

WWVDN 10-Year Anniversary - 2024



**Parent to Parent**  
*Inform | Support | Connect*



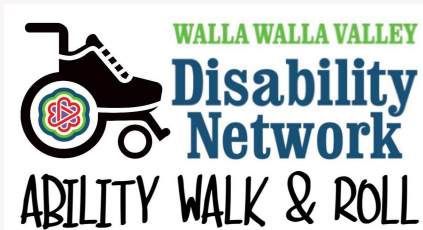
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## May 2024 News

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# THANK YOU

## Ability Walk & Roll Sponsors



- [Tate Transportation](#)
- [Tiny Acres Preschool](#)
- [Hawkins Law](#)
- [Tom's Yard Care](#)

- Mike & Lorie Spiess
- Milton Freewater Drive-In Theater
- Country Store Consignment & Antique Mall

- Hess Law Office, PLLC
- Andy's Market
- Winery Fulfillment Services
- Chef Store



Over 200 people came together on Saturday, April 20 to celebrate and honor our friends, family members, and community members who have intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities.

Participants at the Ability Walk & Roll were able to stroll/roll along the Wall of Champions to see the amazing people in our community, visit a College Place Fire Truck and talk to firefighters, take photos in our photo booth, enjoy music, face painting, games, and a special appearance of Spiderman, Ariel, Stitch, and Poppy at the finish line of our lap around the College Place High School track!


[Picture gallery here.](#)

*In Loving Memory*

**Alex Appel Anderson**

*August 19, 1987 – March 30, 2024*

"The explosion released Starfire Leo Lion's spirit into heaven, and he was finally free to rest in peace."  
*Peace Pirates by Alex Anderson*



*We say goodbye to one of our friends*

Eulogy for Alex Appel Anderson

First, I would like to note that our family wrote this eulogy together, so although I, his favorite sister, am the one reading this, it comes from us all.

We loved Alex. A son, a brother, an uncle, a cousin, a nephew, a friend - his presence was large and will not be forgotten. [Read more](#)

## A Note From Parent to Parent...

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Ysabel and I have taken on part-time roles as Informing Families Coordinators to go along with our Parent to Parent responsibilities. Informing Families is a resource provided by the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC), in partnership with the Developmental Disabilities Administration. We offer trusted news and information to individuals and families that empowers them to be active participants in planning and building a network of support and opportunities. The DDC is composed of self advocates, family members, and representatives of DDA and other agencies. They ensure that the issues being addressed are relevant to the needs and interests of individuals and families—not just today, but into tomorrow, by offering tools and tips on planning for the future.

Informing Families is growing, reaching out to more families through social media, e-news, videos, and a large library of original content. The website is full of helpful information for each stage of life, along with many resources on subjects from education, employment, DDA, DVR and Social Security, life planning and much more. There are so many resources and services available for our loved ones it can be confusing. As your Parent to Parent and Informing Families Coordinators we want to assist you in taking the confusion out of it and being a listening ear so you do not feel so alone in this journey, which for most of us is lifelong. Check out the website at [informingfamilies.org](http://informingfamilies.org) and for local resources and opportunities to connect check out our website at [wwvdn.org](http://wwvdn.org).

Ysabel and I will be attending two different conferences this month - Community Summit May 7-9 and the Parent to Parent Coordinator retreat May 20-22. We look forward to learning from others and bringing back information to share with you. If you need something during these times, please call our Executive Director at 509-255-3779.

Angie and Ysabel, Your Parent to Parent & Informing Families Coordinators

## Pioneer Middle School Student Podcast



Pioneer Middle School students created podcasts as a classroom assignment. This team of students focused on neurodivergence and acceptance. Listen to this five minute podcast to hear what they have to say!

# **FREE Dress Rehearsal Performance of "Little Women"**

**Wednesday, May 8 at 4:00 pm**

Walla Walla High School Drama presents

# LITTLE

Book by  
Allan  
Knee

Lyrics by  
Mindi Dickenstein

Music by  
Jason  
Howland

Based on the novel by  
Louisa May Alcott

Directed by  
Kristin Hessler

# WOMEN

t h e m u s i c a l

in the Walla Walla High School Auditorium • donations accepted at the door

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Y</b>	1	7PM <sup>2</sup> OPENING	7PM <sup>3</sup>	2PM <sup>4</sup>

					HIGHT			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
				7PM	7PM	2PM 7PM		

Little Women is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI)

The performance on May 8 is a dress rehearsal and is for families who may not feel comfortable or be able to attend a live performance during a regularly scheduled show. There is absolutely no concern for the cast and crew in regard to movement, talking, sounds, etc. during this performance. We know that for some families, those things have been a barrier in their comfort level of attending live performance events.

**RSVP for May 8 performance of "Little Women"**



## **SOAR Events - For age 13 and over**

**May events open for registration:**

**Thursday, May 9 - Balloon Stampede & Breakfast**

**Monday, May 13 - Start Now Fieldtrip & Snacks**

**Friday, May 24 - Movie Night (IF)**

**Wednesday, May 29 - Start Now Dinner at the Plaza**

## **Volunteer Opportunity**

**Thursday, May 23 - Volunteer at BMAC Food Distribution**

[Visit the SOAR Events Page](#)

Check your inbox for a reminder email with dates, times, and locations after you register.

## **Parent to Parent Potluck & PECS**

**Wednesday, May 15 at 6:00pm**



# Parent to Parent Potluck

Monthly meeting for parents/caregivers of all stages in caregiving

**Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**

At the Parent to Parent office  
1150 W. Chestnut in the library  
(Formerly Blue Ridge Elementary)

**Topic: PEC (Picture Exchange) System with  
Developmental Preschool Teacher Rachel Eng**

This is a great tool for nonverbal or low-verbal children and is also a good tool for children that like a picture routine or calendar.

**If your last name begins with:**

**A-G Bring a dessert**

**H-P Bring a main dish (casserole, chicken, etc)**

**Q-Z Bring a side dish (veggies, salad, mac n cheese)**

RSVP on our website at [www.wvvn.org](http://www.wvvn.org)

For questions, call or text Angie Witt at 509-255-3727 or email at [p2p@www.wvvn.org](mailto:p2p@www.wvvn.org)

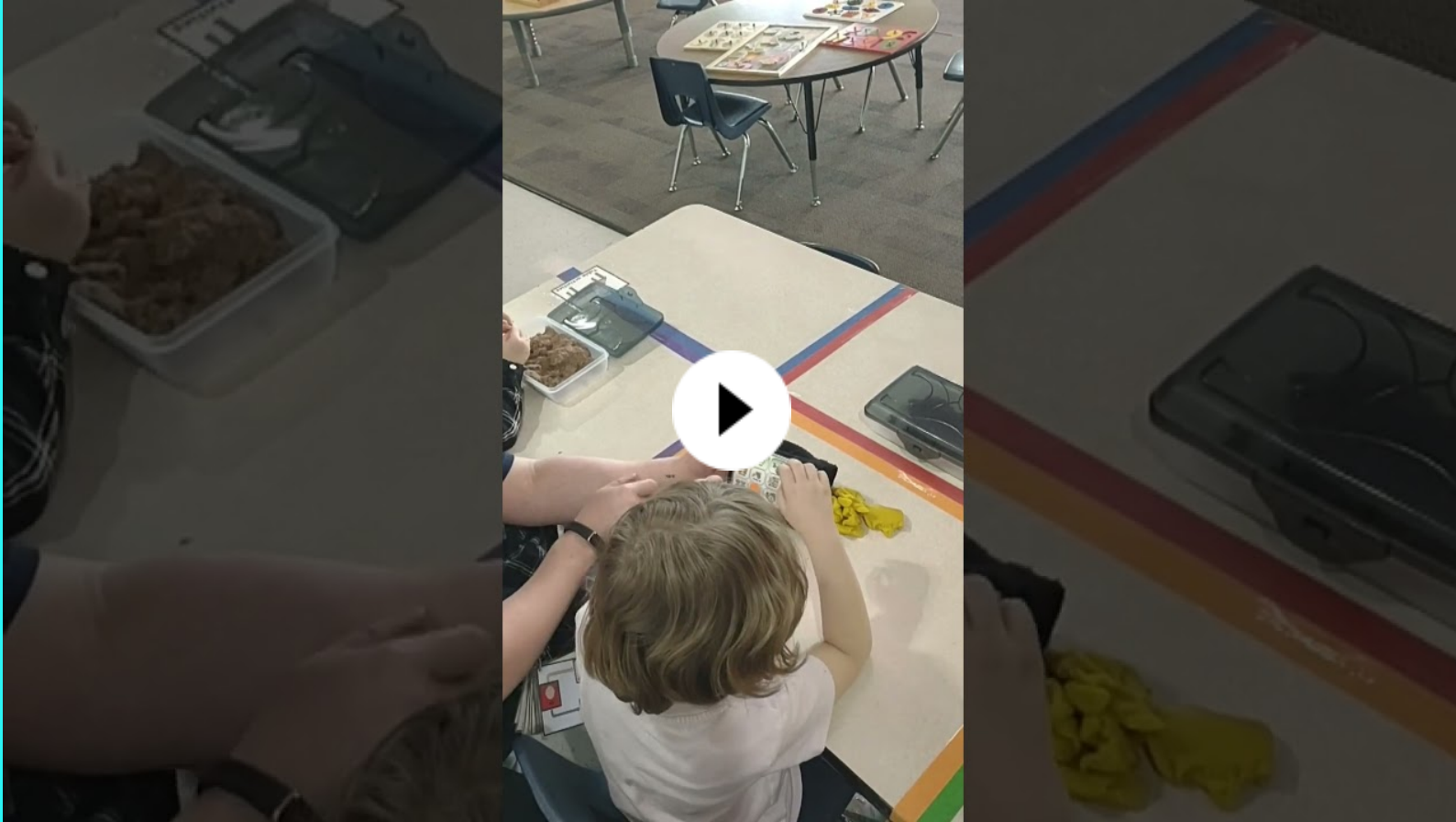




**Childcare will be provided at this event. Please indicate when you register if you will need childcare.**

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**Demonstration below of PECS in action**



**RSVP for P2P Potluck & PECS**

**May Kids Playgroup**

**Thursday, May 16 at 4:00 pm**



Join us on the playground at the Center for Children & Families. Let the kids burn off some energy on the fenced-in playground or make slime if they want to. See you there!

[RSVP for May Kids Playgroup](#)

## **Papás y Mamás Especiales**

**martes 28 de mayo, 5:30 - 7:30 pm**

Reunión de apoyo solo para personas que hablan español.

[RSVP a Ysabel](#)

See Beauty and the Beast at Cordiner Hall. Pre-register **before June 1** and get a code for 50% off seats at the Aug 10 performance.



Pre-register here for 50% off code



# PEER MENTOR TRAINING



WALLA WALLA VALLEY  
**Disability  
Network**

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER!



“With a Little Help from My Friends”

Our goal for this Peer Mentor Training is to teach general education students about individuals who have disabilities. Trained Peer Mentors are then invited to attend and assist participants in weekly social events or community recreational activities (basketball, baseball, summer camp, etc.).

This training counts for 3 Volunteer hours and you will receive a certificate of completion. Snacks will be provided.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 2ND**

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

LOCATION: CENTER FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

1150 W. CHESTNUT ST.



## Monthly Activities & Events

### May

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### **Papás y Mamás Especiales**

- 28 de mayo, Centro para niños y familias - 5:30 pm

### **Parent to Parent Walla Walla**

- May 15, Parent to Parent Potluck - 6:00 pm

### **Parent to Parent Columbia County**

- May 24, Cookout at Angie's & Meeting - 6:00 pm [Must RSVP here to get the address](#)

[See Calendar of Events](#)

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## **Community News & Activities**

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### **Informing Families: Alternative Living Providers**





## Becoming An Alternative Living Provider

### What is an Alternative Living Provider?

An AL provider supports clients who are 18 or older, living in their own home or a family member's home. As an AL provider, you will provide support to increase or maintain the individual's independence in the home and the community. Goals will be created with the individual and the case manager. The AL will support these goals through teaching and training methods. Some of these skills may be in:

- Establishing a residence
- Home living
- Community Living
- Health and Safety
- Social Activities
- Community Integration
- Protection and Advocacy
- Any other skills identified in the individual's person-centered service plan

As an AL provider, you will hold a business license and contract with the DSHS' Developmental Disabilities Administration as an independent contractor. ALs have the flexibility to create their schedule, choose their amount of hours, and select the clients to work with. Each client with AL can access up to 40 hrs of AL per month. Also, providers can select the clients they would like to work with. The current starting wage for an AL provider is \$27.46 an hour (as of January 2024). AL providers will also be paid for training hours and transportation miles when transporting the individual they work with.

### Requirements to be an Alternative Living Provider:

- Be 21 or older
- Have a high school diploma or GED diploma;
- Be able to pass a background check

### What training is required to be an Alternative Living Provider?

To become an AL provider you must complete 75 hours of training approved by DSHS. You will work with a DDA professional to help you through the steps of training. There will be a requirement of 12 hours

### How to Become an Alternative Living Provider?

Work with the DDA professional in your county (<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dda/alternative-living-provider>) or contact your local DDA Office and ask to speak with a resource manager.



### What are some things you will do as an Alternative Living Provider?

As an AL provider, you will work with an individual to create the skills to live independently at home and participate in their community. Some activities to help work towards these goals include:

- Participate in service-plan development with the individual you support and a DDA professional
- Work with the individual in their home and community
- Work on skills to increase the individual's independence in varying settings
- Use teaching techniques to help individuals learn skills

[More Information Here](#)

# Suicide Prevention Workshop May 1



# Suicide Prevention Workshops

Washington State Department of Health is hosting two regional workshops to bring together people invested in suicide prevention and to collaborate on updating the State Suicide Prevention plan.

Workshops are free, and light refreshments will be provided. Compensation may be available for community members.



**Western Washington**  
**April 19**  
Tukwila Community Center  
Tukwila, Washington  
Workshop 11 a.m.- 4:45 p.m.  
Town Hall: 5:30-7 p.m.



**Eastern Washington**  
**May 1**  
Whitman College  
Walla Walla, Washington  
Workshop 11 a.m.- 4:45 p.m.  
Town Hall: 5:30-7 p.m.



## Registration

In English



En Espanol



To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email [doh.information@doh.wa.gov](mailto:doh.information@doh.wa.gov).

## Family ECHO: Autism



## Project ECHO Family Series Offerings

Family ECHO: RUBI for Families is a collaborative journey designed to empower parents and caregivers. By fostering an environment of shared learning, it connects families with experts and provides essential knowledge and support. The sessions are designed to shift medical and behavioral information from the clinic into the hands of parents and caregivers so they can learn to better support and care for their children.

Nationwide Children's Hospital offers Family ECHO: RUBI groups covering a range of topics. See what sessions are coming up during the second quarter of 2024.

### Family ECHO: RUBI

Family ECHO: RUBI for Families covers topics related to managing behavior, including behavioral principles, communication strategies, and the use of technology for tracking and sharing information with providers. Participants will gain insights into evidence-based practices that enhance the well-being of children with developmental disabilities. Together, families gain insights into behavioral management techniques, enhance their leadership skills, and acquire practical strategies for caring for children with developmental disabilities.

## May 29 - "Session 2 Building Positive Behaviors"



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