

Gregory Perez

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Deaf Planet Soul President and Founder

Chicago, IL
2015 - Present

- Founded nonprofit serving and empowering the Deaf and hard of hearing
- Established programs in childhood literacy, job training, fitness, and life skills support for the Deaf
- Facilitated job training program at Soldier Field, serving over 50 mentees for 8 consecutive years
- Coordinated and facilitated over 150 workshops, events, and fundraisers throughout the United States
- Established Deaf Ecosystem program, empowering dozens of Deaf entrepreneurs throughout the United States
- Supervised staff and related service providers across a wide variety of programs
- Established and managed extensive mentorship program serving Deaf teens and adults with additional disabilities

Deaf Defy Language Acquisition Specialist

Lebanon • Jordan • Palestine • Iraq
March 2017- Present

- Assisted in the coordination of 7 international medical missions
- Facilitated language acquisition counseling program serving deaf children in refugee camps
- Delivered extensive lecture series to local teachers of the Deaf, social workers and audiologists
- Provided 1:1 counseling sessions to over 600 language-deprived deaf children
- Conducted play audiometry sessions for deaf children with additional disabilities
- Created series of sign language education materials for language-deprived children

Center on Deafness Residence Counselor

Northbrook, IL
2001 - Present

- Managed series of group homes for deaf children with emotional disturbances and behavioral disorders
- Managed apartments for deaf adults with disabilities
- Provided daily counseling services to clients
- Instructed clients on the activities of daily living
- De-escalated violent and volatile situations, maintaining the safety of all residents

Mental Health and Deafness Resources Mental Health Professional

Northbrook, IL
2005-2010

- Provided safe environment for deaf children living in group home settings
- Maintained safety and cleanliness during overnight shifts
- De-escalated violent and volatile situations that occurred during overnight shifts
- Prepared clients for school every morning and guided them through the activities of daily living

INVITED SPEAKER ENGAGEMENTS

Deaf Rights 101	Iraqi Kurdistan Ministry of Health	November 2022
Vocational Strategies, Deaf Students	Iraqi Kurdistan Ministry of Education	November 2022
Teaching Strategies, Deaf Students	Iraqi Kurdistan Ministry of Education	November 2022
Social-Emotional Dvpmt for Deaf Students	Iraqi Kurdistan Ministry of Health	November 2022
Visual Teaching in Deaf Classrooms	Iraqi Kurdistan Ministry of Education	November 2022
The Power of Accessibility	Deaf Defy Annual Gala	July 2022
Strategies for a Migrant Planet	Depaul Migration Collaborative	April 2022
The Gift of Language	Deaf Defy's Report from the Field	November 2019
Your Future: Now	John Powers Center	November 2019
Change Makers Panel	Facebook Headquarters	September 2019

The Rights of Deaf Patrons
The Plight of Deaf Refugees
Language for the Language Deprived

Lisle Public Library System
United Nations Development Programme
Sounds of Hope Gala

August 2019
October 2019
July 2017

Awards

Making a Difference Award
Volunteer of the Year Award

NBC Chicago
Deaf Defy

July 2020
December 2019

SKILLS

Fluent in American Sign Language (ASL)

Highly experienced in de-escalating children and adults with disabilities during times of crisis

Highly experienced in communicating with language-deprived and non-verbal individuals

CPR Certified (renewed 2019)

CPI Certified (renewed 2021)

EDUCATION

New York School for the Deaf, High School Diploma received

1992

Rochester Institute of Technology, 20 credit hours

1995

Gallaudet University, 20 credit hours

1997