



WALLA WALLA VALLEY
**Disability
Network**



September 2025 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](#)

The Results Are In!



WALLA WALLA VALLEY Disability Network

Thank you to everyone who gave us feedback and inspiration for the coming year. Select the button below to see the results of the 2025 WWVDN Annual Survey.

[Annual Survey Response Summary](#)

Spotlight: WWVDN 2025 Annual Meeting



"The Walla Walla Valley Disability Network hosted our Annual Meeting at Veterans Memorial Pool on Friday, August 8th, 2025. The event started at 7:00 pm, and guests enjoyed an hour to swim,

relax, use the slides, visit the concession stand, and connect with each other. Arts & crafts made by our summer camp participants were on display for everyone to admire. SOAR Director Tash volunteered as the night's emcee for the main presentation which started around 8:00 pm." [Read More](#)

Spotlight: Kids Summer Camp



"This summer, we welcomed youth and young adults ages 8 - 21 with a wide range of abilities for a week filled with creativity, fun, and community. Each day had a unique theme, offering activities, crafts, games, and STEAM projects designed to be inclusive, engaging, and age-appropriate."

[Read More](#)

Note From Parent to Parent

Back to School season is here, bringing new routines, fresh opportunities, and sometimes a few challenges too. We're here to walk alongside you as your families settle into the upcoming school year. It was amazing to see so many families at the county fair and the Rascal Rodeo this year, it's always so much fun and something that is looked forward to every year. Looking ahead, we're excited for our upcoming fall events that will bring families together for connection, support, and a little seasonal celebration. Check out our website for details, and as always, Parent to Parent is here for you.

~ Sincerely, Geneva Arevalo (P2P Coordinator)

P2P Family Story: Homero



"Hello! I am Magdalena, originally from Morelia Michoacán, I got married there and came to the north, very excited about my new life. Soon after I became pregnant and Homero, my firstborn, was born on a Saturday, October 12, 1991. Since I was pregnant, the doctors told me that the fetus was small and when it was born that it had crooked feet; then when I took him to regular medical appointments, they told me that he did not gain weight, that he needed a nurse to feed him and so he would gain weight... but I refused." [Read More](#)

Papás y Mamás Especiales: Noche Mexicana

Friday, September 5 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm



MEXICAN NIGHT

Bring your family and join us in celebration.

CRY FOR INDEPENDENCE

Bring food to share, we'll have games, music,
and more...

SEPTEMBER 5TH AT 6 PM

807 S. 4th Ave. Walla Walla

Don't miss out!

**Make your reservation at 509-
301-0679**



[More Info Here](#)

Connect & Play

Tuesday, September 9 from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm



Connect & Play

Connect and Play (formerly *Kids Playgroup*) is a welcoming space for families with children under 12 who have intellectual and developmental disabilities and their siblings. While kids dive into fun, hands-on play, exploring, creating, and making new friends with SOAR Director Tash and our caring, background-checked volunteers, parents get a moment just for themselves.

Led by Parent-to-Parent Coordinator Geneva, parent time offers connection, support, and practical guidance in an understanding environment. Share experiences, ask questions, or just take a few deep breaths while knowing your child is safe, happy, and thriving nearby.

Connect and Play is more than a program; it's a space for families to grow, recharge, and enjoy meaningful time together.

(Registration deadline for Connect & Play is Sunday before the event)

[More Info Here](#)

P2P Columbia County Meeting

Friday, September 19 at 6:00 pm



Parent to Parent

Inform | Support | Connect

COLUMBIA COUNTY MEETING

**Delaney Building
111 S 3rd St, Dayton WA
Friday, Sept 19th
6:00 PM**

Join us for a P2P meeting in Dayton, Wa
This event is a potluck so bring a dish to share.



[More Info Here](#)

Helping Parents

Tuesday, September 23 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

HELPING PARENTS

*Come Join us for a Helping
Parents Meeting. Connect, Share
Experiences, and support one
another.*

5:30PM-7:00PM
SEPT. 23RD 2025

What does it mean to be a Helping Parent?
Sign ups for Helping Parent Panels and Events.

Childcare and Dinner Provided

Center for Children and Families

Library

RSVP @ www.wvvdn.org

[More Info Here](#)

For elementary school students with Autism and their parents or caregivers

Begins October 2

Students from all local school districts are welcome



Improving Social Skills & Behavior: Classes for Kids With Autism & Their Parents/Caregivers

This 12-part class series focuses on building key social and behavioral skills for elementary school students with Autism.

At the same time, caregivers will attend their own class to learn the same strategies being taught to their students and to receive personalized assistance with behaviors and interventions.



Register with QR code or at
www.vdn.org on the Calendar of Events

Each student class limited to 12 students,

Classes held Thursdays, 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

at the Center for Children & Families, 1150 W Chestnut St, Walla Walla

Students in grades K-2 and their caregivers will meet the following Thursdays:

Oct 2, 16, & 30; Nov 13; Dec 4 & 18; Jan 15 & 29; Feb 12 & 26; March 12 & 26

Students in grades 3-5 and their caregivers will meet the following Thursdays:

Oct 9 & 23; Nov 6 & 20; Dec 11; Jan 8 & 22; Feb 5 & 19; March 5 & 19; April 2



Made possible by grant funding from Wildhorse Foundation

[More Info Here](#)

Challenger Basketball

Friday, Oct 10, 17, 24 & Nov 7, 14, 21 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm



Challenger
Basketball

[More Info Here](#)

Whitman Buddy Program



WHITMAN
COLLEGE

Launching in October! SOAR is teaming up with Whitman College students for our Buddy Program. If you were a previous participant (in the last 3 years), please fill out the one-question Buddy Program Check-In Google Form. If you are interested in participating this year, please fill out the "Buddy Bio" Google Form. This will help give students an insight into your likes and hobbies, and sign you up to receive updates when it begins.

[Buddy Check-In](#)

[Buddy Bio](#)



SOAR Events - For age 13 and over

Open for registration:

Thursday, Sept 4 - Karaoke Night

Wednesday, Sept 10 - Game Show Night

Wednesday, Sept 17 - Bowling Night

Wednesday, Sept 24 - Themed Dinner Party & Movie Night

Saturday, Oct 25 - Shrek the Musical

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

[Visit the SOAR Events Page](#)

Community Bulletin



WALLA WALLA VALLEY HIRING EVENT

**GOODWILL STORE PARKING LOT
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2025
10AM - 2PM**

Don't miss this opportunity to meet with local employers who are looking for great candidates.

Goodwill Recruitment Specialists will be on site to assist with resume review.

Bring your job history!

Practice/Mock interview opportunities as well.

Presented by:



**For questions or
additional information:**

Call 509-525-5999

Shape Future Medicaid Services

August 15, 2025

We want to hear from you!

It's your chance to shape the future of Apple Health (Medicaid) services. The newly formed **Apple Health Advisory Council** is looking for people who receive intellectual and developmental disability or long-term care services from the state. Apple Health coverage includes home and community-based services, including personal care and residential services as well as primary care and emergency visits.

Your feedback could improve the program for nearly 2 million Washington residents.

Why join the Apple Health Advisory Council?

Compensation: Members are paid for their time (\$57 per hour up to \$200 per day).

Share your voice: Give feedback directly to inform programs, policies and services.

Make a difference: Represent your lived experiences with Medicaid services.

Meetings are virtual and start this fall. Estimated time commitment is 2-3 hours per month for the first few months, plus 1-2 hours every other month. Members serve on the council for a one-year term. Interpreter service is available upon request.

To apply for the Apple Health Advisory Council email HCAMPDBusOps@hca.wa.gov providing the following information:

- Full name
- Client ID or Provider One ID number
- Phone number
- Email address
- Best day and time to contact you

Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve and be heard!

Entrust Community Services



Entrust

Community Services

www.entrustcs.org

Now Serving Walla Walla

Contact Ruby

509-520-9280

Call today to confirm eligibility!

Serving these counties

Walla Walla
Benton/franklin
Grant/ Adams
Kittitas
Klickitat
Yakima

**Call 509-453-4756 and we will connect you to
the right office location.**

Committed to Enriching Lives Through Opportunity

Our services:

- **Person Centered Planning:** Tailored services and supports based on individual needs.
- **Employment Services:** Helping individuals find and maintain meaningful employment.
- **Housing Support:** Providing safe and affordable housing options.
- **Community Access Programs:** Ensuring everyone has access to community resources and activities.
- **Educational Training Programs:** Offering training to enhance skills and independence.



Children & Youth Short-Term Stabilization Videos

Developmental Disabilities Community Services

Home and Community Living Administration



July 31, 2025

Children and Youth Short-Term Stabilization Videos

Dear families,

If your child has developmental disabilities and behavioral health needs, and you need a break in caregiving while you and your child learn new skills, we have the programs for you! DDCS offers two short-term out-of-home stabilization services to help families reset, learn new skills and return home to a more typical level of support.

Enhanced Respite Services and **Intensive Habilitation Services** are 30- and 90-day out-of-home programs designed to help youth with a range of behavioral needs. IHS adds family involvement to their service delivery, supporting caregivers to learn new skills and maintain progress when youth return home. ERS and IHS are available to children and youth aged 8-20 who are on a DDCS waiver.

Watch our new videos to hear from two families who share how these services helped them stabilize their lives and re-connect with each other. If you have questions about how to get these services, please talk to your developmental disabilities case resource manager.

[More Info Here](#)

Tri-Club Application for Sight Assistance



The Walla Walla Eastgate, Walla Walla Downtown, and College Place Lions Clubs receive numerous requests for sight assistance in the form of eye exams and eyeglasses. We try to meet all applicants with a positive answer, but please understand that our budgets are limited. To help our committees determine the grant offerings, each candidate or applicant is asked to complete a form.

[More Info Here](#)



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