WELCOME March 2017!
Goodbye to Gabby Lopez in Skagit County and now Melissa Lund in Kitsap/Jefferson and Michelle Meyer in Walla Walla. Thanks to all of you for your assistance helping families. I know you are going on to continue this work in other counties or organizations. Thanks!~Susan

P2P Coordinator Spotlight: Pierce County Parent to Parent!

All About Me - Michele Lehosky, Coordinator
Calendar of Events

2017...


3/11: A Bi-lingual Conference for Families and Others Caring for Children with Developmental and Other Disabilities - flyer in Spanish
Saturday, March 11, 2017 8:00 am - 3:00 pm Location: Sunnyside High School; 1801 East Edison; Sunnyside, Washington


3/18: All Born In Annual Conference in Portland at the Portland Holiday Inn.

3/31: Duncan Seminar Seattle Children's Hospital - "The Juggling Act"
Developmental Disabilities, Behavioral Challenges and Mental Health. Friday March 31st 8 am - 4:30 pm Wright Auditorium, Seattle Children's Hospital. Limited Scholarships Available call Lena at 1.206.987.5318.

4/1-4/30: Pinwheels for Prevention! The Department of Early Learning (DEL) is observing National Child Abuse Prevention month in April 2017 by raising awareness in communities about child abuse and neglect prevention. Please place your order for pinwheels using the form attached and send to strengtheningfamilies@del.wa.gov. Pinwheels are available on a first come, first serve basis. Pinwheels will be available for delivery in March.

4/1: 2017 Voices of Children Contest for children reared by grandparent or other relative not a parent (all entries must be submitted or postmarked by April 1st 2017). Questions call 1.877.813.2828 or email Lynn@Familyess.org

5/3 - 5/5: Infant and Early Childhood Conference - Greater Tacoma Convention Center, Tacoma, WA.

Location: The Wenatchee Convention Center 121 North Wenatchee Avenue, Wenatchee, WA 98801 1.509.662.4411 Contact: Monica McDaniel at: monica@gowise.org or 1.253.307.7475 - Registration opens in March 2017.

6/23: **The WIN Leadership Symposium** - one day symposium bringing together local community, business and government leaders to promote inclusion. Official public launch of the WIN Initiative: Microsoft Redmond Campus-more information to follow.

2018...

7/1-7/8: **The Special Olympics USA Games** held in Seattle 2018-more information to follow.

2017 Advocacy Days in Olympia

NOTE: Advocacy Day is every Wednesday from February 1st through April 5th. It begins with an hour briefing at 10:00 am at the The United Churches (110 - 11th Avenue SE, Olympia). Contact Bean if need more information bean@arcwa.org or 1.888.754.8798 option 5.

3/1: Advocacy Day-Meet Your Legislators

3/8: Advocacy Day-How McCleary Affects You

3/15: **Advocacy Day-Family Services and Parent to Parent Day!**

3/22: Advocacy Day-Budget Overview

3/29: **Advocacy Day-Self-Advocates / Autism and Down Syndrome Day!**

4/5: Advocacy Day-Take Note!

If this is your first visit and you need a guide for the day, please let us know when you register. To register, please call: 1.888.754.8798, option 5, or e-mail: bean@arcwa.org

New Resources

1) Seattle Children's **Support Group Information**

2) Great **Shout Out to P2P Programs** Statewide (stay and listen until the 2nd gentleman begins speaking) Autism Blogcast with Jim and Raphe

3) Video Series

- "**Sunshine After the Storm:**"-how Parent to Parent Support can help
- "**Writing an IFSP**":-an individual family services plan for your young child
- "**Siblings**" and the Sibling Support Project
4) ParentHelp123.org and InformingFamilies.org are great resources for families and they do a nice job of categorizing information by the age of the child.

5) The National Autism Association's Big Red Safety Box program. This is a free of charge safety tool kit for autism families in need of wandering prevention tools.

6) **Trips Inc.** All-inclusive vacation packages for travelers ages 18 and older with intellectual & developmental disabilities

7) ABLE Account - It looks like ABLE Account is to be implemented on July 1st 2017 in WA State.

- What Expenses Can't a Special Needs Trust Pay For?
- **ABLE ACT and THE DD ENDOWMENT TRUST**

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**Pure Wow-20 Ways to Practice Self-Care in 2017 by Jenny Jin**

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**Links for Archived Newsletters**

(Click to read archived past editions through August 2016 of the P2P Newsletter!)

- September 2016
- October 2016
- November 2016
- December 2016
- January 2017
- February 2017