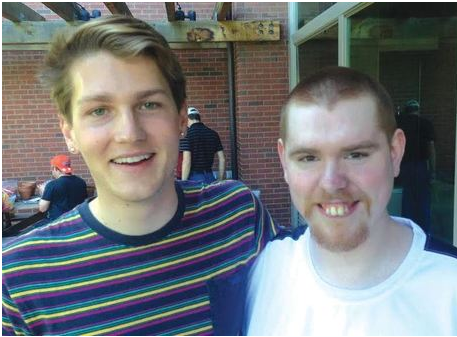


April 2021 News & Events



Whitman Buddy Program: Changing Lives

Five years ago, I graduated from Whitman College after having spent three years in the Whitman College Buddy Program, including a one-year stint as the program coordinator. To say that the Buddy Program shaped my own values and guiding principles would be a vast understatement. [Read More](#)

For more family stories, please visit our Parent to Parent page:

[Parent to Parent](#)

A Note from Parent to Parent

Spring is here and it brings a lot of opportunities to get outside and enjoy the sun and the many activities that our community has to enjoy. I encourage you to check out the Walla Walla Parks and Recreation and the YMCA website to see their offerings. Our numbers in the County for Covid have gone down, but WWVDN will not be offering indoor activities or support meetings until Fall. Please be looking for zoom meetings and outdoor social and recreational events on the calendar at our wwvdn.org website.

As we get back to a more normal lifestyle, the effects of the last year continue to affect our everyday lives. Life is moving at a faster pace again and that can cause stress. I encourage you to take each day moment by moment, hour by hour, day by day. Be sure to take at least 5 minutes a day for yourself.

The agencies that most of us rely on for services and resources are still not open for in person visits and that can bring on so much frustration and worry.

Please reach out to the WWVDN and Parent to Parent staff if you need assistance in this area. We can make calls for you, walk you through applications, help decipher the information you receive via mail. You are not alone! We are here to help. We care about your wellbeing.

Sincerely,
Angie and Ysabel

Drive-Thru Easter Egg Hunts Saturday, April 3

Dayton 9am to 11am

(Sponsored by HomeStreet Bank & Kiwanis Club of Dayton) [See More](#)



Walla Walla 1pm to 3pm

Hosted by **Parent to Parent** at the Center for Children & Families (1150 W. Chestnut, Walla Walla). Bring your Easter basket to hold the goodies. [Details](#)

Better Together: Youth Social Club (Earth Day)

April 15, at 6:30 pm on Zoom



Better Together: Adult Social Club

April 22, at 6:30 pm on Zoom

[See Calendar for Details](#)

Autism Family/ Caregiver Picnic April 25, 1:00 pm

Please RSVP for this event.



[RSVP for picnic](#)

2021 WWVDN Annual Survey

Please take 2 or 3 minutes to respond to this survey and give us your input. We use this information to determine where to put our time, efforts, and resources to best serve the families in the Walla Walla Valley region.



[Take the 2021 WWVDN Survey](#)

Every Thursday in May beginning May 6th
Wiffle ball for ages 5-99
More info to come



Monthly Activities & Events

April 2021

[See Calendar of Events](#)

Mamas Especiales

Fridays, Apr 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 - 1:00 pm Spanish Speaking Support Group

Columbia County P2P Meeting

Apr 16 - 5:30 pm (Meet at Dayton School Multi-Purpose Room)

Autism Family Picnic

Apr 25 - 1:00 pm (at Wildwood Park)



April 2 is World Autism Awareness Day

Spectrum: A Story of the Mind is a documentary exploring the human mind that premiered at the United Nations as part of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The film is a 23-minute live action and animated documentary about autism and sensory perception. Enjoy!

[Watch the Video](#)

Autism Overview



[Advocacy & Support](#)



[Healthcare & Diagnosis](#)



[Resources for Daily Life](#)



[Therapy Options](#)



[Topics of Interest / Videos / Celebrations](#)



[P2P Autism Group Meetings](#)

Website Highlight:

Did you know that our website (www.vdn.org) contains a great deal of information about Autism?

[Go to Autism Page](#)

COVID Vaccine: Q&A on Facts and Myths

Wednesday, April 7th at 6:00 pm

Spanish & Vietnamese Translation Provided!

Who should/should not get the vaccine?
Does the vaccine have the COVID virus in it?
What are side effects of getting the vaccine?

Join us to get your questions answered so that you and your loved ones can make informed decisions.

Dr. Thanh Kirkpatrick, MD, MPH, is a former refugee from Vietnam, and has a passion for serving immigrant patients and for outreach to the DD community. She graduated from Pomona College in anthropology and received her Doctorate of Medicine from the University of Vermont and her Masters in Public Health in Health Administration from Loma Linda University. She completed her pediatrics residency at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She currently serves as director of the Vietnamese Family Autism Advisory Board helping families connect to therapeutic and support services across the care system and educating the community about autism and developmental delay. She was appointed to the WA State Developmental Disabilities Council in 2017 where she currently serves as a council member. Dr. Kirkpatrick is a pediatrician at HopeCentral Pediatrics and Behavioral Health, a clinic designated by the Washington Healthcare Authority as an Autism Center of Excellence to provide a range of services for families with children on the Autism Spectrum. She provides pediatric care for the linguistically and economically diverse community surrounding the clinic in south-east Seattle.



Dr. Peter Asante, MD, FAAP, grew up in Pawtucket, RI with his parents, originally from Ghana, and three brothers. He studied biological anthropology and Spanish at Harvard University and attended medical school at the University of Pittsburgh with an area of concentration in underserved populations, followed by residency at Seattle Children's. He currently practices at Yakima Pediatrics and is the chair of pediatrics at Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital in Yakima. "I have been fortunate to cultivate my passion for working with adolescents," says Dr. Asante. He continues to work in service of underserved populations, holistic care of medically complex patients, and improving management of youth with asthma.



Dr. Suman Pandey, MD, BS is a doctor located in Yakima, WA. Dr. Pandey graduated from the College of Medical Sciences in 2006 and has 15 years of experience. His specialties include Adolescent Medicine, Internal Medicine/Pediatrics, Pediatrics. Practicing as a pediatrician, Dr. Pandey specializes in treating kids of all ages, offering medical care for newborns, children & adolescents. He serves as primary care provider - the patient's first point of contact when seeking a diagnosis. Dr. Pandey is trained to offer well-rounded health care for children of all ages, collaborating closely with the patient's guardians to ensure healthy growth. Dr. Pandey is affiliated with Virginia Mason Memorial Hospital.



[Click here now to register for this event!](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_oo82PxVIT_Iy2UH0jL5ww)

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_oo82PxVIT_Iy2UH0jL5ww

For more information contact Stacy Dym at Stacy@arcwa.org or (888) 754-8798, ext. 9

Developmental Disabilities Administration March 26, 2021

Consumer Directed Employer Webinars

Hello Clients, Authorized Representatives, and Individual Providers and Caregivers,

A change is coming in how Individual Providers are employed and how IPs are paid. Consumer Direct Care Network Washington (CDWA) is the Consumer Directed Employer (CDE) vendor selected by DSHS. The changeover to the CDE will begin in Summer 2021. Please join one of the upcoming webinars to learn more about the CDE.

There will be four webinars in April. When logging in to the webinar, participants will be asked to register with name and email address. Participants are welcome to register for as many webinars as apply to them.

- **Getting Ready for the CDE, Monday, April 5, 9:00 a.m. PDT:** https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_i76fdnTkSX6Ste1Hz2jbFw
- **What Parent Providers Need to Know, Wednesday, April 14, 3:00 p.m. PDT:** https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YQ80IrMORui8VsSrDkx-BA
- **What Live-in Providers Need to Know, Wednesday, April 21, 9:00 a.m. PDT:** https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hvGQLaPUS7yGwE8SY3QrQw
- **Getting Ready for the CDE, Tuesday, April 27, 6:00 p.m. PDT:** https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uv6ICUafQh2mVyDsz0wHeg

Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions during the webinar. Webinars will be recorded and posted on the CDWA website after the webinar.

The changeover to the CDE will start with a small pilot group of clients and IPs this Summer. Additional clients and IPs will changeover in two phases later in 2021 and into 2022. CDWA will employ all IPs by early 2022.

Learn more about how you can be ready for a successful changeover to the CDE. Please join us at these information sessions.

[See Calendar to Register](#)

Looking for help due to Covid-19 (Coronavirus)?

[Covid-19 Resources](#)



Do you know how to contact your legislators?

Share your story with your elected officials.

They need to know how their decisions affect your life.

[Find my representatives here](#)

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[Amazon Smile Details](#)



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Your donation supports our ongoing programs and activities:

Donations can be made online at [wwvdn.org](https://www.wwvdn.org) or by check, made payable to WWVDN, PO BOX 1918, Walla Walla, WA 99362.

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