



WALLA WALLA VALLEY  
**Disability  
Network**



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## February 2025 Newsletter

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**Parent to Parent Family Story: Kyle Wilson**



"My name is Kyle Wilson, and I work as an office assistant for Shamra Baez, executive director at the Walla Walla Valley Disability Network. Being Shamra's office assistant has brought out the best in my organization skills, as I help her keep the office up and running smoothly, as best I can. This job also allows me to work with children, particularly during some of our events, which I really enjoy, as I did with my previous work history at the Children's Museum of Walla Walla." [Read More](#)

## Checking in With Newman Civic Fellow Adam Simon '26



Simon was nominated for his work as last year's Buddy Program Leader on Whitman's Community Engagement Student Leader Team. The Buddy Program is a partnership with the Walla Walla Valley Disability Network, which connects Whitman students with adults in the community who have intellectual or developmental disabilities. [Read More](#)

## Note From Parent to Parent

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Ahh February, the month of love and hearts and all things red and pink. I like to look at February

as a heart healthy month. February is heart health, cancer prevention and other health issues. How are you taking care of your hearts and health? I know it is said so much that self care is important, and parents and caregivers are so busy taking care of others that it leaves very little time for oneself. I get it. You all do such important work and it is time consuming and exhausting. But no one can do it better than you so that is why you need to take care of your health. In the spirit of heart health, we will be partnering with the YMCA to host a Zumba class on February 19th from 5:30-6:30 pm. All are welcome to join from the youngest to the oldest. This class is meant to be fun but also get our bodies movin' and groovin'. And we can't leave without a little treat at the end.

Also, if Zumba isn't your thing but you like to bowl, please join us on Saturdays for the month of February from 12-2 pm for our family bowling. It's a fun time to get together with other families and just let loose. Please check out our calendar of events to sign up for any of our offerings for this month.

If you would like a one on one appointment with myself or Ysabel, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Angie and Ysabel.

## **P2P Family Bowling**

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**Every Saturday in February from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm**




# **FAMILY BOWLING**

*THIS IS A FUN TIME TO BOWL WITH  
YOUR WHOLE FAMILY AND  
FRIENDS! COME TO ONE OR TO ALL*

**SATURDAYS IN FEBRUARY**

 **FEBRUARY 1, 8, 15, 22ND**

 **BOWLAWAY LANES  
411 ASH ST. WALLA WALLA  
12:00 pm-2:00 pm**

**\$3.25 PER GAME PER PERSON  
TO BE PAID TO WWVDN STAFF AT THE  
BOWLING ALLEY**

**RSVP AT [WWVDN.ORG](http://WWVDN.ORG)**



[More Info Here](#)

# Papás y Mamás Especiales

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Monday, Feb 3 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm



# Papas y Mamas Especiales!

## Boards in Spanish

For parents with children with disabilities and/or special needs

**FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

**January 6: Starting the Year 2025 - Planning: What you want to have at these meetings; Rosca de Reyes**

**February 3: How to use the internet: Search our WWVDN page and register for events; Tamaliza**

**March 3: Down Syndrome and Autism; Sandwiches**

Children and Families Center

1150 W. Chestnut

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

**If you want to participate call me at (509) 301-0679**

This is an opportunity to network with other families who may be able to support you by sharing their experiences; we will discuss community resources such as DDA, SSI; IEP/504 programs at school; Self-Care and Empowerment, etc. We will accompany you on this journey called Life.

**You Are Not Alone!**

[More Info Here](#)

# **P2P & SOAR - WAITSBURG Valentine Crafts & Games**

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**Friday, Feb 7 from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm**





WALLA WALLA VALLEY

# Disability Network

**February 7th, Friday**

The Walla Walla Valley Disability Network's Parent-to-Parent and SOAR programs would like to invite you to an evening of:

## Valentine Crafts & Games

We are inviting children, teens, and adults with disabilities AND their families to come for this free event. Join us for a fun evening of valentine themed crafts and games.

We will be providing sandwiches and chips: Gluten-Free and Vegetarian options will be available.

Register online at: [wwvdn.org](http://wwvdn.org)  
by February 2nd



[More Info Here](#)

## Kids Playgroup at Evergreen Play Club

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Tuesday, Feb 11 from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm



# Kids playgroup

AT THE

**Evergreen Play Club**

502 N Wilbur St.

Tuesday, February 11th

4:00-5:30 PM

Evergreen Play club is an indoor play area with the vision to cultivate a haven where community thrives.

Beyond physical structures, they aim to build bridges between families during the early stage of a child's life. It's a place where neighbors become friends, where laughter echoes through the air, and where the warmth of human connection is palpable.



PLEASE RSVP AT

[WWVDN.ORG](http://WWVDN.ORG)

Free admission

Valentine goody bags  
for kids to take home

[More Info Here](#)

## P2P Monthly Meeting With DDA

Wednesday, Feb 12 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

# MONTHLY MEETING WITH DDA



Wednesday, February 12



**11:30 AM – 1:00 PM**

Bring your lunch and questions for Kristina Rasmussen with DDA

at the WWVDN office  
1150 W. Chestnut  
call Angie at 509-255-3727 for questions or more information



[More Info Here](#)

## P2P Zumba Class

Wednesday, Feb 19 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

PLEASE JOIN P2P  
FOR A FREE  
**ZUMBA CLASS**

AT THE YMCA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

5:30 PM

*Childcare Provided*

*Please RSVP by February 16th*

[www.vdn.org](http://www.vdn.org)





[More Info Here](#)



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

### **Open for registration:**

**Tuesday, Feb 4 - Whitman Buddy Program: Calm Creations**

**Friday, Feb 7 - WAITSBURG Valentine Crafts & Games**

**Monday, Feb 10 - Voting deadline for "Movie Showdown: Captain America vs. Paddington"**

**Tuesday, Feb 11 - Hearts & Crafts: A Valentine's Creation Celebration**

**Sunday, Feb 16 - Book & Game Bonanza: Play, Earn, Redeem!**

**(Registration deadline is the Sunday before the event @ 6:00 PM)**

[Visit the SOAR Events Page](#)

## **February Volunteer Opportunities**



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



**Saturday, Feb 1, 8, 15, & 22 - P2P Bowling Lane Chaperone**

**Tuesday, Feb 11 - P2P Cookie Decorating and Games Assistant**

**Tuesday, Feb 11 - SOAR Valentines Cards & Crafts (Crafty Cupid)**

**Sunday, Feb 16 - SOAR Game Guru & Book Bucks Banker**

**Wednesday, Feb 19 - P2P Childcare: Caring for Amazing Kids While Parents Connect!**

[Sign Up & More Info Here](#)

## Medical Supply Giveaway

These medical items are available for anyone who needs them. If interested you may contact P2P Coordinator Angie Witt at (509) 255-3727 or [p2p@wwvdn.org](mailto:p2p@wwvdn.org)

- Portable oxygen carry bag (purple)



- Pulse ox sensors for a rad 97 and rad g
- Infant tender grips
- G tube extensions
- Infant cannulas
- Power suction supplies (Cannister Kit)
- Elecare & Elecare Jr. formula
- Tubing for oxygen concentrator
- IV Pole
- Infant O2 Masks with tubing
- Infinity feeding pump bags
- G tube compatible syringes
- Infant CPAP face mask and headgear
- NG feeding tube and emergency kit
- Space chamber for inhaler
- OptiChamber with Infant mask

## We Want To Share Your Story

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We would like to encourage our families to submit brief stories of how P2P, SOAR, and WWVDN have affected their lives. Grantors, donors, elected officials, legislators, and many others are interested in hearing our stories and we believe its time we start sharing them.

[Share Your Story](#)

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## Community News & Activities

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### Project ECHO Parent Education Series on Challenging Behavior

### Project ECHO Parent Education Series on Challenging Behavior

In partnership with the Haring Center for Inclusive Education, we are offering a remote parent education series for **parents and caregivers** of children ages 3-12 years old. This series focuses on joining a community that is a safe space for parents and caregivers to share their experiences, offer support to one another and develop strategies together to support challenging behaviors at home.

In this series, we will take a strengths-based approach to identify behavioral skills and strategies to support challenging behavior as well as strategies to teach new skills and behaviors. The series welcomes a behavior analyst, special education teacher and mental health provider as well as a family advocate. Participants will have opportunities to discuss behaviors and problem-solve strategies and supports, and will get weekly handouts focused on behavioral skills and strategies.

This 12-week series runs 11 a.m. to noon on Fridays via Zoom, beginning Feb. 7 and ending April 25. This series is free and translation is provided through subtitles if needed.

[Register Here](#)

## Children's Enhanced Respite Services Now Available in Western Washington

## Children's Enhanced Respite Services now available in Western Washington

We are excited to announce the opening of Infinite Continuous Care's Sunpark Harmony Haven House in Western Washington. This new two-bed staffed residential home in Vancouver, WA, offers Enhanced Respite Services for children and youth.

We are accepting ERS applications for children and youth at the following locations:

- Infinite Continuous Care in Vancouver (two beds).
- Golden Youth Services in Spokane (three beds).
- The Source in Spokane (two beds).

### Enhanced Respite Services Program

**Overview:** Enhanced Respite Services offers short-term stabilization supports for children, youth and families. The service is intended to stabilize a child's behavior, give caregivers a break, and promote life skills development through a personalized plan of care.

#### Eligibility:

- Must be eligible for DDA services.
- Age 8 to 17 years.
- Enrolled in school or vocational program if age 18-20.
- Parents and caregivers must have accessed available services, including those available through private insurance, Medicare, Apple Health and DDA.

**Length of service:** A child or youth may access ERS for 30 consecutive days in a calendar year.

**Funding is available through the waiver program and state-funded resources.** It does not impact a client's allotment of waiver respite hours or IFS aggregate funding.

If you have questions, please contact:












Jaimee Scheffler  
Children's Stabilization and Respite Services Manager  
[jaimee.scheffler1@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:jaimee.scheffler1@dshs.wa.gov).

# The Arc Advocacy Days 2025

# SAVE THE DATE



## Advocacy Days 2025

 <p><b>JANUARY 15TH</b> ALL DAY   IN PERSON <b>Closed</b></p>	<p><b>Build Capacity</b></p> <p>How can we plan for our system to grow so that it meets the needs of our community?</p>
 <p><b>JANUARY 22ND</b> 10:00-11:30 AM   VIRTUAL <b>Closed</b></p>	<p><b>Supporting Families</b></p> <p>How can we ensure families have the support they need?</p>
 <p><b>JANUARY 29TH</b> 10:00-11:30 AM   VIRTUAL <b>Closed</b></p>	<p><b>Housing</b></p> <p>How can I get the support I need to live in my home?</p>
 <p><b>FEBRUARY 5TH</b> 10:00-11:30 AM   VIRTUAL <b>Open</b> LIVE CRSA (COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION) @ 12:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Supported Living</b></p> <p>How can I have a safe, affordable, inclusive place to live?</p>
 <p><b>FEBRUARY 12TH</b> 10:00-11:30 AM   VIRTUAL <b>Open</b></p>	<p><b>Crisis</b></p> <p>Why are so many people in crisis?</p>
 <p><b>FEBRUARY 19TH</b> 10:00-11:30 AM   VIRTUAL <b>Open</b> LIVE CEA (COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT ALLIANCE) @ 1:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Employment &amp; Community Inclusion</b></p> <p>How do we ensure that individuals have the adequate supports and individualized services needed to work and build relationships in the community?</p>
 <p><b>FEBRUARY 26TH</b> 10:00-11:30 AM   VIRTUAL <b>Open</b></p>	<p><b>Education</b></p> <p>What is needed to ensure every student has an inclusive education?</p>
 <p><b>MARCH 5TH</b> 10:00-11:30 AM   VIRTUAL <b>Open</b> SAIL (SELF-ADVOCATES IN LEADERSHIP) RALLY @ 1:00</p>	<p><b>Community Living</b></p> <p>What are the community and housing supports and services I need in order to live successfully in the community?</p>
 <p><b>MARCH 12TH</b> 10:00-11:30 AM   VIRTUAL <b>Open</b></p>	<p><b>Social Engagement</b></p> <p>How do we create welcoming communities and prevent social isolation?</p>
 <p><b>MARCH 19TH</b> 10:00-11:30 AM   VIRTUAL <b>Open</b></p>	<p><b>Workforce</b></p> <p>How do we ensure there is a quality workforce available to care for our loved ones?</p>
 <p><b>MARCH 26TH</b> 10:00-11:30 AM   VIRTUAL <b>Open</b></p>	<p><b>Budget</b></p> <p>What can you do now?</p>

## MORE INFORMATION

For more information on Advocacy Days visit: [arcwa.org/advocacy/advocacy-days/](http://arcwa.org/advocacy/advocacy-days/)

SPONSORED BY THE ADVOCACY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

[Register Here](#)

## 2025 Chief for a Day Nominations

Deadline to nominate is February 28



Chief for a Day is hosted by Walla Walla Area Crime Watch. It is an event that is all about celebrating the lives of children who have been diagnosed with a disability or life-threatening or chronic medical condition.

[More Info Here](#)

## Parents Empowering Parents Washington

# PARENTS EMPOWERING PARENTS *Washington*

ADVOCATING FOR AUTHORIZED PAID  
PARENT CAREGIVERS FOR CHILDREN WITH  
DISABILITIES IN WASHINGTON

[More Info Here](#)

**The Washington State Developmental Disabilities  
Council wants to hear from you!**

WADDC

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# Year State Plan Survey

2027-2031



## We're Listening: Share Your Vision for a Better Future

**Survey Open January 21, 2025 - July 21, 2025**

Share your thoughts, concerns, and ideas about the challenges and barriers faced by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families in Washington State.

[More Info Here](#)



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