

Family Links



Aguilar Family

Summer 2017

Family Links produced by and for Parents of children with disabilities

Important Summer Events

~June 10 Family Potluck @ Wildwood Park

~June 12-14 4-H Horse Camp*see box

~June 19-23 Summer Camp for Elementary

~June 23 2-4pm young families Meet & Greet @ Wildwood Park

~June 26-30 Summer Camp for Teens

~July 18 New Families Meet and Greet @ Wildwood Park

P2P Coordinator, Michelle Aguilar, offers Hope

Like you, I will never forget the day a team of professionals gathered around, offering every kind of resource available to maximize our daughter's potential in light of her new diagnosis. I soon realized that, among the professionals, was at least one mom who had also navigated a new diagnosis (though different) for her own child. That mom, for me, was Teri Hough. As Parent to Parent Coordinator, I've now been given the privilege to be that mom for you. I look

forward to meeting each of you, and sharing the joy in the journey as you advocate for your child, and for yourself. Parent to Parent offers a place to receive information, support and understanding when you might not yet even know the questions to ask, and long after you do. I look forward to meeting you all. Call me with any questions or just to chat. I hope to see you soon.

***4-H Horse Camp
an opportunity for kids to ride horses, pet bunnies, and chickens, and... all because of our wonderful 4-H volunteers! See www.dn.org

You change the world

Caring for yourself as you care for your child is a tall order. Whether you are single, married, divorced, widowed, foster, adopting or biological, parenting a child or adult with a disability can be overwhelming. Anthropologist Margaret Mead said, "Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have." In the hustle and bustle, we can forget how important the 'work' we are doing

everyday is. No one understands what it is to care for a person with disability, like the parent of a child with a disability. Our families and our communities do offer support, but they do not, and cannot know what it means to live our lives. We change the world. Come to a gathering soon and be SEEN as we keep on doing our best to love and advocate for those entrusted to our care.



Jonah Levi Kralman featured in 'Spotlight' on page 2



Memorial Pool Slide

Memorial Pool is refreshing and accessible!

55 Moore Street
City Service Center
Walla Walla, Wa
99362
509-527-4527
<https://www.facebook.com/wallawallapr>

509-527-4527
the pool website suggests calling a week prior to the start date for regularly scheduled programs if special accommodations or accessibility is needed

Spotlight: Jonah Kralman

Jonah Levi Kralman is a young man with valuable insight and a heart of gold. He sat down with me recently, and, with his parents, Jason and Beth and Grandma Leona, shared his likes, dislikes and dreams. I asked Jonah what made him smile, and he immediately said, "my parents". His favorite color is brown, and getting his phone taken away as a consequence has a tendency to make him angry. If he could do anything in the world, Jonah would go to Disney World! If there was something Jonah wished everyone knew about him, it would be that he drops 'funny bombs', and has a great sense of humor. When I asked Jonah what was a challenge for him, he said, "thinking about the future after high school.". Something easy? Shredding papers for his Grandma. He doesn't prefer going to the dentist, or eating spinach, but Jonah loves to 'run around', attending family on errands and just for fun. Jonah and his parents shared a memory of having attended Silverwood's 'Night of the Stars', and the joy it brought to relax, belong, and see other kids with disabilities experience Silverwood. Wisely, Jonah said that if he could change just one thing, it would be 'the world'. He said he'd like people to be nicer. His mom, Beth, clarified, "for people to feel loved and accepted?". Jonah smiled and nodded in affirmation.



Beverly, Jonah and Jason Kralman

Parent to Parent of Walla
Walla and Columbia
Counties



PARENT to PARENT

Walla Walla Valley
Disability Network
/sponsoring agency



Person First Language matters

Read these two phrases aloud:

disabled kid
kid with disability

Can you feel the difference? Let's value persons with special needs and/or disabilities by placing his/her personhood before his/her disability. Never, for example, say 'autistic child'. Rather, 'child with autism', or how about omitting any superfluous reference to a child's disability? Just as 'diabetic child' or 'epileptic child' or 'peanut allergic child' are unsavory, so is 'disabled child'. Model speaking of our kids in a way that honors, affirms, and prioritizes. It's a great way to affect positive change.

Parent to Parent

Parent to Parent Support Programs provide emotional support and information to families of children with special needs and/or disabilities. We match trained veteran parents, "Helping Parents" who provide one-on-one support to new or referred parents who have a child with similar needs. We support families at all stages of life, and provide recreation and community events specifically for families with children with special needs and/or disabilities.

WWVDN Mission:
*To Improve the quality
of life for persons with
disabilities and their
families through
community access
and support*

1-800-562-6000
**During Legislative
session**
8am-8pm Mon-Fri
9-1 sat
Legislative Hotline

Parent to Parent
PO Box 1918
Walla Walla, WA
99362



Friend's Name
Street Address
City, State Zip Code

