July 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

Please Note: Due to summer construction at the Center for Children & Families, the location and times of all WWVDN program activities may change throughout the summer.

After you register for an activity, please watch for reminder text messages. These messages will come from (209) 233-6431 and are not spam. We will use text messages to provide the most up-to-date information about the date, time, and location of each event.

P2P Family Story: My Sister, Hope



"This is my story how I became a big sister at 2 years old. When my parents told me that I was going to be a big sister I was so happy, but had no idea she almost didn't make it home. She was born 2 months early and suffered brain damage due to a lack of oxygen. My parents named her Blenda, after our grandmother, but I couldn't say her name so we just called her Hope. We felt it was a much better fit." **Read More**

Note From Parent to Parent

Happy July!

Summer is in full swing, and we hope you and your family are finding time to enjoy the sunshine, make memories, and participate in activities that bring you joy.

June was filled with wonderful opportunities to connect, learn, and support one another. Thank you to everyone who joined us for our events and

programs. We continue to be inspired by the strength, resilience, and kindness of the families in our community.

As summer schedules can be busy, we encourage you to take advantage of the resources available through Parent to Parent and Informing Families. If you have questions about services, community resources, DDA, SSI, or simply need someone to talk with who understands your journey, we're here to help.

Thank you for being part of our Parent to Parent family. Your support, encouragement, and willingness to connect with others help make our community stronger every day.

We wish you a safe, fun, and relaxing July and look forward to seeing you at upcoming events!

Welcome Camden VanOcker, SOAR Director



"My name is Camden VanOcker and I am very excited to begin serving our local communities and families through the WWVDN! I have experience working as an Elementary and Middle School teacher with a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education and a Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction." **Read More**

Please join us at the WWVDN Annual Meeting & Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, August 11 to honor outgoing SOAR Director Tash and thank her for creating and building our very successful social and recreation program.

RSVP for WWVDN Annual Meeting & Ice Cream Social

Camp Empower 2026

Monday, July 27 thru Friday, July 31 - Time Varies

CAMP EMPOWER

Join us for our first ever 21 and over adult summer camp, Camp Empower! This fun filled week will have events each day in various locations around Walla Walla. You don't want to miss out on this!

Cost is $50 (limited Scholarships Available) and we are only accepting 25 participants so register as soon as possible.

Become Empowered

Camp Discover 2026

Monday, Aug 3 thru Friday, Aug 7 from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm daily

CAMP DISCOVER
YOUTH 8–21

Join us for a fun-filled summer day camp for ages 8-21 designed for creativity, connection, and play! Campers will enjoy a variety of arts and crafts, hands-on activities, engaging games, outdoor play, and a calming

corner for quiet time and relaxation. Each day offers a balance of movement, imagination, and meaningful social interaction in a safe and inclusive environment. Make sure to bring a lunch.

Cost is $50 (limited Scholarships Available) and we are only accepting 25 participants so register as soon as possible.

Lets Go Discover

WWVDN Events

WWVDN JULY EVENTS OVERVIEW

July 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 July

Tues, July 7, 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Papás y Mamás Especiales: Hoy Celebraremos Todas las Habilidades!

Mon, July 20, 8:00 - 10:00am
No Host Breakfast

Sat, July 25, 10:00 - 12:00 pm
Lyons Ferry

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

CAMP EMPOWER

Camp Empower: For adults age 21 & over

Join us for our first ever adult summer camp, Camp Empower! This fun-filled week (July 27 thru July 31) will have events each day in various locations around Walla Walla. You don't want to miss out on this!

Cost is $50 and we are only accepting 25 participants so register as soon as possible.

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 aged 5 to 12

Mon, July 6, 10:00 - 11:30 am
Scientist For a Day

Mon, July 13, 3:30 - 5:00 pm
Buddy Bracelets & More!

Wed, July 22, 3:00 - 4:30 pm
Walla Walla Children's Museum

Mon, July 27, 10:00 - 11:30 am
Get Up & Move!

We are combining LIFT & RISE into one group in order to facilitate friendships, offer activities for children 5-12 more frequently, and provide more opportunities to practice social skills and learn through play.

SOAR Social Opportunities And Recreation Ages 13 and up

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

Thurs, July 2, 5:30 to 8:00pm
Movie Night (Toy Story 5)

Thurs, July 9, 5:00 to 7:00 pm
Mic Drop Moments at Karaoke Night

Fri, July 17, 6:45 to 9:00 pm
The Villain Wore a Dirty Shirt at the Little Theater

Thurs, July 23, 7:30 to 10:30 pm
Disney's Newsies!

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

Calendar of Events

2026 Summer Activities



Visit our website to check out a lineup of exciting events being offered this summer by the community and the WWVDN!

2026 Summer Activities

Volunteer Opportunities



Thursday, July 9 - SOAR: Karaoke Chaperone & Cheerleader

Tuesday, July 28 - SOAR: Bowling Lane Buddy

Thursday, July 30 - SOAR: Out on the Town

Monday, Aug 3 thru Friday, Aug 7 - Youth Summer Camp Buddy (Youth Volunteer)

Monday, Aug 3 thru Friday, Aug 7 - Youth Summer Camp Buddy (Adult Volunteer)

Saturday, Aug 8 - SOAR: Movie Night Chaperone at Lions Park

Thursday, Aug 20 - SOAR: Farmers Market and Car Show Companion

Sign Up & More Info Here

Community Offerings

Free Swim Lessons at YMCA in July

YMCA has received grant funding to offer free inclusive swim lessons during the month of July. To register and receive lessons without a cost,

you will need to call the YMCA front desk (509.525.8863) or register in person.

Step 1: Determine Which Class Your Child Should Attend From This List

Paso 1: Determine a qué clase debe asistir su hijo de esta lista

Please note: If a participant requires more individualized support than is typically provided in a group setting or is unable to independently wait for their turn and follow class activities or instruction, YMCA asks that a parent or caretaker join the registered participant in the water. In these cases, the instructor will continue to guide the swimmer's progress while the parent provides additional support as needed.

If you have questions, please contact Brad Sublett at YMCA, 509-525-8863 ext. 1031

Step 2: Browse class offerings here to see which dates/times you prefer before calling the YMCA to register

Paso 2: Consulta la oferta de clases para ver qué fechas y horarios prefieres antes de llamar a la YMCA para inscribirte.

Call YMCA Front Desk to register for your preferred class at 509-525-8863

Llame a la recepción de la YMCA para inscribirse en la clase de su preferencia al 509-525-8863.

Step 3: Turn in This Form to YMCA Before Lessons Start

Paso 3: Entregue este formulario a la YMCA antes de que comiencen las clases.

the YMCA

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

ICan Bike Camp

Monday, July 27 thru Friday, July 31

iCan Bike - Kennewick, WA

Entendemos que la gran mayoría de las personas con discapacidad nunca llegan a experimentar lo que es montar de forma independiente una bicicleta convencional de dos ruedas a lo largo de su vida. Las investigaciones indican que más del 80 % de las personas con autismo y el 90 % de las personas con síndrome de Down nunca viven esta experiencia. ¡Existimos precisamente para desafiar estas estadísticas!



More Info Here

Summer Movie Clubhouse

SUMMER MOVIE CLUBHOUSE

June 1 - August 6 | $1.75



June 1 - 4
Paddington



June 8 - 11
Sonic



June 15 - 18
KPOP
Demon Hunters



June 22 - 25
Shrek
Forever After



June 29 - July 2
The Spongebob Movie: Search for Squarepants



July 6 - 9
A Minecraft Movie



Jule 13 - 16
Dog Man



July 20 - 23
How to Train Your Dragon



July 27 - 30
The Bad Guys 2



August 3 - 6
Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie

10 Weeks of mega-fun movies for kids

More Info Here

Digital Inclusion & Assistive Learning

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Digital Inclusion & Assistive Learning (DIAL)

Serving Walla Walla County and the Yakama Nation

What is DIAL?

DIAL will enhance opportunities in online education, employment, and community life for people with disabilities. The program's key activities include:

Assistive Technology: Providing devices and software such as screen readers, speech recognition software, hearing aids, and adaptive keyboards.

Digital Training: Conducting workshops and training sessions to improve digital skills and ensure effective use of technology.

Community Engagement: Collaborating with local organizations to promote digital inclusion and support community integration.

DIAL Program Steps

1. Assess each individual's eligibility
2. Order, deliver, and set up assistive technolog
3. Train program participants to use assistive equipment
4. Educate participants through online digital literacy classes



"We understand the essential need for improving access to assistive technology for those with disabilities in our rural and tribal communities."

– Tom Gaulke, Entrust CEO

More Info Here

- **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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