

# Johanna Lucht Is Following In The Footsteps Of A Heroine



Photo by Dave Harbour

Johanna Lucht was born in Germany and lived there until she was 12 years old. Although it went unnoticed until she was a young child, Johanna was born deaf. She attended a Department of Defense Dependents School, where there were no interpreters, which forced Johanna to deal with the challenge of having no language until she was nearly nine years old.

With no understanding of verbal language, Johanna couldn't read, which made most assignments difficult to complete. She was frustrated and suffered through school.

Above all, she hated not having an interpreter to break the silence.

All of that changed when interpreters and a specialized teacher became available and taught Johanna American Sign Language. Through the experience Johanna also learned an important life lesson: never give up. Since then, Johanna's education has improved enormously, evidenced by her impressive 3.98 GPA.

After moving to Alaska, Johanna began to serve the community by helping deaf students who struggle with school. She encouraged them to always work towards their goals. Johanna volunteered as one of the tutors at Math Camp, where deaf and hearing impaired students meet to receive further instructions in math and to practice the mathematical component for the High School Graduation Qualifying Examination (HSGQE).

After high school, Johanna sees herself graduating from a university. Her desire for other hearing impaired students is to refuse to give up and work hard to realize their dreams. It's no wonder that Helen Keller is one of Johanna's heroines. Both women are remarkable high achievers who clearly demonstrate their advocacy for people with disabilities.

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the Anchorage Daily News, AT&T, and the University of Alaska*