Our Mid-Hudson Interpreter Service (MHIS)

The Mid-Hudson Interpreter Service (MHIS) is a program of Taconic Resources for Independence, Inc. (TRI). TRI/MHIS was founded in 1989 by Mary E. Wambach, the first Deaf Executive Director of TRI. Since our founding, MHIS has a proud 30-year history of coordinating interpreting services for, and working directly with, the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (Deaf/HH) community of the Mid-Hudson Valley. MHIS in addition to interpreter coordination services, provides advocacy support for Deaf/HH individuals in an effort to educate businesses and entities about accessible communication guidelines for the Deaf/HH community under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as to assist and guide Deaf individuals when accessing services and supports through various community entities. MHIS Deaf/HH advocates work closely with medical providers, emergency responders, schools, courts, and other entities in our community to educate them not only about their responsibilities under the ADA, but also about Deaf culture and how to respectfully work with Deaf/HH individuals. Additionally, MHIS also directly hires Deaf adults from within our community to teach hearing families with Deaf children American Sign Language (ASL) in an effort to preserve ASL and Deaf culture and to also eradicate occurrences of language deprivation and Deaf isolation in hearing families with Deaf children. Families from this program have received Smoke/Fire alarms for the Deaf/HH children in the household.

MHIS is an active force in the community and has engaged in various fundraising efforts, including coordinating with various agencies in Dutchess County to provide interpreters for Santa Clause for Deaf/HH children at the Poughkeepsie Galleria Mall. During COVID-19 MHIS/TRI engaged in one of the first efforts locally to promote the use of masks with clear mouth coverings to allow persons who are Deaf/HH to see facial expressions necessary for appropriate communication for the Deaf/HH community. MHIS also orchestrated a fundraiser for the purchase of these masks to facilitate their use.