



## **2019 Community Leader Agency Award**



### **Deaf Access Services**

Deaf Access Services (DAS) was founded in 1983 by a group of volunteers interested in the welfare of the Deaf community and is the only agency of its kind serving the eight counties of WNY. Founded on the principle that communication access is a human and civil right, the agency responds to the interests of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals by promoting communication access, awareness, and opportunities in the greater community. The agency is staffed by Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Hearing individuals, and it affords both a diverse and inclusive environment in which to provide and receive services.

In 2014 DAS expanded their focus to serving not only adults, but also children and families. Among the many services it provides are Advocacy, Assistive Devices, Captioning Services, Employment Support and Home Health. They work with those who were born deaf or became deaf as children, and they also assist Hard of Hearing individuals or those who have become deaf over time. DAS offers Interpreting and Sign Language Instruction, which is open to the general public.

For their work to provide access, opportunity, and inclusion to our community, the NFJC is proud to present Deaf Access Service with the 2019 Community Leader Agency Award. Accepting this award today is Executive Director, Pamela Kefi.



*"...a just community begins with me!"*

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