

## ABOUT DBMAT

DBMAT was first envisioned by parents and professionals in 1973. The rubella epidemic of the 1960's resulted in many children born with deafblindness and multiple disabilities. Parents and professionals developed an organization which would assist in dealing with the children's challenges as well as advocating for their needs. DBMAT Board positions are filled by parents or siblings of those with deafblindness and multiple disabilities. Our annual conference is attended by parents from around the state as well as professionals from state agencies, educational and national organizations. These groups stay in contact year round to advocate, educate and assist.

### DBMAT VISION



DBMAT is currently working in a number of ways to improve access and quality of intervener services. Our goal is to ensure that qualified interveners are available to deafblind individuals of all ages. An intervener is a person with specialized skills and training who provides direct support to a person with deafblindness. They help the person with deafblindness interact with their world. The most famous example of an intervener was Annie Sullivan who worked lifelong with Helen Keller.

DBMAT is a 100% volunteer ran organization!

Sign-up soon so you can join the fun!

### DBMAT Aims To:

- Improve the quality of life for all Texans who are deafblind with multiple disabilities.
- Ensure that all persons who are deafblind are provided necessary support services from the age of diagnosis. We do this through advocacy with the federal and state legislature and educational systems.
- Provide support and training to all parents of deafblind children so that they can meet the needs of their children and families.
- Improve the working conditions of those who work with people who are deafblind with multiple disabilities. We advocate so that these dedicated and caring individuals are provided with the tools to do the job. This includes adequate training, professional recognition, and commensurate salaries. DBMAT is funding a limited number of scholarships for people who are working as interveners.



### How you can help...

- Join: There are regular or associate memberships. These guarantee you mailings of our newsletter and notice of any DBMAT events including the annual conference.
- Donate funds: Donations are used for conference organization, our Intervener Scholarship Fund and advocacy activities.
- Join one of our subcommittees: Send an e-mail to our president to let him know you want to participate in any of these committees: conference planning, publication-internet, assistance to families, legislative activities or budget-fundraising.
- Advocate: Lend your voice as we advocate for people who are deafblind with multiple disabilities.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DBMAT

- **THE TEXAS INTERAGENCY DEAFBLIND TASK FORCE** was founded and is co-directed by DBMAT. This group allows professionals and parents to discuss new issues and solve specific problems in the field of deafblindness.
- **THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE** is held by DBMAT for families of persons with deafblindness and multiple disabilities. The conference receives major support from the Texas Blind Children's Program of Health and Human Services as well as the Texas Deafblind Project of the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.
- **THE NEWSLETTER** is published twice a year to get the word out about deafblindness, new services, accomplishments and new ideas in the field.
- **SUPPORT TO PARENTS** through parent advocacy training at camp and by staying connected throughout the year.
- **INTERVENER SCHOLARSHIPS** are offered thanks to funds raised by golf tournaments.
- **ADVOCACY from DBMAT** is responsible for the development of the Deafblind Program which is now located at Health and Human Services. This program started as 3 small group homes for children who were aging out of the school system. Over time, DBMAT worked with the state to develop this program into the country's only Deafblind Medicaid Waiver. This waiver is a model program which continues to improve with time. DBMAT's advocacy resulted in passage of Texas bills for an intervener career ladder, and services to children.



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please check type of membership:

- Regular** (Persons who are deafblind, their parents/guardians/extended family members and adult siblings)
- Associate** (Persons who work with the sensory impaired and supportive community members)

**Annual Dues: \$10.00 per individual**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City,State,Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Form Completion \_\_\_\_\_

**Child/Adult with Sensory Disabilities:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_  
Vision \_\_\_\_\_ Hearing \_\_\_\_\_ Syndrome \_\_\_\_\_  
Is she/he presently being served?  Yes  No  
Program Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

As an Associate, my occupation is: \_\_\_\_\_

Program \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City,State,Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Contributing Sponsor:

Amount of Gift \_\_\_\_\_

As a Contributing Sponsor, I am interested in DBMAT because: \_\_\_\_\_

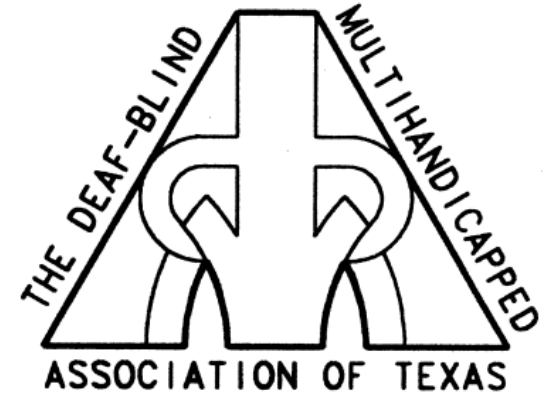
Send receipt for gift to above address.

Please make \$10.00 checks payable to DBMAT.  
Mail with application to:

Christine Givens (DBMAT Membership Coordinator)  
22901 Briarhorn Dr.  
Spring, TX 77389

(281) 370-8195 E-mail: [givens3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:givens3@sbcglobal.net)

**DBMAT**  
Viveca Hartman, President  
1326 Spillers Lane  
Houston, TX 77043



*We advocate for all  
persons who are  
deafblind  
multihandicapped  
of any age  
and their families*

## **Contact DBMAT**

Website: <http://www.DBMAT-tx.org>.

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