



## Talk About It

Helping others is often a choice rather than a requirement. What motivates people to help others?



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# Helping Others



## Vocabulary

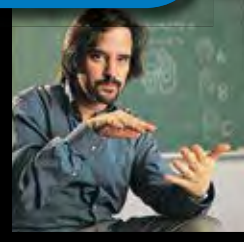
bewildering

moderate

hamper

prohibit

accessible



Claude Shirts combines facial expressions with signs to convey his message.

# Talking With His Hands

*“Go, greased lightning. Go. Go. Go. Go. Go. Go.”*

Those lyrics are fun when you hear them with a rollicking beat in the musical *Grease!* But they would be **bewildering** if you couldn't hear the music. And even if you weren't confused, you would probably be just plain bored.

Being able to capture the spirit of that song and project it to the audience without sound was a challenge for Claude Shirts. He uses sign language to interpret plays for deaf audiences. “I try to tell the story that the music is telling,” he says. Rather than repeating the sign for “go” over and over, he imitated the motions of driving. “I showed the character sitting in a car with his hair going straight back in the wind.”

Shirts, 37, works with Hands On!, a group that interprets theater shows for deaf people. *Grease!* was tough enough to interpret. But that was a **moderate** challenge compared with interpreting the plays of Shakespeare. Shirts says Shakespeare's plays are really tricky because they are written in old-fashioned language. “At first, I had not a clue what the characters were saying,” he admits. “I had to do so much preparation.”

At Hands On! performances, Shirts positions himself so that he doesn't **hamper** deaf audience members' view of the on-stage action. If he does his job well, the crowd does not cheer and applaud. Instead, they reward Shirts with the unique applause given by deaf audiences: the sight of outstretched arms and waving palms moving in silent circles.

## A TRADITION OF GIVING



Daniel Cayce

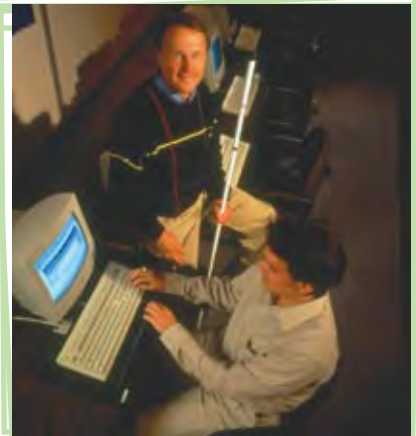
Daniel Cayce started helping needy people in his Arkansas community when he was just three years old. That was when he first volunteered at the food bank his family runs. Cayce's Charity provided more than 1,000 families with food each Thanksgiving. As an Eagle Scout, Daniel decided he wanted to do more. He started a new project that included collecting blankets and pots and pans for the holiday giveaway. His goal one year was to gather more than 1,000 blankets.

"I like helping people," he said. It's as simple as that.

## Able to Work

In 1990, a landmark law was passed in the United States. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) gave an estimated 30 million Americans with disabilities "a fighting chance in the work force," according to former California Congressman Tony Coelho. Coelho himself was once denied the chance to have the career he wanted because he is epileptic.

The ADA was designed to **prohibit** discrimination in the workplace against those with disabilities. In large ways



Ted Henter is blind. He runs a firm that makes software for others who are blind.

and small, the law has brought about changes for the disabled as well as for their employers. It requires businesses to make offices and other workplaces **accessible** to people with disabilities. And it's working. According to Coelho, "There is still job discrimination out there, but the tide is turning."



Tony Coelho



Find out more about the Americans with Disabilities Act at [www.macmillanmh.com](http://www.macmillanmh.com)