

## SOUND OFF - JANUARY 2021

### ENTERING A NEW YEAR - A NOTE FROM DR. SANDRA GABBARD



I am inspired by the resilience of our community and the MDC Team. I am also optimistic about expanding our impact in 2021. Thank you for sharing this journey with us!

There were challenges in 2020 that are obvious to everyone. However, we had many firsts in 2020. Here's a preview of our firsts!

1. A COVID Safe Environment at the MDC
2. A New Website
3. First Virtual Legacy Event
4. A Celebration of Dr. Vickie Thomson's Contributions!

As we look ahead into 2021, we are hard at work preparing to expand our impact. Here's a few highlights to look forward to.

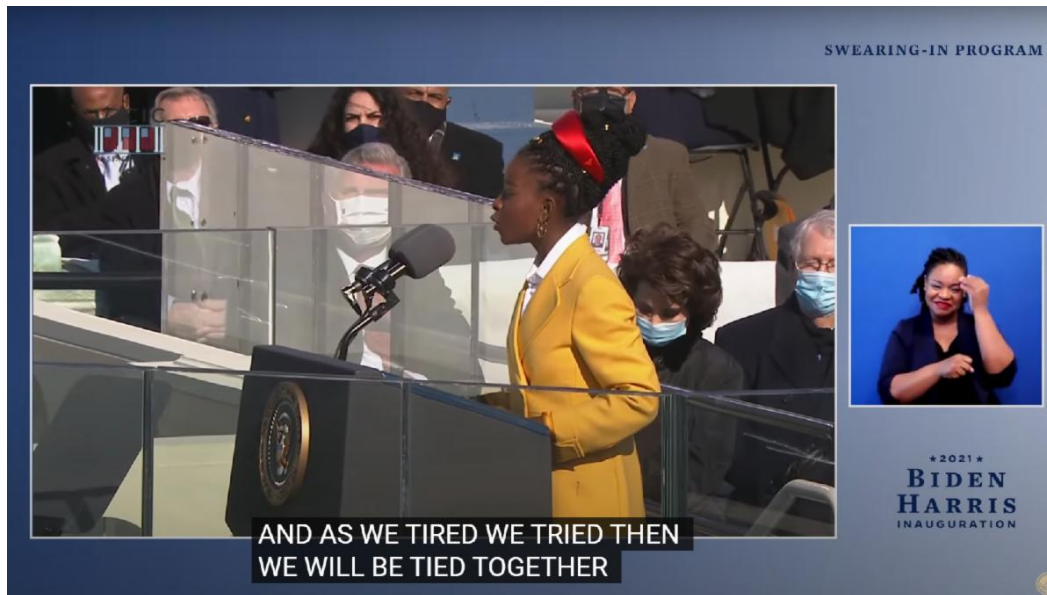
1. Marion's Way Preschool
2. Hearing Conservation Program
3. Music Audiology
4. Expanded Speech Language Services
5. Teen Program Update

We are grateful for your support and we look forward to many more years of serving as a center of excellence for individuals with hearing loss or communication challenges and their families.

Sandra Abbot Gabbard, PhD  
President/CEO, Clinical Audiologist  
Marion Downs Center

[READ MORE ABOUT OUR HIGHLIGHTS HERE](#)

# A MDC PATIENT'S REFLECTION ON "THE HILL WE CLIMB" BY AMANDA GORMAN



Amanda Gorman was brought to the attention of the world on January 20th when she recited her poem, "The Hill We Climb" at the presidential inauguration. She is the first-ever National Youth Poet Laureate, a title awarded in 2017.

"For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it.  
If only we're brave enough to be it." - Amanda Gorman

According to her mother, Amanda is inquisitive, an overachiever, has a strong sense of justice and empathy for others, and is currently studying at Harvard University.

Amanda was diagnosed with **auditory processing disorder (APD)**, making it difficult to hear small differences in sound and interpret speech clearly, and with a **speech articulation disorder**, making it difficult for her to pronounce certain words.

At the Marion Downs Center, we know these challenges well and provide diagnosis, treatment and support for individuals impacted.

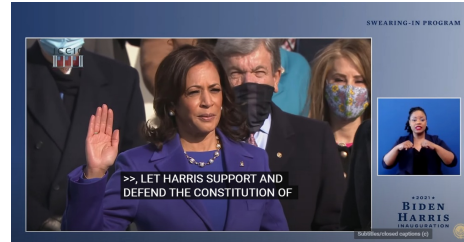
Lauren Puryear receives services at the MDC and Amanda is quite the inspiration to her. Not only have they both experienced listening challenges, but they share a love of learning and poetry. Lauren took the opportunity to share her experience with hearing loss and communication challenges.



Lauren Puryear at Carnegie Hall in 2018 with a National Best in Grade Award for her poem, "Corroded Heart"

READ MORE ABOUT LAUREN'S EXPERIENCES WITH COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES

## A FIRST FOR INAUGURATION ACCESSIBILITY



The 59th Presidential Inauguration featured a first for accessibility with American Sign Language interpreters, audio descriptions, CART, and cued language transliterators all available via youtube video streams.

To watch the inauguration of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris in your preferred mode of access, visit <https://bidenaugural.org/accessibility/>

## STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY & INCLUSION



The Marion Downs Center has updated its statement regarding inclusion and diversity. Our statement is as follows:

**At the Marion Downs Center, we welcome and support all people, including but not limited to those who have been historically underrepresented based on, race/ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, citizenship status, or religion.**

## USE YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE FOR SPEECH AND LANGUAGE SERVICES

Did you know most health insurance covers speech and language services for individuals with speech/language challenges?



We accept Medicaid, Medicare and many private insurance plans and offer in-person as well as telehealth sessions. Email us or call us at 303-322-1871 for more information!

[CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

## Support Marion Downs Center

### Make a minimum donation of \$250 to receive Colorado Child Care Tax Credit!

Did you know that you can claim an income tax credit of 50% of total qualifying contributions to promote child care in Colorado?

Make a minimum donation of \$250 to qualify your donation for the Child Care Tax Credit, and indicate on your donation that you would like to receive the tax credit!

Be sure to make your donation before December 31st to receive your Child Care Tax Credit form in January.

[MAKE A DONATION](#)



### DONATE YOUR USED HEARING DEVICES

Donate your used hearing aids, cochlear implants or assistive listening devices to someone in need through the Marion Downs Center's financial assistance program.

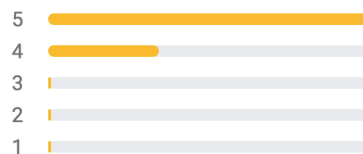
### Submit A Review Online!

We continue to expand our visibility in the community in different ways. One way you can help is by submitting a review of our business on Google, Yelp, or Facebook.

[Submit a Google Review](#)

[Submit a Yelp Review](#)

[Submit a Facebook Review](#)



4.8

★★★★★  
8 reviews

[Write a review](#)

Shop at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and

## Support Marion Downs Center!

Did you know that you can support the Marion Downs Center by using AmazonSmile? It is a simple and automatic way for you to contribute every time you shop at no cost to you.



Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) (instead of Amazon.com), select the Marion Downs Center as your charitable organization, and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

Please consider giving your Amazon purchases the power to be a win for both you and the Marion Downs Center. Thank you for your contribution!

Marion Downs Center | [www.mariondowns.org](http://www.mariondowns.org) | [contact@mariondowns.org](mailto:contact@mariondowns.org)

