


Check out our latest newsletter!



WA State Parent to Parent (P2P) Newsletter: February 2017

A background image of various colorful flowers, including pink, yellow, and white dahlias, arranged on a light-colored surface. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is centered over the flowers, containing the quote and the REALSIMPLE logo.

The best and most
beautiful things in
the world cannot be
seen nor even
touched, but just felt
in the heart.

Helen Keller

REALSIMPLE

WELCOME February 2017!

Have a nice Valentine's Day with your honey and your family.
~~Susan

P2P Coordinator Spotlight: Island County Parent to Parent!

All About Me - [TIFFANY WHEELER-THOMPSON](#), Coordinator ([Island County Parent 2 Parent Facebook](#))

Calendar of Events

2017...

1/28: [Washington Shining Star Pageant](#) is now accepting applications for participants. Girls must be in Kindergarten up to age 30 with an IEP, and/ or disability.

2/16: [Assistive Technology Conference](#)-Registration will be open through February 10, 2017. Hotel reduced rate deadline: January 15th

3/8 - 3/10: [General & Special Education Conference](#)-WA State Convention Center, Seattle. Course content age range: Birth-21 years of age.

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: [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.

6/13-6/15: [Wenatchee 2017 "Impact Our Futures!"](#) June 13th-15th, 2017
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 early 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.

2/1: [Advocacy Day](#) Briefing, CEA Employment Rally, DD Public Policy Briefing and [Legislative Reception](#)

10:00-11:30 am Advocacy Day Briefing (The United Churches)
12:00 noon Community Employment Alliance (CEA) Employment Rally (Rotunda State Capitol)
2:00-4:00 pm DD Public Policy Briefing (The United Churches)
5:30-7:00 pm Legislative Reception (Columbia Room State Capitol)

2/8: Advocacy Day-Disability Protections

2/15: Advocacy Day-Supported Living and Rally with CRSA

2/22: Advocacy Day-Multi-Cultural Day

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) New Resources from CDC on Zika - [During Pregnancy click here](#) & [Born with CZS click here](#) & [Born Apparently Healthy click here](#)

2) Study examines time and money spent on family care for special needs youths - [Physician's Briefing/HealthDay News](#) (12/27)

- Nearly 5.6 million US children with special health care needs received 1.5 billion hours of family-provided health care yearly, costing \$17.6 billion in foregone earnings.
- The findings in [Pediatrics](#), based on 2009 to 2010 survey data, also showed the highest amount of family care was provided for children who were ages 5 and younger, Hispanic, below the federal poverty level, who had both private and public insurance, and who had severe conditions.

3) Seattle Children's Center for Children with Special Needs has just released the 2017 edition of Starting Point Guide, a resource guide for Washington State families of children with ongoing health conditions or special needs. [The Guide is available for download](#). To order print copies contact the Center at 1.206.987.3736 or csn@seattlechildrens.org.

4) [When a Child Is Born Tests Should Be Uniform](#) USA Today Opinion Article December 22, 2016 ..."Federal officials should insist on smarter, uniform newborn testing across the 50 states; on the use of the latest technology in assessing tests; and on giving the federal newborn testing advisory committee authority to ensure newborns get the care they need"...

5) [Best Buddies-chapter at Seattle University](#)-For individuals within this IDD community, Best Buddies helps them form meaningful friendships with their peers, secure successful jobs, live independently, improve public speaking, self-advocacy and communications skills, and feel valued by society.

6) The Autistic Self Advocacy Network is now accepting applications for the [2017 Autism Campus Inclusion \(ACI\) Summer Leadership Academy!](#) The ACI Summer Leadership Academy prepares autistic students to do disability advocacy at their colleges. Accepted students will travel to Washington, DC and participate in advocacy training from June 10th to June 17th, 2017. Submit application by Sunday, February 19th, 2017.

7) Join the [SOWA](#) Family Network - Area Director/Volunteer Team - Family Support Coordinator/Volunteer - Family members of SOWA Athletes and Unified Partners enjoy the following: (1) Online Community Resource Lists (2) Peer Support (3) Unified Participation
Activities at SOWA competitions: (1) Community Resource Areas (2) Family Lounges (3) Family Receptions State Tournay-Enjoy refreshments and make new friends. Hear a topic. (4) Priority Seating - 11 areas with 2 in King County. To register your family, email or call Director of Program Initiatives at cmelfish@sowa.org or call Chara McElfish at 1.201.681.9364.

8) [Special Olympics Event Calendar](#) and volunteer for the [Special Olympics USA games](#)

9) The National Down Syndrome Society's scholarship opportunity for students with Down syndrome. Application for the [O'Neill Tabani Enrichment Fund](#) is now available! For any questions regarding the O'Neill Tabani Enrichment Fund, please either send an email to otef@ndss.org or call 1.800.221.4602.

10) [Google Adds Details On Accessibility](#) A small change to [Google Maps](#) could make a big difference for people with disabilities. Alongside information about a business's hours, telephone number and address, the search giant is now including details about whether or not the location has a wheelchair-accessible entrance.

Accessibility details are based on submissions from users.

"For the most part, our users submit feedback on whether a place has an accessible entrance, and once enough data is gathered, we're able to note that a particular location has a wheelchair accessible entrance," Davidoff said. Business owners can also submit information about accessibility

through Google My Business.

11) ASAN (Autism Self-Advocacy Network), is asking P2P to help them send around a survey "to parents and self-advocates on autism and safety, specifically so we can get some data on people's attitudes toward this sort of thing and strategies they've used to keep themselves or their kids safe." Here is a [link to the parent survey](#).

12) Grandparents and Relatives - Do you know about the services, resources and supports for you and the children in your care. [Free Publication](#) DSHS 22-1120 and requests for hard copy may be placed at Fulfillment@des.wa.gov or calling 1.360.570.5555.

13) When research matters: Access the most reliable, evidence-based information in your field. [HEALWA](#) (Health Evidence Resource for Washington)

14) New Care Organizer Fax Order Form (CSHCN)-Have updated our [Care Organizer fax order form](#). You may also use our [web form](#). Care organizers are available to Washington State families of children with special needs at no cost. Contact Hanna Abrahamson Project Coordinator with any questions 1.206.987.3736 or email Hanna.Abrahamson@SeattleChildrens.org

15) [Washington State Fathers Network](#) (WSFN) connects men, who have a child in their life with special health care needs, with each other. We also provide resources, information, advocacy and education, plus opportunities for "all family" celebrations. [Join their mailing list](#).

Happy Valentines Day!



"My hope for the New Year
is that everyone finds a group or community
that supports their ambitions and understands their struggles.
We all need this kind of connection to help build resilience and find joy.
We really are stronger when we lean in together"

Sheryl Sandberg from [Lean In](#)



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](#)

WA State Parent to Parent (P2P) | The Arc of Washington State | 1-800-821-5927 |
parent2parentwa@gmail.com |
http://arcwa.org/index.php/getsupport/parent_to_parent_p2p_programs

STAY CONNECTED:

