at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. His clinical work and research focus on improving emergency care for Deaf and Hard of Hearing patients, including the real risks that inadequate communication access can create in urgent medical situations. Dr. Mirus brings a physician's-eye view to DAC's mission, underscoring that accessible communication in moments like a hospital visit isn't a courtesy. It can be the difference between a safe outcome and a dangerous one.

Patty Ávila and Dr. Topher Ávila, Featured Presenters:

Patty Ávila is a Latina Deaf woman who grew up in Mexico City, where limited access to education and interpretation kept her from attending school beyond a trade certification. Wanting a different future for her children, she moved to Dallas, Texas, where she raised her Deaf children multilingually in LSM, ASL and English. Her son, Dr. Topher Ávila, became the first in his family to earn two bachelor's degrees, going on to complete a master's in Sign Language Education (MASLED) at Gallaudet University and a Ph.D. at Texas Tech. Today he is a filmmaker, Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) and RID-certified Deaf Interpreter, community organizer, and co-author of the textbook *Deaf Culture: Exploring Deaf Communities in the United States*. Patty and Topher's story, one generation's fight for language access opening doors for the next, is the epitome of the transformation DAC's next fifty years are built to create.

Why \$100,000, and why now?

The Gala goal comes directly from DAC's 2026 budget:



Our three ACE pillars are **A**dvocacy, **C**ommunication, and **E**mpowerment. Communication is self-sustaining: interpreting fees are projected to bring in \$1,261,239 in 2026, covering that department's full \$1,178,674 operating cost. Advocacy and Empowerment have no equivalent earned-revenue engine. They run on a mix of restricted grants and unrestricted donations that consistently fall short of the true cost of the work, and 100% of Gala proceeds are directed to closing that gap.



Advocacy | Communication | Empowerment

Closing Advocacy's \$79,630 gap sustains the team that teaches Deaf and Hard of Hearing clients how to advocate for themselves and secure accommodations they're legally entitled to at a hospital, in court, or at work. It runs on a single government grant that covers 61% of its cost, meaning this work is one renewal cycle away from being cut.

Empowerment's \$122,792 gap, DAC's largest funding shortfall, supports the Senior Citizen Operations Program (SCOP) and the Information & Referral (IRA) case management program. These serve an aging Deaf and Hard of Hearing population with growing wellness and social-isolation needs, and case managers already stretched thin helping people build the self-advocacy skills to access resources independently.

A gift to the Gala goes directly toward the \$100,00 meant to closes nearly half of the \$202,422 gap. So these programs aren't rebuilt from scratch every grant cycle.

Sponsorship

Sponsoring Deaf Action Center's 50th Anniversary Gala is an investment in accessible programs, advocacy, communication access, and community connection throughout North Texas.

**Together, we aim to raise \$100,000 to sustain
DAC's essential nonprofit programs and services.**

As a sponsor, your brand gains:

- High-impact visibility with a loyal, purpose-driven audience
- Authentic alignment with accessibility, equity, and real community change
- Exclusive access to amplify your brand and champion the DAC mission

All DAC 2026 Gala sponsors receive recognition through a variety of media:

- Recognition on the event website,
- Logo in gala marketing emails, and
- Logo on signage and program at the event

For inquiries, contact us via email (events@dactexas.org)

View our Gala website [here](#).

View our sponsorship opportunities [here](#).

Reserve a seat [here](#).

