Celebrating a collection of stories honoring those who make a difference for children and their families.

nvpep.org

Nevada PEP
Strengthening Families
with
Education • Empowerment • Encouragement
“Hearing your voice makes my world light up with hope, the world seems right again. You are resilient champions for families.”

~Parent
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PEP is Nevada’s Statewide Parent Training and Information Center for families who have children with disabilities and the professionals who support them. Nevada PEP is also the Statewide Family Network for families who have children with behavioral health care needs. Nevada PEP believes that the family is the fundamental unit in society. Our philosophy is that children with disabilities, without regard for the nature and severity of the disability, have inherent value, that all life has purpose, that communities benefit from providing appropriate interventions and that individuals with disabilities make valuable contributions to society.

### WHAT IS NEVADA PEP?

To increase the opportunities for home, community and school success for children with disabilities, including those who are at risk or who have serious emotional disturbances, their families and their service providers, through education, encouragement and empowerment activities.

### WHAT SERVICES DOES PEP OFFER?

- Information and Referral
- Statewide Lending Library
- Conflict Resolution Support
- Individual Assistance
- Training Workshops
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Family Support Services
- Monthly Newsletters
- Webinars

### WHO SHOULD CALL?

- Parents of children with disabilities
- Parents of children with mental health needs
- Parents needing encouragement and support from other parents
- Family members, friends and persons with disabilities
- Professionals in the medical, educational, and human service fields
- Community Leaders who make decisions about programs of support for children with disabilities and their families
Dear Readers,

None of us knew what 2021 would bring, we were hopeful that the pandemic would wind down and that we would be able to return to normal. While we remained hopeful throughout the year, we have yet to get back to the life we once took for granted. Navigating the ups and downs of the year has taught us flexibility, patience, and creativity as we show grace when things don’t go as planned.

Families of children with disabilities have struggled disproportionately during these historic times. As our schools and communities started to open for in person care and education new challenges arose, including increased mental health care needs for our children and youth. This has been a difficult year for sure, but we were also uplifted by our friends, family, educators, community, and the dedicated professionals in our lives.

The honorees in the 2021 Hand in Hand Together We Can Yearbook are the uplifters who generously gave their time, talent, or treasures to support children and families. Nevada PEP applauds the remarkable people who are highlighted in this yearbook.

The Hand in Hand Together We Can program was developed to show appreciation to those who make a positive difference throughout Nevada. Nevada PEP believes that it is important to help families acknowledge the kindness and dedication of individuals who make a difference for their children.

We want to show our sincere appreciation to the community leaders and the generous donors who support the continuation of this appreciation program. Thank you to the families who shared a part of their story and sent in such touching nominations about the amazing individuals who made a difference in their lives.

Hand in Hand together we can make a positive difference in the lives of children and youth, we can be kind to one another, build our resilience, and remain hopeful about our future.

In Gratitude,

Karen Taycher
Executive Director
Welcome to the 2021 Hand in Hand Together We Can yearbook. The Hand in Hand Together We Can program began in 2002 to recognize and honor the people who have made a positive difference in the lives of children with special needs. I am honored to be involved in an organization that recognizes the people who have made a positive difference in the lives of children.

As Chair of the Nevada PEP Governing Board, I am convinced we can agree that once again we were put to the test as we continue to ride the waves of the COVID pandemic. There is no doubt this has been another challenging year; many families are struggling and the need for our services continues to rise. As the Chair, I am extremely proud of our dedicated PEP team for supporting each other, being strong and staying true to our mission. Nevada PEP remains committed to supporting and strengthening families. Parents will have the information they need to support their children to reach their full potential.

As we reflect on 2021, in the month of October Nevada PEP collaborated with #SafeAllies and hosted our 2nd annual I Care We Care Kindness Can Be Everywhere social media campaign to raise awareness about bullying prevention. The I Care We Care team added a digital bus that traveled throughout the state and successfully collected over 300 messages of kindness and hope. We are so grateful to Findlay Automotive Group for stepping up and being our Champion Circle sponsor and Fox 5 Take 5 to Care adopted Nevada PEP as their charity of the month, sharing our message of kindness and hope.

This has been a difficult year, but we’re getting through it together. We’ve learned how to adapt to unprecedented events and navigate a whole new way of working and living. Let’s move forward with the hope of better days to come.

On behalf of Nevada PEP, we are grateful to all our community partners, volunteers, and generous donors who continue to support and believe in our mission.

Working together, we are building a stronger community for our children.

Bryce Loveland  
Nevada PEP Governing Board Chair
“If it wasn’t for PEP, I would be lost. It is difficult to understand Special Education and PEP as an organization makes the steps easy for parents to grasp.”

~Parent
COMMUNITY TRAININGS

Nevada PEP offers training opportunities for parents, students, and professionals throughout Nevada. Core training topics include Understanding ADHD, IEP Clinics, Positive Behavioral Interventions, Bullying Prevention, and Literacy workshops. In collaboration with our community partners, we provide trainings to educate the community and to reach more families who have children with disabilities. The information offered in the trainings helps families learn about best practices and how to advocate for services for their children. Trainings are presented in both English and Spanish, and include live and On Demand webinars.

193 Training Workshops Conducted

2,817 Individuals participated in the training workshops

Were you able to understand the information you received from Nevada PEP?  ...Yes, 100%

Are you prepared to use the information you received from Nevada PEP?  ...Yes, 98%

Would you recommend Nevada PEP to others?  ...Yes, 100%
**DISABILITY CATEGORIES**

Disabilities of all Children Served

- <1% Hearing / Deaf
- <1% Visual / Blind
- <1% Traumatic Brain Injury
- <1% Deaf / Blind
- 1% Multiple
- 2% Developmental Delay
- 2% Speech / Language
- 2% Intellectual Disability
- 4% Health / Medical
- 8% Learning Disability
- 8% Undiagnosed
- 19% ADD / ADHD
- 18% Autism
- 32% Emotional Challenges
- 6% Non Disabled
- <1% Orthopedic

**VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS**

Nevada PEP encourages volunteers, board members, and family members to be involved in their communities. Students, parents, and professionals have donated 379 virtual hours of valuable service. Our volunteers have continued to be engaged by using their creative talents to design decorative greeting cards for our Veterans, this ongoing virtual collaborative partnership with the American Legion Auxiliary has been a highlight and enjoyed by the volunteers. Volunteers meet virtually monthly to share new technology and apps to help with their everyday lives. Our volunteers stand committed to PEP and is always willing to give the gift of time to help in any community activities, or special events.

*“With Nevada PEP by your side, you will be guided step by step and never feel alone again.”*  
~Parent

**Volunteer Hours:** 379
SUPPORT SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS

Nevada PEP provides support services by first providing Information & Referral Services and helping parents find their way through the maze of services. Another important support service is Individual Assistance, which targets the specific needs of the individual or family. If a family requires additional support, Nevada PEP attends Education, Wraparound, or Child & Family Team meetings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Family Team Meetings</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Meetings</td>
<td>573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New &quot;Intakes&quot; Families</td>
<td>1,171</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Individuals Contacting PEP</td>
<td>1,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Assistance Contacts</td>
<td>22,786</td>
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</table>

- **96%** Agree: The information and support received from Nevada PEP help you to feel confident in your ability to work with your child’s school or service providers.
- **100%** Agree: The information Nevada PEP provided was useful.
- **100%** Agree: The information Nevada PEP provided helped you learn more about how to meet your child’s needs.
- **100%** Agree: The information or support you received from Nevada PEP met your needs.
COMMUNITY OUTREACH & PUBLIC AWARENESS

Nevada PEP provides outreach presentations for service providers, professional organizations and parent groups throughout Nevada. By educating community members, Nevada PEP continually enhances understanding of the needs of children with disabilities and their families.

Top 10 Reasons People Contact Nevada PEP

1. Behavior / Discipline Issues
2. Family Support
3. Advocacy
4. Special Education / IEPs
5. Basic Needs Assistance
6. Assessment / Eligibility for Service
7. Family Engagement
8. General Education Curriculum
9. Special Education Placement
10. Bullying

Top 10 Issues Families Seek Individual Assistance to Help Their Child

1. Behavior Intervention
2. Assessments & Eligibility
3. Frequency of Services
4. Present Levels of Performance
5. Modifications & Accommodate
6. Parent Training and Counseling
7. Location of Services
8. Transition Services
9. Community Instruction
10. Juvenile Justice / Crisis Care

21
Number of public forums, information fairs, & community outreach events

433
Number of meetings attended to enhance the support systems for children with special needs and their families

707
Podcast Listeners

4,183
Facebook Likes

2,119
Twitter Followers

1,303
Instagram Followers

4,430
YouTube Subscribers

64,867
Number of yearly website hits at nvpep.org

434,772
Number of E-Newsletters sent

65
Number of committees to which Nevada PEP representatives provided the parent perspective
CONSUMER DEMOGRAPHICS

Consumer Relationships

Gender of Children Helped
- Male - 65%
- Female - 34%
- Undisclosed - 1%

Ages of Children Helped

<table>
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<tr>
<th>YEARS</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth - 2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 - 5</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 - 11</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 - 14</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 - 18</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 - 21</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 - 26</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ethnicities of Individuals Contacting PEP

- African American/Black - 11%
- White/Caucasian - 34%
- Hispanic - 27%
- Undisclosed - 19%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander - 1%
- American Indian/Native American/Alaskan - 1%
- Two or More Races - 4%
- Other Ethnicities - 3%
Nevada PEP has formed strong relationships throughout the community with corporations, professional organizations, and individuals. It is only through the ongoing support of our community partners that we continue to grow. Our greatest need is for corporate sponsors. In giving to Nevada PEP, you will be rewarded with a lifetime of achievement and partnership.

“Before Nevada PEP, I was so lost, and the school dismissed everything I said. Now I feel equipped to advocate for my child. Thank you, PEP!”
~Parent

To Donate securely over the Internet
Visit our website @ www.nvpep.org

EXPENDITURES Total: $1,575,829

Income Total: $1,389,521

- Personnel: $1,230,214
- Building & Space: $159,843
- Professional Services: $36,583
- Postage & Shipping: $34,912
- Supplies, Printing & Publications: $33,460
- Stipends, Family Training: $32,883
- Other Operational: $24,659
- Conferences, Meetings & Trainings: $20,139
- Travel & Mileage: $3,136

Income Summary:
- Parent: $1,230,214
- Building & Space: $159,843
- Professional Services: $36,583
- Postage & Shipping: $34,912
- Supplies, Printing & Publications: $33,460
- Stipends, Family Training: $32,883
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- Conferences, Meetings & Trainings: $20,139
- Travel & Mileage: $3,136
MAJOR FUNDERS
MGM Resort Foundation  
Nevada Department of Education  
Nevada Department of Health and Human Services  
Nevada Division of Child and Family Services  
U.S. Department of Education  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration

INDIVIDUAL FUNDERS
Allison Stephens  
Andelyn Olsen  
Barbara Davis  
Barbie Lauver  
Brittney Young  
Christopher Berry  
Cynthia Launer and Will Thomas  
Craig and Robin Kincaid  
Daniel Sussman  
David and Donna Askenai  
Dawn Hoffman  
Dinah Golden-Satchel  
Elisa Kline  
Erika and Bryce Loveland  
Evan Auerbach  
Glenn and Patricia Trowbridge  
Hanna Negash  
Jaclyn Tobias  
Jacqueline Harris  
Jeanette DeJesus  
Jessica Cortez  
John and Nadia Harper  
John Levine  
Karen Taycher  
Kate Lowenhar-Fisher  
Kelly Wooldridge  
Kenneth Taycher  
Lameka Barton  
Leann and Phil Baier  
Lyn Curns  
Mandi Rivera  
Merril Prager  
Michael Parker  
Margaret Harrington  
Marilyn Obermeyer  
Monica Daggett  
Magdalena Ruiz  
Natalie Filipic  
Retta Dermody  
Robin Kincaid  
Robin Prescott  
Rorie Fitzpatrick  
Rita and Roger Varney  
Sheila Martens  
Sheila Oliveira  
Stephanie Vrsnik  
Susana Isordia  
Timothy Taycher  
Thomas Burchett  
Thomas Taycher  
Tony Noell  
Trish and Andy Leavitt  
Uncle Jeff and Uncle Bill  
Veronica Quezada  
Yolanda Guzman

COMMUNITY PARTNERS
AIS- Advanced Imaging Solutions  
Abbott’s Custom Printing  
Aloha Pacific Federal Credit Union  
Amazon Smile  
American Legion Youth Auxiliary #14 Juniors  
Audi Henderson  
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck  
Center for Applied Research  
Claggett and Sykes Law Firm  
Creative Solutions Counseling Center  
Dependable Drafting  
Jaguar Land Rover- Henderson  
Just Give  
Findlay Automotive Group  
Findlay Chevrolet  
Findlay Honda Northwest  
Findlay Toyota  
Findlay RV  
Findlay Volkswagen- Henderson  
Fox 5 Las Vegas  
Goettl Air Conditioning  
Las Vegas Cause Players  
Las Vegas Mini Grand Prix  
Law Office of Andrew M. Leavitt  
Mondays Dark  
Natural Dry Carpet  
Nevada System of Care  
Network for Good  
Nevada State Bank  
Smith’s Community Rewards Program  
Spring Mountain Treatment Center  
The Lovaas Center  
Univision- Latino Mlx  
vCORE

Thank you to our Anonymous Donors. We are truly grateful for your continued support.
LEADERSHIP

Natalie Filipic is the mother of two and grandmother of six. As the Director of Operations, Natalie is generally responsible for the business and information management of Nevada PEP, ensuring the smooth operation of the organization’s infrastructure. Natalie enjoys the day to day routine of office management, knowing that what she does makes a difference in the lives of others.

Char Frost is the Statewide Family Network Director for Nevada PEP and is a Certified Family Peer Specialist (CFPS). The Statewide Family Network focuses on systems change and helping families who are involved with more than one child service system, specializing in children with serious emotional disturbance and behavioral disorders. As the parent of two children with emotional and behavioral disorders, Char has had personal experience advocating for children with special needs. Char has called Nevada home for 25 years and has been active statewide working on behalf of children and their families.

Robin Kincaid is the Director of Educational Services. Robin has over twenty years of experience educating parents and professionals on special education law, advocacy, best practice, parent/professional collaboration, and positive behavior supports. Other responsibilities include outreach activities and individual assistance to families. Robin has served on the Interagency Coordinating Council for the past fourteen years, representing the parent perspective in early intervention services. As co-chair for the Families First Statewide Conference in 2007, Robin provided leadership and coordination for the conference program.

Magdalena Ruiz is a bilingual Family Support Services Manager. She is a proud mother of three boys; her oldest and her youngest son have disabilities. Before she became part of the Nevada PEP family, she was lost and overwhelmed with stress. Thanks to the help she received from PEP, she was able to keep going. “I now feel confident and capable to do the same for all my families. My goal is to make a difference in a child’s life and to help families become better advocates for their loved ones.”

Stephanie Vrsnik is the Community Development Director. Stephanie is the proud mother of two adult children and a grandmother of an amazing twelve-year-old grandson. Having a son with a disability brought her to Nevada PEP over twenty-one years ago. Her passion and expertise are focused on raising public awareness and community support for Nevada PEP. “It is vital that the community supports our children to be successful contributing members of our community.” Stephanie is a member of the Community Advisory Committee and attends American Fundraising Professionals and the Alliance of Nevada Non-profits events. She oversees annual events that recognize Children’s Mental Health and Bullying Prevention. Building a stronger community for all is her primary goal.
PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Maria Amezcua works as a Family Support Specialist. The military brought her family to Vegas. She retired from the U.S. Air Force and decided, as a family, to stay and enjoy what Vegas has to offer. PEP’s website caught her attention and she decided to become part of PEP. She is part of the administration team and enjoys supporting staff in different departments that makes up the organization.

Chris Berry is a Family Specialist serving families in Northern Nevada. He holds a BA in anthropology and an MS in information sciences. Challenges he faced in his educational career fuel his passion for helping families achieve better outcomes. Chris connects with families through experience growing up in a rural community, and as a father raising a child with disabilities. Chris believes the information and advocacy skills provided by NVPEP equip families for lasting success.

Daniel Clark is the Special Projects Facilitator. He manages the website and participates in the planning and execution of various special projects and events for PEP. One of his favorite things to do is design logos and flyers whenever he gets the chance. He was drawn to PEP because he was seeking an opportunity to use his creative skills to help people in the community. Having seen the wonderful work that PEP does for families, it seemed like a perfect fit.

Lexie Beck is the Youth MOVE Facilitator in the Satellite office. She grew up volunteering for Nevada PEP through Challenger Little League of Southern Nevada. When moving up to Reno she decided she wanted to be more involved and engaged in advocacy. As a youth with lived experience, Lexie encourages the importance of the youth voice in youth-serving systems. She is passionate about empowering others and raising awareness about mental health.

Joi Cox is a Project Coordinator at Nevada PEP. She has called Nevada home since 2017. Joi is passionate in raising awareness about mental health. She loves that Nevada PEP helps families access mental health resources and supports families who have children with behavioral health care needs. When she’s not at PEP, Joi can be found teaching aerial movement classes or spending quality time with her dog Sammy.
Professional Staff

Susana DeNeef is a Family Specialist at Nevada PEP. She is the proud mother of three and has two wonderful grandchildren. Susana is proud to work in an organization that enhances opportunities for those with disabilities. Her passion is to educate, empower and encourage families to be the best advocates for their children.

Kendra Gipson is the Family Voice Facilitator at Nevada PEP. Receiving assistance from PEP in the past with understanding IEP’s, effective advocacy, and parents’ rights ignited a passion to help others. She is enthusiastic about supporting families that have children with disabilities so they can reach their full potential in school and in their community.

Elisa Kline is a Family Specialist. Elisa is the mother to a son with a disability. When she needed an advocate to support her at a meeting, she was referred to Nevada PEP. Elisa was in awe of the passion and knowledge her advocate had while helping her, and she wanted to be able to help others in the same way.

Ryley Harris is the Youth Mentor at Nevada PEP in the Central office. Ryley is a native Nevadan and enjoys engaging youth through shared lived experience. Ryley is passionate about reducing stigma around mental health. He is committed to sharing the youth voice to and helping other youth develop advocacy skills to make positive changes in the systems that serve youth.

Joanna Gonzalez is a family specialist. She has two daughters who are her pride and joy and the main reason she came to Nevada PEP. Before she found PEP, she struggled to get services and help for her children. One of the reasons she came to PEP was to learn more about advocacy. Joanna liked that PEP helps families get services within their community and makes a difference in collaboration with schools and agencies. Her passion is to educate and help families understand they have options. She hopes to teach families to have higher expectations and know what services they could receive to be successful in school and in their communities.

Elisa Kline is a Family Specialist. Elisa is the mother to a son with a disability. When she needed an advocate to support her at a meeting, she was referred to Nevada PEP. Elisa was in awe of the passion and knowledge her advocate had while helping her, and she wanted to be able to help others in the same way.
**PROFESSIONAL STAFF**

Daniel Leal is the Youth Facilitator in the Central office. Daniel is an advocate committed to raising awareness about the mental health needs of youth by utilizing his own lived experience with mental health, to uplift and encourage youth to be engaged, be heard, and make a difference. Daniel is dedicated to being a vocal advocate for youth voice in youth-serving systems. Daniel has called Nevada home for over 6 years and makes faith a central part of his life by serving as a leader of the youth ministry at his church and as an ordained chaplain.

Diane Lombardo is fulfilling her lifelong dream of helping families through Nevada PEP. She moved to Las Vegas in 1986 for a better opportunity for herself and family. After seeking help for her own two boys, she began volunteering to give something back. She served as the intake specialist for many years and is the Community Education Specialist. She remains passionate about helping families at PEP and after more than 16 years of service, dreams of one day staging a huge fundraiser and helping children with disabilities through her musical talent.

Kayla Mariani is the Program Support Specialist in the Reno office. She got drawn to Nevada PEP because she grew up wanting to make a difference in the community and noticed PEP is the perfect opportunity to do so. As a part of the administration department Kayla makes sure that the office runs smoothly and help different departments in many different tasks. Kayla is very proud to be working with an organization that puts families first and helps them advocate for their children’s rights.

Kathryn McKay is the Community Outreach Manager. She is a proud mom of three children; Her oldest son just graduated from college, her daughter is attending Graduate school, and her youngest son just started his freshmen year in college. She started her journey with Nevada PEP as a volunteer, and quickly fell in love with the organization and the amazing work that PEP does for families and their children. Kathryn is passionate about helping others and is excited to be working at Nevada PEP helping families like hers.

Carley Murray is the Transition Services Manager. She is also a military spouse and the proud mother of two teens with disabilities. She believes that every person has the potential to reach their dreams and believes that her role is to help families use the services available to them to realize this potential. She loves coming to work each day to help empower parents to be better advocates for their children.
PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Zelinna Palma is the Office Manager in the Central Office. She’s a mother to a beautiful little girl. Zelinna is studying to become an entrepreneur. Zelinna has a passion for helping others. She also loves to travel and hike in her free time. What brought her to Nevada PEP was all the amazing work that PEP does for families and their children. Zelinna enjoys being a part of the PEP family.

Dr. Christa Peterson is a licensed psychologist with over 30 years of experience developing, administering, and delivering services to youth who have developmental disabilities and behavioral health disorders. In the last sixteen years, Christa has served as principal investigator for several grant initiatives, such as the Neighborhood Care Center Project. Christa has co-authored many research and other publications in professional psychology, including studies of the wraparound process. She is also the parent of a child with behavioral health disorders. Christa enjoys being a part of the Nevada PEP Family.

Vanessa Pueyo is an Information and Training Specialist. She has a son who is her entire world and made advocacy a passion for her. Having the opportunity to work for PEP made her grow as a better advocate for her family and as a professional helping other families in both English and Spanish.

Dan Sapp is a Family Specialist and a proud father of six children, two with disabilities. Dan is passionate about educating families and helping them to work through different systems. As a parent, he understands how important it is for families to have support and resources. He is privileged to be able to support families as they advocate for their children.

Kenneth Taycher is a Special Project Mentor at Nevada PEP. He enjoys being a part of the PEP team and PEP’s commitment to helping people with disabilities and their families. He is truly passionate about helping young adults to be a part of their community. Kenny has been involved in the Challenger baseball program as a coach for the last seventeen years. Kenny’s goal is to Educate, Empower, and Encourage people to be their best advocate.
PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Chad Uhl is the proud father and the Social Media & Internet Marketing Specialist for Nevada PEP. Chad maintains PEP’s online social media networks. He also designs PEP’s e-newsletters and publications for families. Chad is passionate about spreading awareness of the effects of bullying in our schools. “Bullying prevention is important because it allows us to build stronger relationships within our community.”

Brittney Young is a Family Specialist in the Satellite office. She is the proud mom of a silly and outgoing 9-year-old son with Autism, ADHD, and Sensory Processing Disorder. She enjoys connecting with families, sharing information & resources, and encouraging families to be the best advocate they can be for their children. Brittney’s family has lived in the Reno area for over a decade, which makes her passionate about her local community. Brittney enjoys helping families and making a positive difference in their lives.

“Youth MOVE has helped my daughter gain her confidence. She finally feels reassured that she’s not alone.”
~Parent
Nevada PEP, in collaboration with Safe Allies and partnered with Findlay Automotive Group and Fox 5 Take Five, launched the I Care, We Care digital bus to travel across the state collecting care messages from individuals. The messages were showcased on our Gallery Wall and our website. The generous outpouring of support was truly amazing, with over 300 submissions. Families, friends, schools, communities, and dignitaries all pulled together to spread kindness, hope, and heartfelt messages across the state.

**United for Kindness, Acceptance & Inclusion**

Nevada PEP and Youth M.O.V.E Nevada celebrated Unity Day on October 20, 2021. It was highlighted by the Unity Day Twitter Chat which focused on the effects bullying can have. It also gave strategies on how to be an upstander!

**Twitter Chat Statistics**

- Total Tweets: 68
- Impressions: 15,821
- Engagements: 1,339

Nevada PEP is honored to have received five proclamations in honor of Unity Day. During this annual event, participants wear and share orange to show that we are united against bullying, and working together for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. We offer our sincere gratitude to state officials for recognizing the worthy cause of bullying prevention in the state of Nevada! It was a very exciting month!

**Unity Day Proclamations**

- City of Reno
- City of Las Vegas
- Elko
- City of North Las Vegas
- City of Henderson

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**SafeAllies - Podcast Episodes**

- EP 2 - Introduction
- EP 3 - Bystander to Upstander
- EP 4 - Cyberbullying
- EP 5 - Parent Involvement in Bullying
- EP 6 - Know Your Rights

**SafeAllies - On Demand Trainings**

- Part 1: What is Bullying?
- Part 2: Bystanders
- Part 3: Bullying Laws

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**Bullying Activity Books Disseminated**

3,600
October is National Bullying Awareness month. This year Nevada PEP had a brand-new look with our I Care We Care Kindness Can Be Everywhere digital bus collecting and sharing messages of hope to raise awareness about bullying prevention.

Nevada PEP in collaboration with Safe Allies, partnered with Findlay Automotive Group and Fox 5 Take Five to Care, as the I Care We Care digital bus traveled across the State collecting care messages from individuals. The messages was showcased on our Gallery wall on our website and the generous outpouring of support was truly amazing, with over three hundred submissions. families, friends, schools, communities, dignitaries, all pulled together to spread kindness, hope and heartfelt messages across the State.

Youth Move Nevada and Nevada PEP hosted a live twitter chat on Unity Day. Unity Day is a day when people come together- in school, communities and online to send one large ORANGE message of support, hope and unity to show that we are united against bullying and united for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion.

We were honored to receive five proclamations from Mayors of Elko, Las Vegas, Henderson, Boulder City, and Carson City in support of Unity Day. We had a myriad of messages and videos from members of Congress, Sheriff Joe Lombardo, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and many more all showing their support for bullying prevention.

It was a very exiting month. Our deepest gratitude to our dedicated Sponsors, their continued support, and contribution to our community is commendable. Stay empowered and united. We look forward to next year.

SOCIAL MEDIA REACH FOR OCTOBER 2021

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<th>Platform</th>
<th>Reach</th>
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<td>42,200</td>
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<tr>
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<td>6,274</td>
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SPONSORS:

- Champion Circle
- Hope Highway
- Support Boulevard
- Findlay Automotive Group
- AIS
- Findlay Toyota
- Spring Mountain Treatment Center
- The Lovaas Center
- Brownstein
- Uncle Billy
- Aloha Pacific
- Sheriff Joe Lombardo
Congratulations to Youth MOVE Nevada for winning the 2020 Rockstar Award!

Youth MOVE National presents the Rockstar Awards to people and organizations who have made an outstanding contribution toward the improvement of youth or youth-serving systems—like mental health, juvenile justice, education, and child welfare.

Youth MOVE Nevada is committed and driven to representing the authentic youth voice. We are passionate about using our lived experience to influence systems change and remove the stigma placed on mental health. In light of COVID-19, Youth MOVE Nevada pivoted and continued to support and engage youth across Nevada through virtual poetry slams, podcast series, and Twitter chats on topics that represented youth culture. They acted on the needs heard from youth statewide and increased their monthly meetings to weekly meetings where much growth took place. All the while, Youth MOVE Nevada made sure that youth voices were heard at systems meetings and continued to inform the community on authentic youth voice and involvement.

We are a diverse collective that wants youth to be in a position where they are able to educate and articulate their needs to the service systems they are involved in. We want youth to develop self-advocacy skills, create systems change and remove the stigma placed on mental health.

**YOUTH MOVE NEVADA PODCAST EPISODES**

EP 2 - Authentic Youth Voice  
EP 3 - Self-Advocacy  
EP 4 - Coping w/ COVID  
EP 5 - National Bullying Prevention Month  
EP 6 - The Holiday Season  
EP 7 - Body Image  
EP 8 - Stigma  
EP 9 - Positive Relationships  
EP 10 - Resiliency  
SPECL - Nevada Legislative Session  
EP 11 - Self-Worth  
EP 12 - Children’s Mental Health Awareness  
EP 13 - Health Anxiety

**MEET THE ROCKSTARS AT YOUTH MOVE NEVADA**

Lexie  
Ryley  
Daniel

**SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS**

355  
211  
526

5,490

Mental Health Activity Books Disseminated
Nevada PEP has developed a great partnership with the Las Vegas Clark County Library District educating preschoolers, their families and staff on inclusion and bullying prevention. Nevada PEP’s Include Me Puppet Program enjoyed a successful year performing for over 1,900 preschool children and their caregivers.

Our dedicated puppeteers have volunteered many hours to perfecting the scripts and bringing the puppets to life. The children are excited as they interact with the puppets by asking questions about different disabilities and bullying prevention. Educating younger generations with parents and professionals is an encouraging step towards building friendships and positive outcomes. The response we have received in our community has been extremely positive. Professionals, educators and parents all commented and said the program is very educational for children and they would like to see it expand to all children throughout the community.


Our goal is positive inclusion for all children, with and without disabilities. This program teaches all children good things happen by learning together and building friendships. The Include Me Program was established by Walter and Jackie Jagodzinski in honor of their daughter Andrea.
Volunteer Connection

The gift of time is priceless. Nevada PEP sincerely appreciates every one of our VIP volunteers. PEP volunteers are simply the BEST and their continued loyalty to PEP’s mission is admirable. Likewise, our volunteers consistently let us know that they value the rewarding feeling they gain from contributing time and effort to an organization that truly cares about others. Nevada PEP provides opportunities for families, youth, school groups, and other community members to give back by volunteering. Volunteers are always needed statewide at Nevada PEP! Apply online or visit one of our offices for details.

VIP Program!
Nevada PEP has provided our Very Important Partners with volunteer experiences in our Central and Satellite PEP offices. Parents, students and community partners, including our school groups, have volunteered their time in business related activities, community-based activities and back to school fairs. Not only does Nevada PEP benefit from their assistance, the VIP volunteer learns new skills and experiences that will contribute to their success in future opportunities.

By: Daniele Colombo - VIP Volunteer

I have volunteered at Nevada PEP since we moved to Las Vegas three years ago, and I feel like it is a way to give back for the help we received for what they’ve done for my brother who has special needs. Mom, my brother, Dante, and I enjoyed the family volunteer experience so much that we started making it a weekly commitment. We have completed many projects and making cards for veterans during the holiday season is my favorite because we like to show our appreciation for their service, and I hope it brings a smile to their faces. We continued to honor our service members with this project. We believe it is more important than ever to keep doing good, positive tasks during this challenging pandemic.

I hope to continue volunteering at Nevada PEP as long as my college schedule allows.

Volunteer Hours:

379
Dear Friends:

It is my honor to recognize Nevada PEP and all of their efforts to support our friends and neighbors with unique challenges. I am grateful for the opportunity to thank the staff and volunteers with Nevada PEP and all the honorees in this year’s “Hand in Hand, Together We Can” yearbook.

Established in 2002, Hand in Hand has recognized many selfless Nevadans who have made lasting positive impacts on individuals and families in our state. Families of children with special needs face many unique challenges and Nevada PEP’s support and service go a long way to enhance their lives. I am grateful to all of the Nevada PEP supporters, staff and volunteers that contribute to this organization’s crucial efforts to assist Nevadans who need it most.

The recipients of the “Hand in Hand, Together We Can” Awards should be incredibly proud. This selfless work is invaluable to our state. I am grateful to know that all of you are looking out for children and families whose unique needs are so often overlooked.

Thank you to all of the staff, volunteers and supporters of Nevada PEP for your hard work and dedication to the State of Nevada and our children. I would also like to thank and congratulate this year’s “Hand in Hand, Together We Can” honorees. Your passion for improving the lives of families and children in our communities is a testament to the character and compassion I’m so proud of here in the Silver State.

Sincerely,

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator
Dear Friends,

It is my distinct pleasure to commend Nevada Parents Encouraging Parents, Inc. (PEP) for their unwavering commitment and sustained efforts to empower families to be life-long advocates for their children. I am thrilled to join in commemorating the organization’s work to provide ‘Education, Empowerment, and Encouragement’ to children with disabilities and their families since 1993.

For the past 26 years, Nevada PEP has worked tirelessly to increase opportunities for home, community, and school success for children with disabilities and their families. Nevada PEP continues to be an important access point for individuals impacted by disabilities, helping them to navigate Nevada’s constantly evolving support system. I would like to express my gratitude to Nevada PEP for their extraordinary efforts to connect parents and children with these much-needed resources, as they work to expand accessibility and awareness across the state.

It has been such a pleasure to watch Nevada PEP grow and prosper in our great State. I look forward to continue working with them as they work to increase institutional access and quality of life for children with disabilities. I wish them continued success and thank them for their hard work and commitment.

Sincerely,

Jacky Rosen
U.S. Senator for Nevada
The “Hand In Hand, Together We Can” appreciation program was designed to proudly recognize and honor special people who have made a positive difference in the lives of children with special needs. The program began in October 2002, when Hand In Hand forms were mailed to thousands of parents and professionals across the state. With each special story sent to us, Nevada PEP recognized the Hand in Hand recipient with a beautiful certificate and an original Hand in Hand lapel pin to display as a proud supporter of Nevada’s community of people with disabilities.

These inspiring and uplifting stories are celebrations of wonderful teachers, doctors, therapists, family members, and many others who have worked with children with disabilities who have gone above and beyond to make a positive difference in a child’s life. Touching and original, these stories have shown the true commitment that many people have for our children in Nevada.

At the end of each year the stories are recognized in our annual Hand in Hand Together We Can yearbook. Each nominee and honoree receives a yearbook that includes their special story. The stories are also recognized in our bi-annual PEP Post newsletter.

Nevada PEP is proud to be the only organization in the state to recognize and honor these very special Hand In Hand recipients and will continue to do so throughout the years to come.

Nevada PEP always welcomes new individuals or businesses to be a part of this amazing program by becoming a Hand in Hand Sponsor. For additional information contact Nevada PEP Hand in Hand Together We Can!
YOLANDA AGHEDO
Mom

I would like to nominate Yolanda for the Hand in Hand Together We Can recognition. Yolanda not only cares and nurtures her own family, but she goes above and beyond for her neighbors. Due to these unprecedented times, we all had to rearrange our lives and adapt to a new norm. Yolanda thought of all the other families that were in the same predicament of ‘Distant Learning’ as her child and took it upon herself to help those she could. She opened her home to a few neighborhood children and welcomed them to come and learn alongside her daughter. Yolanda has shared with me her dreams of opening her own childcare center for children with disabilities. I know that someday, Yolanda will achieve her dream because caring and compassionate hearts cannot be held down.

SUSANA DENEFF
Family Specialist

CITLALY ALVAREZ CORREA
Daughter

She is an outstanding mother and she’s the pillar of the entire family. An enormous obstacle was

distanced learning. She was basically the teacher for my younger brother with autism. From teaching him how to write, to how to use a laptop, she did it all for the sake of him. Waking up early each day, so my younger brother would not miss his online class. She also stayed by his side when the class was taking place, I did not see anyone else doing that at all. Not only that, but she takes great care of us, especially during this global wide pandemic. Without her, we would come tumbling down.

CARL BAKER
Teacher

Mr. Baker has been a wonderful teacher for the past four years. He has gone above and beyond to make sure that I was able to participate in band, even in the marching band. Anytime I had a medical problem that changed how I could participate, he would say, “We will find a place in the band for any kid that wants to be in band.” He and Mr. Beuning are the primary reason that I made it through high school.

SAVANNAH CONGER AND FAMILY
Student
I want to nominate Dr. Beaird, who is the principal of Laura Dearing, my son’s school. I feel very fortunate to have you as my son’s principal during these challenging times. Thank you for all of your work, sacrifice and energy! Also, for your aptitude of management, teaching, relationship and leadership as a principal. We are forever grateful for all that you do, once again, thank you!

YURIENS DE LA TORRE
Mother

GARY BECK
Reddy Ice

I would like to nominate Gary Beck for Nevada PEP’s Hand-in-Hand award. For nearly 20 years Gary has supplied Challenger Little League of Southern Nevada with bags of ice for Challenger’s All-Star game, hot dog day and our season ending banquet. Gary’s company Reddi-Ice has been great supporters of Challenger Little League and Nevada PEP with their generous donation: hundreds of pounds of ice that is used to chill water, soda, watermelon, and of course hot-dogs. He also donated an “old ice chest” that was used for Nevada PEP’s 2019 Run-Walk & Roll and will continue to be used by the Challenger Little League to have ice available during the upcoming season of baseball. Thank you for your continued support for Challenger Little League of Southern Nevada!

THOMAS TAYCHER
Challenger Little League

PAUL BEUNING
Teacher

Mr. Beuning has gone above and beyond to accommodate my needs and make me feel welcome in band. He does not only make me feel like I’m just as capable as any other student, he and Mr. Baker helped me become a student leader as Drum Major in the marching band. He has always been respectful of me, self-monitoring and being in control of what I can or cannot do.

SAVANNAH CONGER
Student

JUDY COBB
PEP Volunteer

Judy is a special person. She has a natural gift of recognizing who needs help and then effortlessly rendering help wherever needed. We volunteer together at Nevada PEP where
her genuine desire to take care of people always shines through. She is also a champion for animals. She often speaks fondly about her dogs. She is generous with her time and talents. She is patient and kind. She is a great role model to her juniors at the American Legion, teaching these young ladies core values and life skills. She bravely travels all over town, picking up holiday cards and delivering them to the Veterans Hospital. She participates in fairs for the National Guard and parades for the military. She has even opened her home to a foreign exchange student. She is welcoming and approachable, and most of all she is an excellent friend, and she is loved by all.

SUSAN LEBITSKI
PEP Volunteer

KENDRA GIPSON
Family Specialist

I am the mother of two adopted sons. We've had many challenging situations which have led my husband and I to seek support. Our parent support advocate suggested I go to the Parent Support Group. After my first meeting, Kendra contacted me by phone to follow-up. She encouraged me to tell my story. I have been able to do so at the Children's Mental Health Consortium. Most importantly, she did not only continue the parent support group during the holiday season, but she continued the meetings weekly rather than the typical schedule, bi-weekly. The support she offers and offered during the holiday season is/was invaluable. Thank you for all that you do, Kendra!

GEANNITTA JONES
Mother

JOANNA GONZALEZ
Family Specialist

Joanna is a great person. My family and I appreciate her so much. She is incredible and a blessing to me and my family. Thank you for all the support and help you have given us. I appreciate you helping me understand more about my options and rights. Your attention to detail on matters that helped my son is appreciated. Thank you for all the support and help with my son. Blessings to you and all the other Family Specialists.

Joanna es una gran persona. Ella es increíble y realmente una bendición para mí y mi familia. Le agradezco mucho y le doy las gracias por toda la ayuda y el apoyo que nos ha brindado. Gracias por ayudarme a comprender más acerca de mis opciones y derechos. Por prestar atención a los detalles de las cosas y por estar allí para mi familia. Gracias por el gran apoyo moral. Bendiciones siempre para ti y al demás equipo.

ROSA GLADIS LINARES
Mom
JOANNA GONZALEZ
Family Specialist

I am nominating Joanna Gonzalez from Nevada PEP for her help and collaboration at my son’s IEP meeting at his school. Her presence was of great support for me because she has the knowledge in this matter. Also, whenever I call Nevada PEP, she is always available to speak to me. I will have my second meeting to see the progress my son has achieved and she will accompany me, for that I am thankful. I would like her to be recognized for her great work and performance. Thank you Joanna!

Estoy nominando a Joanna González de Nevada PEP por su grand ayuda y su colaboración en la junta de IEP de mi hijo en su escuela. Su presencia fue un gran apoyo para mí porque ella tiene mucho conocimiento en ese tema. Además, siempre que llamo a Nevada PEP, ella siempre tiene buena actitud y está disponible. Tendré mi segunda cita para ver el progreso que mi hijo ha logrado y ella me acompañara por lo cual le estoy agradecida. Me gustaría que ella fuera reconocida por su gran trabajo y desempeño.

DINORAH CASTILLO
Mom

PETER GREEN
Uncle

Pete is my aunt’s boyfriend. He is a kind man and is always willing to help us. He takes us to the movies and to the store. He is always so sweet about helping us out. He is just so nice. We are just so happy to have this good man in our lives to be part of our family! He deserves this award!

CHRISTINA TAYLOR
Nephew

SHERRI KAPLAN
Teacher

I want to nominate my child’s teacher for her passion, dedication and care that she always demonstrated to him. Thank you for all of your patience and time.

We know that we have you to thank for making our child enjoy going to school each day. He’s always happy to see you, every morning and afternoon, he comes home with a smile in his face. Thank you for your friendship, guidance, and for always advocating and supporting him and us. Thank you for being such an excellent educator.

YURIENS DE LA TORRE
Mother

DIANE LOMBARDO
Community Education Specialist

I am jubilant to nominate Diane Lombardo for giving all volunteers a warm welcome as if Nevada PEP is a place that we can call home. She would always wear an ecstatic facial expression when she greets us as a mother would to her children, and she would check on us on our path to the success of our education. Diane always provided tips and tricks on a few tasks that come across as perplexed at first glance, and she would take her time from her work to gives us a shining view of our current issues.

MARK RAMIREZ
Volunteer
CHRISTOPHER MAXON
Teacher

Mr. Maxon is one of the most dedicated teachers that I have met. He has gone above and beyond for his students. I commend his hard work and dedication to his students and the extra time that he contributes to making sure parents are involved and offer his assistance to them. As a parent with children with special needs, it is very much appreciated to know that your child has a teacher that would go the extra mile for them. Mr. Maxon makes his class fun and welcoming to the kids. He takes time out of his day to fill parents in on kids’ achievements, special moments, and progress. There are so many great teachers, but he and his team are few and far between. Something in particular that shines is his ability to create an environment where kids can learn, grow, be great, but also laugh and have fun. He is a great example of the “Hand in Hand.” Thank you for being an outstanding educator!!!

LINDA HUA
Mother

DIANE GABRIELA MERAZ
Therapist/Terapista

Gabriela is my therapist. She has helped me see all the qualities of my 3 children. To understand and love them more as they are. She has helped me with relaxation techniques and to detect when it is best to withdraw. I bless her and wish her the best. May she continue to help more families.

Gabriela es mi terapista. Me ayudado a mirar mas las cualidades de mis 3 hijos. A entenderlos y amarlos mas asi como ellos son.

Con tecnicas de relajacion y detectar cuando es mejor retirarse. La bendigo y deseo lo mejor. Que siga ayudando a mas familias.

ISaura lagunas tamayo
Mom/Madre

MARia Elena Meza
Assistant

I want to nominate my child’s assistant, Ms. Maria Meza. You were always so considerate and kind to my son and I really appreciate all of your effort towards him. Your love and guidance made all the difference. I feel so blessed that my child has an assistant like you. Thank you so much!

YuRiens de la torre
Mother

Jerry okuda
Turf Sporting Goods Owner

I am nominating Jerry Okuda for Nevada PEP’s “Hand in Hand” award. Mr. Okuda is the owner/manager of Turf Sporting Goods; his company has been a supporter of Challenger Little League of Southern Nevada for over 25 years. Jerry’s support has been ordering/printing baseball shirts & hats for our players. Challenger Little League never turns away a child who wants to play “America’s Favorite Past-time”, we signup a new player on Monday, Jerry orders & prints the jersey for game day on Saturday. Jerry & Turf Sporting Goods is very deserving of the recognition and receiving the Hand in Hand nomination.

Thomas l taycher
Challenger Little League
DEBORAH PARKS
Teacher

I would like to nominate Deborah parks for the Hand in Hand award. I’ve worked with Ms. Parks at Iverson Elementary School for the last few years and, year after year, I am impressed with her passion and skill for helping children and her team-player attitude. While the last two years have been challenging for all of us, Ms. Parks has gone above and beyond this school year by single-handedly servicing all of the resource students and families in our school. She also supports other teachers with academic and behavior intervention planning in her nonexistent free time. Thanks for all you do, Ms. Parks!

STEPHANIE UHL
Professional

JO ANNA RIOS
Friend

I had walked past Southern Nevada Mental Health District many times without knowing what it was. I began my permanent vacation from Walmart (sounds more fun than “retired”). I went in to get refills on my medications until I received my Medicare. As they were preparing for lunch, I noticed a sign across the hall that read, “Drop-in Center.” That is when I met Jo Anna. There were various groups, crafts, and other activities. Anti-Valentines was one of my favorites with valentines hanging upside down. Over the years she has helped me through many difficulties, and I am glad to count on her as a Friend.

PHYLLIS DEVONISH
Friend

DR. JAKE JACOB ROBERTS
Doctor/Medico

Jake Jacob Roberts was my son’s doctor. Dr. Jacob is a very good person; he taught my son how to deal with his emotions and helped removed medication that was harming him. He was concern about our family situation. Today, I would like to wish him the best and that I hope he continues helping many more families. Many blessings, Dr. Jacob, we miss you.

Jake Jacob Roberts era el doctor de mi hijo. Muy buena persona, ayudo mucho a mi hijo a lidiar con sus emociones y a quitar medicamento que lo estaba dañando. Se interesó por nuestra situación familiar. Hoy deseo desearte lo mejor y que siga ayudando a mas familias. Bendiciones Dr. Jacob, te extrañamos.

ISAURA LAGUNAS TAMAYO
Mom/Madre

MAGDALENA RUIZ
Family Specialist

First, I would like to thank Magdalena for being so professional and for helping me with my daughters. Thanks to her, my daughters have obtained the support they needed in school and I have been able to move forward in regards to their education. Thank you Magdalena for being such a beautiful person. To us, you are the best!

Primero, quiero darle las gracias a Magdalena por ser tan profesional y por ayudarme con mis hijas. Gracias a ella, mis hijas han tenido la ayuda que necesitan y yo he podido salir adelante con todo referente a la escuela de
mis hijas. Gracias Magdalena por ser tan linda persona. Para mí y mi familia, ella es la mejor!

**ROSALIA GOMEZ**  
*Mom*

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**MAGDALENA RUIZ**  
*Family Specialist*

Magdalena has helped me so much. She has supported me when I needed translation with papers from my son’s school. She is very professional and punctual at IEP meetings. Magdalena always has the time to listen when I need support. Thank You!

Magdalena me ayuda mucho. Me ha ayudado con traducciones de la escuela de mi hijo. Siempre ha sido puntual y profesional en las juntas de IEP. Conmigo, siempre tiene tiempo para escuchar mis problemas. Gracias!

**MARIA PANIAGUA**  
*Mom*

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**MAGDALENA RUIZ**  
*Family Specialist*

My special person that I would like to nominate is Ms. Magdalena. She has helped our family change for the better. Ms. Magdalena has supported me in finding services within our community for my son. She will keep in contact with us either by a phone call or letters; asking if we need support or just to check if we are O.K. Ms. Magdalena is great at encouraging our family.

**MARISOL FARIAS**  
*Mom*

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**TALORE SEARS**  
*Friend*

We are Phyllis and Christina Taylor, a mother and daughter volunteer team. We made a great friend while volunteering at Nevada PEP. We worked together with Taylore making holiday cards for veterans. She cheerfully cuts out tiny red hearts and cute little stickers and carefully attaches them to the cards we assemble. Our men and woman services members enjoy reading them at the Veterans hospital. We sure enjoy doing this project to honor them. Taylore looks after us, reminding us to take a lunch break where we swap stories about our pet dogs and pictures of our families. We bring our favorite devices to the monthly assistive tech support group meeting at PEP and Taylore shows us apps on her smart watch. She makes a positive difference in our world, and we are proud to nominate her for this award.

**PHYLLIS AND CHRISTINA TAYLOR**  
*Mother and Daughter*
ELIZABETH SMITH
Teacher/Maestra

Elizabeth is my son’s English and Advisory teacher. She is very caring and encouraging. She has been a great help to me when I do not understand something, even if it is not regarding her class. I appreciate your understanding in the needs of our family. Blessings!

Elizabeth es la maestra de mi hijo de las clases de ingles y advisory. Ella es muy atenta y alentadora. Ha sido gran ayuda para mi cuando no entiendo algo aunque no sea su clase. Le agradezco su compresion en las necesidades de nuestra familia. Bendiciones!

ISAURA LAGUNAS TAMAYO
Mom/Madre

INEZ WILLIAMS
Sister

My sister Inez is kind and courteous. She loves to help people. She encouraged my daughter and I to be the best we can be. She pushes us to try just a little bit harder every day. She was the one who took us to volunteer as a mother-daughter team at Nevada PEP. She thought the experience would be good for us and she was right! She helps us get to our doctor’s visits on time. She takes us shopping and helps us prepare dinner. We enjoy cooking together in the kitchen and appreciate the wonderful sense of family she provides.

PHYLLIS TAYLOR
Sister

Thank You to the Honorees!
Our deepest gratitude to the Hand in Hand Sponsors, we are truly grateful for their continued support. Hand in Hand Together We Can!
Show your support for the remarkable people across the state who make the lives of children with special needs better by becoming a sponsor of the Hand in Hand Appreciation Program. Help us to recognize, honor, and publicly applaud those who partner with parents and make a difference for these special children.

**Silver Sponsorship $100 up to $1,000**
- Recognized in the Yearbook
- Receive Yearbook
- Receive the E-Post Newsletter
- Recognized on the Website
- Receive a Lapel Pin

**Gold Sponsorship $1,000 up to $3,000**
- Recognized in the Yearbook
- Receive Yearbook
- Receive the E-Post Newsletter
- Recognized on the Website
- Receive a Lapel Pin
- Hand in Hand Sponsorship Plaque

**Platinum Sponsorship $3,000 & UP**
- Recognized in the Yearbook
- Receive Yearbook
- Receive the E-Post Newsletter
- Recognized on the Website
- Receive a Lapel Pin
- Hand in Hand Sponsorship Plaque
- Honorable Mention in *Hand in Hand* Literature