September 2026 Newsletter

Your partnership and support of our programs, activities, and the families we serve—those who have a loved one with an intellectual or developmental disability—mean the world to us.

Donate to Support WWVDN Programs

Parent to Parent Family Story: Lidia



"My name is Lidia López and I am married to Jacinto Pérez García . Together we have two daughters: Itsaé 7 years old and Dalila 5 years old.

This episode of my life began 12 months ago when my husband burst an aneurysm in his brain; he had an arteriovenous malformation since birth and had never presented symptoms. " **Read More**

Welcome Laura, WWVDN Executive Director



Laura Stevens is the newest member of the Walla Walla Valley Disability Network staff. Laura stepped into the Executive Director role in mid-August and has been busy learning about WWVDN, our programs and services, and the families we support. She has also begun connecting with community partners and funders. We are excited to have Laura on board and look forward to the knowledge, experience, and talents she brings to WWVDN.

Note From Parent to Parent

September is here, and with it comes the start of a new school year! We know the transition back to school can bring a mix of excitement, new routines, questions, and maybe even a few butterflies. Whether your family is feeling ready to jump back into a schedule or still figuring things out, remember that you don't have to navigate it alone.

At Parent to Parent, we're excited to connect with families this month! Our Back to School Night is September 23 from 5–7 PM. This is a great opportunity to learn more about IEPs, parents' rights, and ways to feel more confident advocating for your child. Come ask questions, learn something new, and connect with other parents who understand the journey.

We're also looking forward to more opportunities to have fun together! Join us for P2P at Tranche for live music, food trucks, and beautiful outdoor scenery. Bring your chairs, blankets, and favorite snacks and enjoy a relaxed evening with other P2P families. And don't forget, we have our Harvest Party coming up in October! We're already looking forward to some fall fun and time together as a community.

As the school year gets underway, we want to remind families that Parent to Parent is here for more than just events. We're here to listen, share resources, help you find answers, and connect you with other parents who have been there too. Sometimes having someone who simply *gets it* can make all the difference.

Here's to a new school year, new beginnings, and plenty of opportunities to learn, grow, connect, and celebrate together!

Sincerely, Geneva (P2P Coordinator)

WWVDN Events

WWVDN SEPT EVENTS OVERVIEW

September 2026

WALLA WALLA VALLEY Disability Network

No cost to attend. For more Information and to register for any event, visit wwvdn.org Calendar of Events or use the QR code pictured

For children, adolescents, and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as their families, who may feel isolated, overwhelmed, and exhausted. We offer information and connection.

For parents and caregivers of children and adults with disabilities

Parent to Parent
Inform | Support | Connect

Parent to Parent in September

Fri, Sept 11, 5:00 - 8:00 pm
P2P at Tranche
Join us for an evening of live music, delicious food trucks, and beautiful outdoor scenery! Bring your chairs, blankets, and favorite snacks, and enjoy a relaxing night connecting with other Parent to Parent families.

Mon, Sept 14, 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Papás y Mamás Especiales: Noche Mexicana
¡Celebremos! Traiga algo para compartir.

Fri, Sept 18, 6:00 pm
Columbia County P2P
Join us for a potluck picnic in the park.

Wed, Sept 23, at 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Back to School Night
With Guest Speakers: Justin Bradford ESD 123 Executive Director of Special Services and Dee Bosworth from PAVE. Learn about IEPs, parents' rights within the special education process, and how to advocate for your child

Parent-to-parent coordinators are available to provide one-on-one assistance with paperwork or to answer questions about disability services and support agencies.

For children, teens, and adults with disabilities.

LIFT Learn Imagine Friendships Thrive Ages 5 - 8 & RISE Reach Inspire Socialize Explore Ages 8 - 12

LIFT & RISE: For children with disabilities ages 5 to 12

Wed, Sept 16, 4:00 - 5:30 pm
Open Art Studio

Sun, Sept 27, 1:30 - 3:30 pm
Recess Monkey

Wed, Sept 30, 4:00 - 5:30 pm
Engineer for a Day

We have combined LIFT & RISE into one group in order to facilitate friendships and provide more opportunities to practice social skills and learn through play.

SOAR Social Opportunities And Recreation Ages 13 and up

SOAR: For teens and adults with disabilities aged 13 and over

Thurs, Sept 3, 6:30 - 9:00pm
Night at the Fair

Tues, Sept 8, 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Comic Con

Sat, Sept 19, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Adam West Day

Sat, Sept 26, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Harry Potter Celebration

For more information on all of these events and to RSVP, please visit the Calendar of Events (button below)

Calendar of Events

Spotlight: 2026 Camps Discover & Empower



"This was a summer to remember with Camp Discover and our brand new Camp Empower. We had two weeks packed full of fun and engaging activities for all of our participants. Let's take a closer look at each of the camps." **Read More**

WWVDN Social & Recreation



Introducing our new Facebook page for social and recreational activities. Follow to learn about new activities for children, teens, and adults with disabilities.

Visit our Page

Volunteer Opportunities



Tuesday, Sept 8 - SOAR: Comic Con Buddy

Saturday, Sept 26 - SOAR: Harry Potter Helper

Sign Up & More Info Here

Community Offerings



Rascal Rodeo

Sunday, September 6 at 11:00 am



Howdy! Please register for our adaptive rodeo on Sunday, September 6! Remember our events are for those with physical and developmental disabilities of ALL ages. No horse or rodeo experience to participate or volunteer.

More Info Here

WALLA WALLA VALLEY

AUTISM COALITION

Stronger Together. Brighter Futures.

MEETING REMINDER!

Join us as we continue building a supportive, inclusive community for individuals with Autism and their families.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW COALITION MEMBERS!

Your ideas, voice, and passion can help make a difference!

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 16TH

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
ONLINE

JOIN US ONLINE!
A link will be sent out prior to the meeting.

We're calling **ALL:**

- **PARENTS**
- **CAREGIVERS**
- **PROFESSIONALS** working with children who have Autism

YOUR VOICE MATTERS.

Together, we can share ideas, build partnerships, and create meaningful change for individuals with Autism in our community.

Stronger together. Better together.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Community updates
- Resource sharing
- Opportunities to collaborate
- A supportive and welcoming space to connect and be heard

For more information, contact:
Janet Vaupel
jvaupel@wwcowa.gov

Together, we can build a more inclusive and supportive community for children with Autism and their families.

Register to join the online meeting (link will be sent to you)

Grace CHURCH

Extra Grace

Praise & Worship Service

Designed with sensory sensitivity in mind, this service offers a peaceful, welcoming environment for children, teens & their families

- Gentle music
- Soft, calming lights
- Bring any comfort items your family needs
- Engaging, interactive gospel message
- Headphones and fidgets available
- Freedom to move, worship, & use flags
- Simple crafts & thoughtful gifts

Come where you are welcomed, valued, and truly celebrated.

Schedule	
3:00PM - 3:15PM	Worship
3:15PM - 3:40PM	Craft
3:40PM - 3:50PM	Interactive Message
3:50PM - 4:00PM	Blessing & Dismissal

SUNDAY
August 16th & September 20th
3PM TO 4PM

Grace Church
116S.3 Ave.
Walla Walla, WA 99362

No childcare provided.
This service is not a drop off program.

Questions or details?
Contact Pastor Mikki Jones: 509-876-1397
Want to see the space ahead of time?
Call to arrange a personal tour.

- **Wildfire Smoke - Protect Your Lungs Factsheet**
- **Introduction to Autism Video Series**
- **BMAC Housing Application Clinic** - Every Wednesday 10:00 am
- **Developmental Disabilities Administrative Appeal Project**
- **Food Pantry Resources**
- **WA Developmental Disabilities Council History & Visioning Project**
- **Walla Walla Food Resources**

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