

2022 YEARBOOK

CELEBRATING A COLLECTION OF
STORIES HONORING THOSE WHO
MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR
CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

@NevadaPEP    

Thank you for
an out of this
world year!



Strengthening Families *with*
Education • Empowerment • Encouragement



Nevada PEP Central Office

7211 W. Charleston Blvd.

Las Vegas, Nevada 89117

Phone: 702.388.8899

Fax: 702.388.2966

Nevada PEP Satellite Office

4600 Kietzke Lane, Ste. I-202

Reno, Nevada 89502

Phone: 775.448.9950

Fax: 775.448.9603

Statewide

Email: pepinfo@nvpep.org

Statewide: 800.216.5188

www.nvpep.org

GOVERNING BOARD



Bryce Loveland
Board Chair



Kelly Wooldridge
Vice Chair



Retta Dermody
Secretary



Rita Varney
Treasurer



Kate Lowenhar-Fisher
Member



Patricia Leavitt
Member

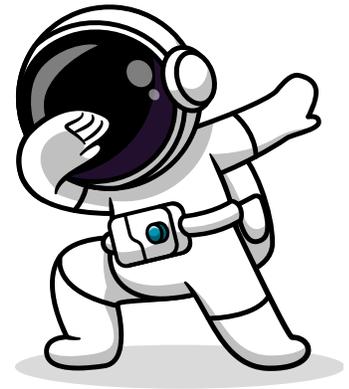


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission Statement/What is PEP?	1	#SafeAllies and Families SHARE	20
Guiding Principles/Fundamental Goals	2	Congratulations From Steve Yeager	21
Letter From the Executive Director	3	(Nevada Assemblyman, Speaker of the Assembly)	
Letter From Chairperson of Governing Board	4	Congratulations From Nicole J. Cannizzaro	22
2022 Nevada PEP Annual Report	5	(Nevada Senator, Majority Leader)	
Funding Sources	11	VIP Volunteer/Volunteer Connection	23
Get to Know the PEP Leadership	13	History of Hand In Hand Together We Can	24
Get to Know the PEP Professional Staff	14	Hand In Hand Together We Can Stories	25
National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month	17	Hand In Hand Sponsors	39
Youth M.O.V.E Nevada	19	Annual Sponsorship	40

OUR MISSION

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 IS NEVADA PEP?

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 SERVICES DOES PEP OFFER?

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



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

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We believe that children, adolescents, and young adults have a right to access appropriate intervention as well as participate in all opportunities accompanied with membership in their own community.

We believe that children, adolescents, and young adults reach their full potential when families and professionals build a partnership based on trust and respect.

We believe that children, adolescents, and young adults and their families deserve the opportunity to live, learn, and participate fully in their communities.

We believe that the family is the child's first and best teacher; that professionals must be sought after as experts in their fields to enhance the family.

We believe that the family's strengths, weakness and cultures must be respected to meet the true needs of the family.

We believe that information, support and training enrich and empower families and professionals.

We believe that every person has an unrealized potential for growth, and that services should be designed to maximize that potential.

We believe that a diverse culture is essential in an interdependent world, and believe in acknowledging, embracing, and respecting diversity.

We believe that it is crucial that families participate in policy-making decisions at the local, state, and national level to guide the development of meaningful services that are family driven.



FUNDAMENTAL GOALS

ONE

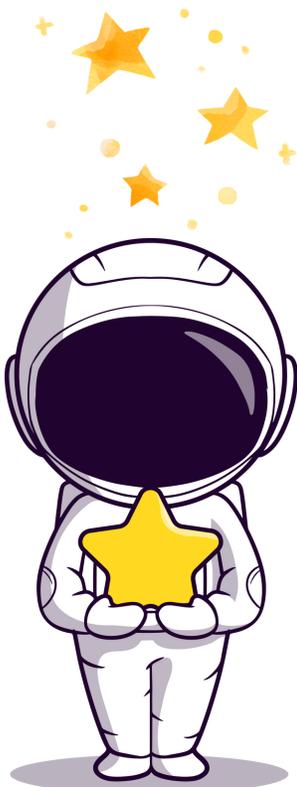
Nevada PEP will be a long-term reliable statewide resource to families and the individuals who support them by providing information, support, and training programs to empower them to better advocate for the needs of their children, adolescents, and young adults.

TWO

Nevada PEP will assist families and the individuals who support them to better understand the nature and needs of the disabilities. Adolescents and young adults will understand their strengths and weaknesses and how to advocate themselves.

THREE

Nevada PEP will conduct community outreach and public awareness activities to families, professionals, organizations and traditionally under-served populations that directly or indirectly work with children with disabilities and their families; to raise awareness of available support, link families with other families in similar circumstances, encourage community acceptance and enhance the family centered community based service delivery.



LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEVADA PEP

Dear Readers,

On behalf of Nevada PEP and the families we serve, I would like to applaud the incredible individuals who are the 2022 Hand in Hand Together We Can honorees.

This appreciation program began over 20 years ago to acknowledge Nevadans who generously work to make a positive difference in the lives of children and their families. Nevada PEP believes that it is important to provide an avenue for families to celebrate the compassionate individuals who make a difference for their children.

As I read the nominations from families, I am moved that kindness is the common thread. I am reminded of this quote, "Unexpected kindness is the most powerful, least costly, and most underrated agent of human change." —Bob Kerrey.

We know that a kind act can positively change someone's day or even their life and the nominations are excellent examples of just that. Together we can spread kindness across our communities and improve lives.

Nevada PEP would like to express gratitude to the families, their nominees, and the generous sponsors for their support and participation in the Hand in Hand Together We Can appreciation program. Together, we can all make the difference.

With Gratitude,



Karen Taycher
Executive Director



LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF NEVADA PEP'S GOVERNING BOARD

Welcome to the 2022 Hand in Hand Together We Can yearbook. The Hand in Hand Together We Can program began over twenty years ago in 2002 designed to recognize and honor the people who have made a positive difference in the lives of children with special needs. I am so proud to be involved in an organization that recognizes the people who have gone above and beyond to make a difference in a child's life.

As we look back on another year, we know that many families are still struggling not only with education services for their children but food insecurities and unstable housing. The need continues to grow. 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 continues to work hard to meet the needs of families by helping them through these unprecedented times.

In October, Nevada PEP hosted our 3rd annual I Care We Care Taking Kindness to New Heights social media campaign, across the state. This year the I Care We Care team added a digital rocket that was fueled by messages of kindness and hope. Our rocket blasted off with over 300 messages of kindness and hope from community members and businesses. We are so grateful to Tyler Corder Findlay Automotive Group CFO for stepping up and being our Universe Sponsor and Fox 5 Take 5 to Care adopted Nevada PEP as their charity of the month, for both sharing our message of kindness and hope. We know that raising awareness on bullying prevention in our schools and communities statewide is a priority. We delivered over 15,000 Bullying Prevention books and resources to schools across the state.

I truly believe that there are better days to come, as we get stronger and learn to adapt to a different way of living life. Our goal is to educate, encourage and empower families to become their child's best advocate. We will continue to strengthen families. We are resilient, we've learned how to adapt to unfamiliar ways and navigate a new way of working and living. Let's move forward and be kind to one another.

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

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



Bryce Loveland
Nevada PEP Governing Board Chair



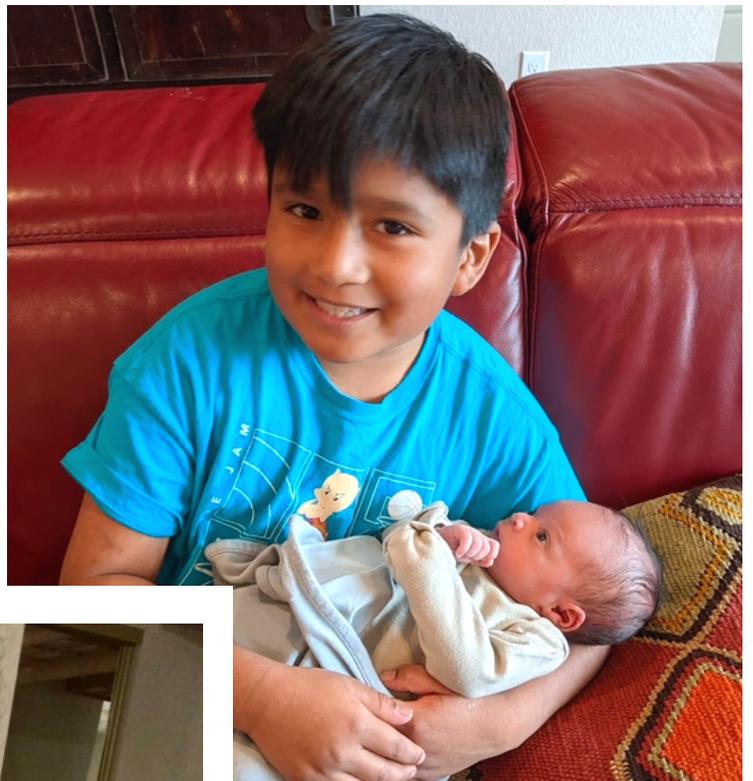
Annual Report 2022



20,563 Individuals Served

3,593 Training Participants

262 Volunteer Hours



"Nevada PEP was a game changer, a blessing and I'm forever thankful for your help."
- Nevada 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 both live and On-Demand Trainings.



You are an angel. You are the good in this world that everyone should strive to be. Thank you for being my positive light through all this.

- Parent



Were you able to understand the information you received from Nevada PEP?

Yes
100%

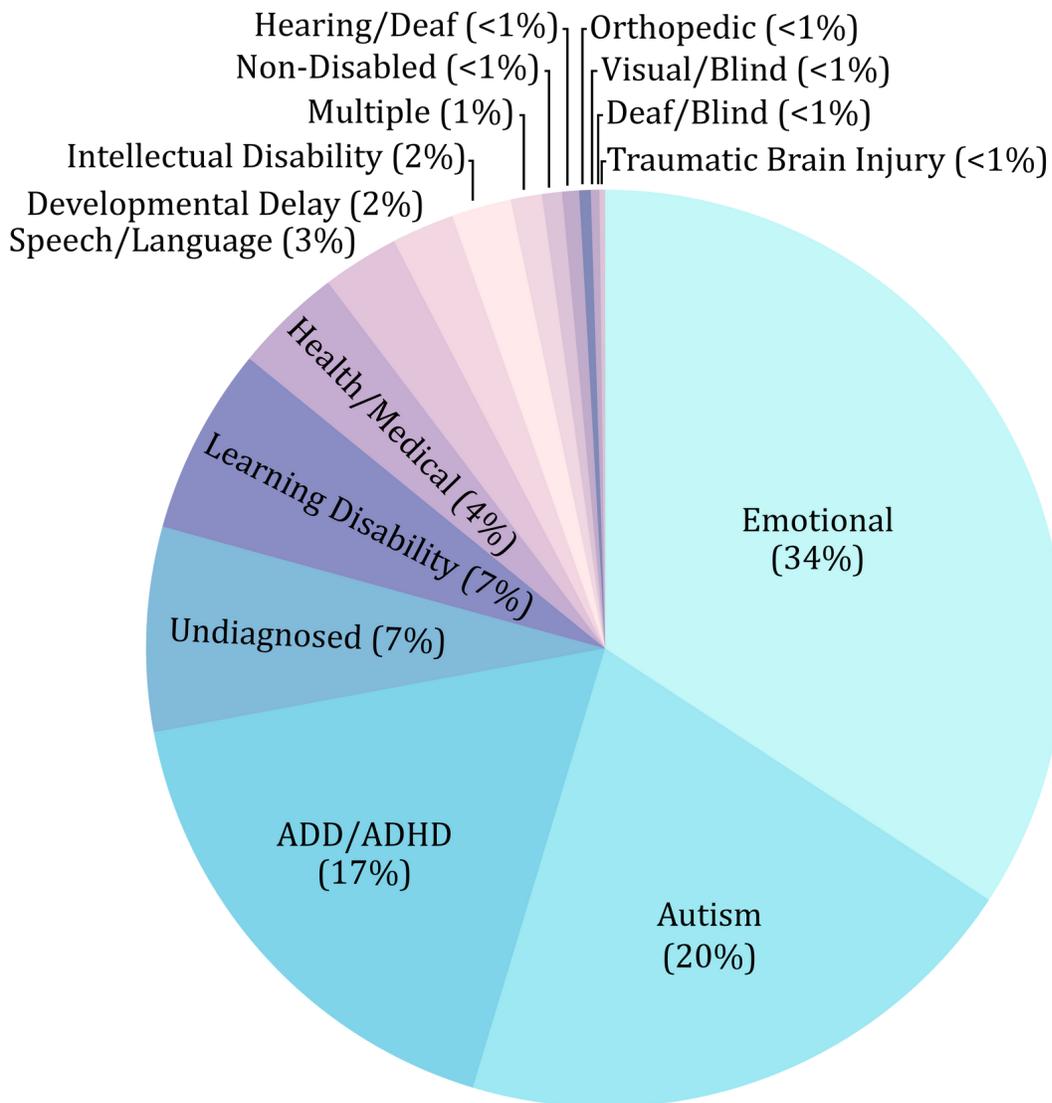
Are you prepared to use the information you received from Nevada PEP?

Yes
100%

Would you recommend Nevada PEP to others?

Yes
100%

Disabilities of all Children Served



Volunteer Contributions

Nevada PEP encourages volunteers, board members, and family members to be involved in their communities. Students, parents, and professionals have donated 262 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.



262 Volunteer Hours

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.



Education Meetings	811
Child Family Teams/Wraparound	222
Individual Assistance Contacts	25,441
New Families Requesting Support	1,850
New Individuals Contacting PEP	2,328

This is the first time in months that I finally feel hopeful about my son's future. It has been heartbreaking to see my son struggling. Thank you for all that you do for families like mine.

- Nevada Parent

It's because of Nevada PEP that I have hope and know my rights. No one else has been able to help like you all have. Now I can call and be heard and understood.

- Nevada Parent

Agree

100%

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%

The information Nevada PEP provided was useful.

100%

The information Nevada PEP provided helped you learn more about how to meet your child's needs.

100%

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

- Behavior / Discipline Issues
- Family Peer Support
- Special Education / IEPs
- Advocacy
- Assessments / Evaluation
- Bullying
- Section 504
- Placement
- Dispute Resolution
- Family Engagement

Top 10 Issues Families Seek Individual Assistance to Help Their Child

- Behavior Intervention
- Assessments / Eligibility
- Accommodations / Modifications
- Frequency of Services
- Location of Services
- Present Levels
- Juvenile Justice / Crisis Care
- Special Education Placement
- Transition Planning and Services
- Compensatory Services

125

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

484

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

72

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

20,563

Individuals Served

83,843

Number of yearly website hits at nvpep.org

448,235

Number of E-Newsletters sent

Nevada PEP Social Media Followers

 4,429

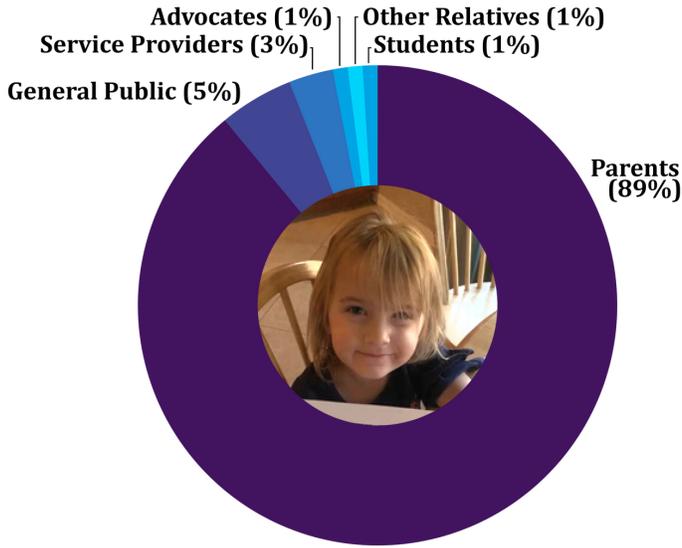
 2,263

 4,525

 1,468

Consumer Demographics

Consumer Relationships

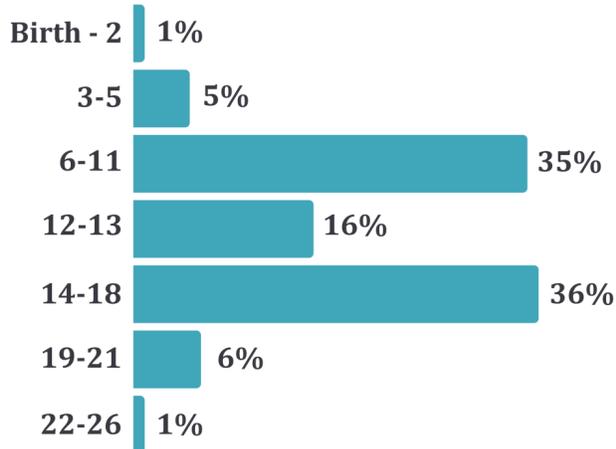


Gender of Children Helped

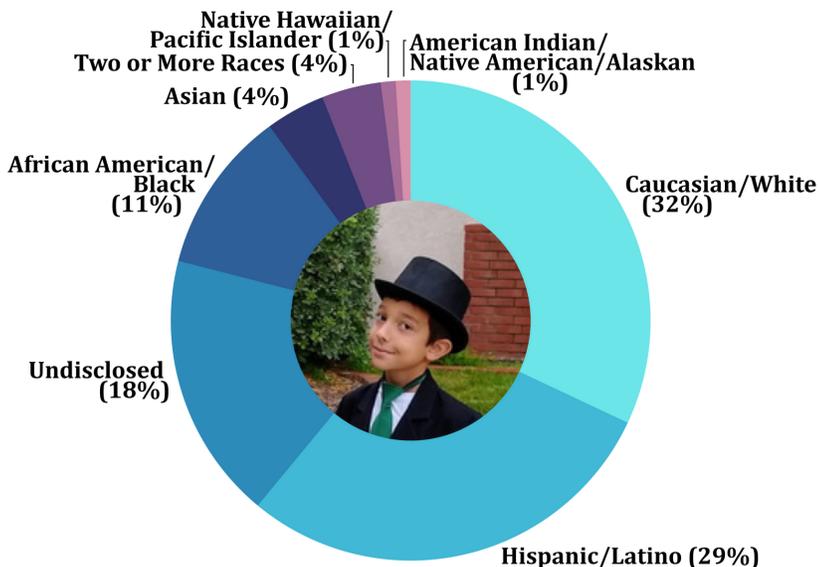
Male	65%
Female	34%
Undisclosed	1%



Ages of Children Helped



Ethnicities of People Contacting PEP



Funding and Expenditures

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.

Our Financials

Income:	\$1,898,038	Expenditures:	\$1,559,594
Travel and Mileage:	\$3,305	Professional Services:	\$35,206
Conferences, Meetings & Trainings:	\$19,269	Family Resources & Activities:	\$38,206
Supplies, Postage & Shipping:	\$21,614	Building & Space:	\$168,071
Printing & Publications:	\$22,050	Personnel:	\$1,223,972
Operational:	\$27,694		

To donate securely, visit our website with the following link or scan the QR code!

nvpep.org/donate



MAJOR FUNDERS

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 DONORS

Alexia Conger
 April Honeycutt
 Barbie Lauver
 Cherif Tawdi
 Cheryl Eichstaedt
 Christopher Berry
 Erika and Bryce Loveland
 Glenn and Patricia Trowbridge
 Holly Truong
 Jacqueline Harris
 Janelle Kraft-Pearce
 Jeanette Belz
 Jeanette DeJesus
 John and Nadia Harper
 Judy Cobb
 Karen Taycher

Kate Lowenhar-Fisher
 Kelly Wooldridge
 Kenneth Taycher
 Marilyn Obermeyer
 Monica Daggett
 Magdalena Ruiz
 Marie Elaine Christenson
 Margot Yapp
 Marilyn Obermeyer
 Natalie Filipic
 Nilza Shellhamer
 Ramo Gorai
 Rebecca DeLeon
 Retta Dermody
 Rita and Roger Varney
 Robin Kincaid

Sarah Forson
 Sheila Martens
 Sheila Oliveira
 Stephanie Vrsnik
 Suzanne Aberasturi
 Susana Isordia
 Timothy Taycher
 Thomas Burchett
 Thomas Taycher
 Trish and Andy Leavitt
 Uncle Jeff and Uncle Billy
 Virginia Rader
 Veronica Hanson
 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
 American Public Works Association
 Audi Henderson
 Boyd Gamming
 Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck
 Center for Applied Research
 Cheesecake Factory
 Children's Discovery Museum
 Chuck E Cheese
 Creative Solutions Counseling Center
 Dependable Drafting
 Desert Winds Hospital
 Everi Holdings
 Galaxy Theaters
 Illuminarium
 Jaguar Land Rover- Henderson

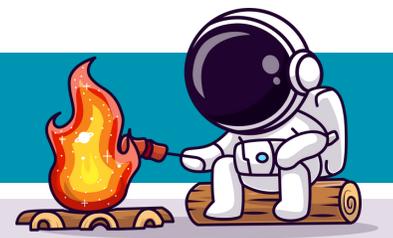
Findlay Automotive Group
 Findlay Chevrolet
 Findlay Cadillac
 Findlay Honda Northwest
 Findlay Honda Henderson
 Findlay Toyota
 Findlay RV
 Findlay Volkswagen- Henderson
 Fleishmann Planetarium
 Fox 5 Las Vegas
 Las Vegas Cause Players
 Las Vegas Lights
 Las Vegas Mini Grand Prix
 Las Vegas Motor Speedway NASCAR Cup Series
 Magellan Healthcare
 McDonalds
 MGM Resorts Foundation
 Molina Healthcare
 Nevada Community Outreach Medical Center
 National Atomic Testing Museum

Nevada Health Center
 Nevada Health Foundation
 Nevada System of Care
 Network for Good
 Nevada State Bank
 Olive Garden
 Outback Steakhouse
 PF Chang's
 Red Lobster
 Republic Services
 Shredco
 Smith's Community Rewards Program
 Spring Mountain Treatment Center
 Sprouts
 Texas Roadhouse
 Tilton's Therapy
 The Lovaas Center
 Vegas PBS
 Walmart
 Windmill Library



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 behavior 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-two 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 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



Britt Young is a Family Specialist in the Satellite office. She is the proud mom of a silly and outgoing 10-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. Britt's family has lived in the Reno area for over a decade, which makes her passionate about her local community. Britt enjoys helping families and making a positive difference in their lives.

Carley Murray is the Project Coordinator at Nevada PEP. 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 that through her work at Nevada PEP she can help families use the services available to them to realize this potential. She loves coming to work each day to help empower parents to advocate for their children.



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.

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 18 years of service, dreams of one day staging a huge fundraiser and helping children with disabilities through her musical talent.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF



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.

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.



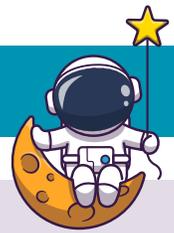
Kathryn McKay is the Community Outreach Manager. She is a proud mom of three children; Her oldest son just graduated from college, her daughter is attending Graduate school, and her youngest son just started his freshmen year in college. She started her journey with Nevada PEP as a volunteer, and quickly 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.

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.



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

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

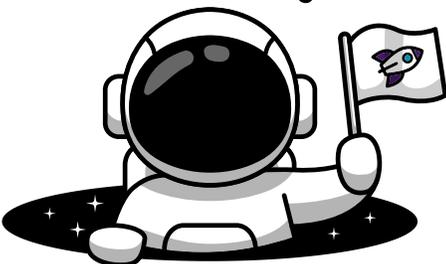


Susana DeNeef is a Family Specialist at Nevada PEP. She is the proud mother of three and has two wonderful grandchildren. Susana is proud to work in an organization that enhances opportunities for those with disabilities. Her passion is to educate, empower and encourage families to be the best advocates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

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.



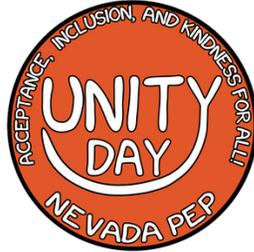
Zelinna Palma is the Office Manager in the Central Office. She's a mother to a beautiful little girl. Zelinna is studying to become an entrepreneur. Zelinna has a passion for helping others. She also loves to travel and hike in her free time. What brought her to Nevada PEP was all the amazing work that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



JOIN THE NEVADA PEP TEAM AND APPLY YOUR LIFE EXPERIENCES TO HELP OTHERS. PLEASE LOOK THROUGH THE OPPORTUNITIES ONLINE TO LEARN MORE!

NVPEP.ORG/CAREERS

NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH



October is National Bullying Prevention Awareness month. This year our I Care We Care campaign took “kindness to New Heights” as we virtually shared messages of kindness and hope. We were honored to once again partner with Findlay Automotive Group and Fox 5- Take 5 To Care, and #SafeAllies. Findlay Automotive has generously championed our cause for many years with Chief Financial Officer, Tyler Corder promoting us on Fox5 with the celebrity Spin Zone. This year’s virtual event featured a space theme where we got busy fueling our rocket ship with the power of kindness. The robust response from the community was appreciated with over 300 messages of kindness and hope on our launch pad, including a video from the amazing businesses and community leaders of Boulder City with a special message from Mayor Kiernan McManus. An I Care We Care digital swag bag could be found on our web page with great resources. Visitors could also listen to our I Care, We Care Taking Kindness to New Heights song, sung by our talented rockstar volunteer, Miguel. Nevada PEP was honored with a proclamation from Governor Sisolak’s office proclaiming October as National Bullying Awareness month. Nevada PEP delivered over 15,000 activity books to elementary schools statewide. Students were encouraged to be creative and craft messages of hope and kindness to be displayed on our Community Cares Gallery.

Unity Day was observed on Wednesday, October 19th, the signature event of National Bullying Prevention Month. A day to WEAR and Share ORANGE and unite for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion to send a visible message that no child should ever experience bullying. We all got our orange on in support of the day and participated in a live twitter chat about bullying prevention with Youth Move Nevada. The Elko Regional Airport recognized Unity Day on their marquee and I Care We Care was promoted on the marquee in downtown Tonopah. We were proud to receive five proclamations from the City of Henderson, Reno, Las Vegas, Boulder City and North Las Vegas. Together we are striving to erase the stigma and reduce the trauma of all types of bullying. We thank you for helping us change the conversation and facilitate positive change.

Please plan to join forces with us again next year and accept our genuine gratitude for your continued dedication to Nevada PEP and this important cause.

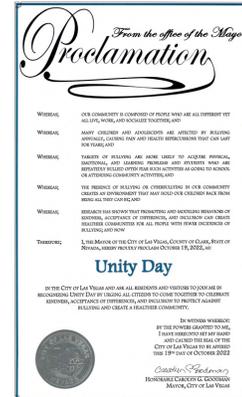
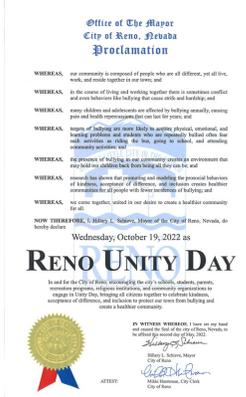
TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE. REMEMBER THE END OF BULLYING BEGINS WITH YOU!!!



I CARE WE CARE SPONSORS



UNITY DAY PROCLAMATIONS



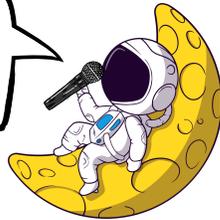
22 SCHOOLS STATEWIDE OVER 300 MESSAGES OF KINDNESS OVER 10,000 BOOKS DELIVERED



YOUTH M.O.V.E. NEVADA



16 PODCAST EPISODES!



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 change bias and prejudice that is often directed at, sometimes unknowingly, youth with mental & behavioral health challenges and/or other disabilities. As youth returned to schools in person, Youth MOVE Nevada has continued to support and engage youth across Nevada through their podcast series, Twitter chats, other social media platforms on topics that represented youth culture.

They have continued to meet virtually on a weekly basis with youth state-wide and increased their outreach activities to stay engaged with youth regardless of where they live in Nevada. In addition, they created and have made available an on-demand training for youth on Student-Led IEPs and created a Mental Health Activity Book for Elementary School-aged children and a Mindfulness Activity Book for older youth that have been distributed throughout the state.

All the while, Youth MOVE Nevada made sure that youth voices and experiences were heard at systems meetings. They have continued to inform the community on authentic youth voice and involvement by creating another On Demand Training for professionals on expanding youth involvement at the agency level and the YVAL (Youth Voice at Agency Level).

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 inform youth-serving programs and systems.

- Accessing Mental Health Services
- Back to School
- Youth Leadership
- Bullying Prevention in Schools
- Thankfulness and Mental Health
- Holidays Aren't Always Happy
- Be Engaged. Be Heard. Make a Difference.
- Stress and Self-Care
- Developmental Disability Awareness Month
- Lived Experience
- Mental Health Acceptance Month
- Pride Month
- BIPOC Mental Health Awareness Month
- Going Back to School Can Be Stressful
- Self Care Awareness Month
- ADHD

YOUTH MOVE NEVADA TEAM



RYLEY



DANIEL



CAIT



JUDE

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS



400

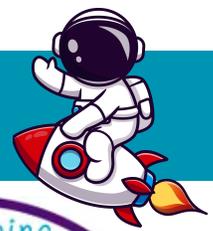


559



263

#SAFEALLIES



The #SafeAllies program is a collaboration of Nevada PEP and Youth M.O.V.E. Nevada that reaches children and youth with digital resources and youth designed activities. #SafeAllies offers training workshops on the laws and processes for reporting a bullying incident and navigating the education system. It also provides individual assistance and support groups for families focused on the importance of aftercare to develop positive strategies and safe allies.



PODCAST EPISODES

- #SafeAllies: Know Your Rights
- #SafeAllies: Parent Involvement in Bullying
- #SafeAllies: Cyberbullying
- #SafeAllies: Bystander to Upstander
- #SafeAllies: Introduction



Our State has several laws in place to address bullying of Nevada’s students, yet more needs be done to educate the community around the signs of bullying. More needs to be done to educate children, youth and their families about their rights during the investigation process; and more needs to be done to support children and youth in mental health recovery from a bullying incident.

FAMILIES SHARE

In keeping with our Mission to increase opportunities through education, encouragement, and empowerment activities, Families SHARE – Solutions for Hope and Resiliency Exchange, an interactive program providing tools for families and youth to reduce stress, stay hopeful, and build resilience.

- 🏠 Reduce Stress
- 🏠 Stay Hopeful
- 🏠 Share With Others
- 🏠 Build Resilience



STEVE YEAGER

ASSEMBLYMAN

District No. 9

SPEAKER DESIGNATE

DISTRICT OFFICE:

10120 West Flamingo Road, Suite 4162

Las Vegas, Nevada 89147-8392

Office: (702) 281-5938

Twitter: @SteveYeagerNV



LEGISLATIVE BUILDING:

401 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747

Office: (775) 684-8549

Fax No.: (775) 684-8533

Email: Steve.Yeager@asm.state.nv.us

www.leg.state.nv.us

State of Nevada Assembly

January 9, 2023

Dear Friends,

First, please join me in thanking Nevada Parents Encouraging Parents for their decades of service to our community. Without a doubt, the services provided by Nevada PEP have positively impacted Nevada children. Indeed, Nevada PEP has been providing parents the training and education needed to advocate for their children since 1993. They have continued to raise awareness of the unique needs of children with special needs and provide them with the means to be successful.

It is with the highest regard and admiration that we recognize the tireless champions included in the 2022 Hand in Hand Together We Can Appreciation Program Yearbook. Beginning in 2002, Nevada PEP has recognized the individuals who have strived to make a meaningful difference for our children. To the Hand in Hand Award winners, thank you for your work and dedication. You are literally changing lives.

The recipients of these awards should be proud to know that their positive impact will have a lasting impression on the individuals with whom they have worked so closely. This work is so critically important to our state, as it ensures that the next generation is in great hands.

On behalf of the Nevada State Assembly, thank you to all the supporters, staff, and volunteers who work so hard to ensure the success of our youth. I wish all of you much continued success!

With respect and admiration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Yeager".

Steve Yeager
Speaker Designate
Nevada Assemblyman, District 9



NICOLE J. CANNIZZARO
SENATOR
District No. 6

MAJORITY LEADER



COMMITTEES:
Vice Chair
Judiciary
Member
Finance
Legislative Operations and Elections

DISTRICT OFFICE:
P.O. Box 35652
Las Vegas, Nevada 89133
Office: (775) 684-1475

Nevada Senate

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING:
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747
Office: (775) 684-1475 or
(775) 684-1400
Fax No.: (775) 684-6522
Nicole.Cannizzaro@sen.state.nv.us
www.leg.state.nv.us

Dear Friends:

It is my honor to recognize and commend Nevada Parents Encouraging Parents for their dedication to empowering families around the state with the tools to advocate for children with disabilities. I am delighted to join in thanking the staff and volunteers of Nevada PEP, as well as the honorees, in this year's edition of the "Hand in Hand, Together We Can" yearbook.

For over more than a quarter of a century, Nevada PEP has been a guiding light to families in our Nevada communities as they work to care for and support children with special needs. Since 2002, the Hand in Hand Program has recognized those Nevadans who have gone above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of children with disabilities. Nevada PEP continues to be an invaluable resource for Nevadans as they help to ensure home, community, and school success for children of our state. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Nevada PEP and the Hand in Hand honorees who have exemplified selflessness and benevolence in their efforts to serve families and advocate for Nevada's children.

It has been such a pleasure to continue to witness Nevada PEP grow within communities across the state. I look forward to the partnership that lies ahead with the Nevada Legislature and this important organization to increase the quality of life for the children of our state who experience special needs. I am so grateful for their work and commitment to our great State and wish Nevada PEP well as we move into an ever-evolving future.



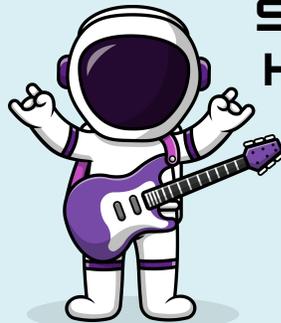
Sincerely,

Nicole J. Cannizzaro

VIP VOLUNTEER

Miguel Ramirez

My name is Miguel Ramirez. I have been volunteering at Nevada PEP for many years. Nevada PEP is like my second family, I am part of the Nevada PEP Family. I have learned many things volunteering at Nevada PEP that will help me in my life. As a PEP volunteer I've seen how they help families. We meet virtually every other month for an Assistive Tech. support group meeting where we were taught how to use helpful apps. We exchanged ideas and kept each other positive. Nevada PEP encourages my musical talent. They made me feel like I was a real celebrity when they asked me to sing a song for the I Care We Care Taking Kindness to New Heights campaign against bullying. I am proud to be a part of putting an end to bullying. I do not want to see one more youth being picked on. I hope everyone who reads this will join our fight to end bullying.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO HEAR MIGUEL'S SONG!



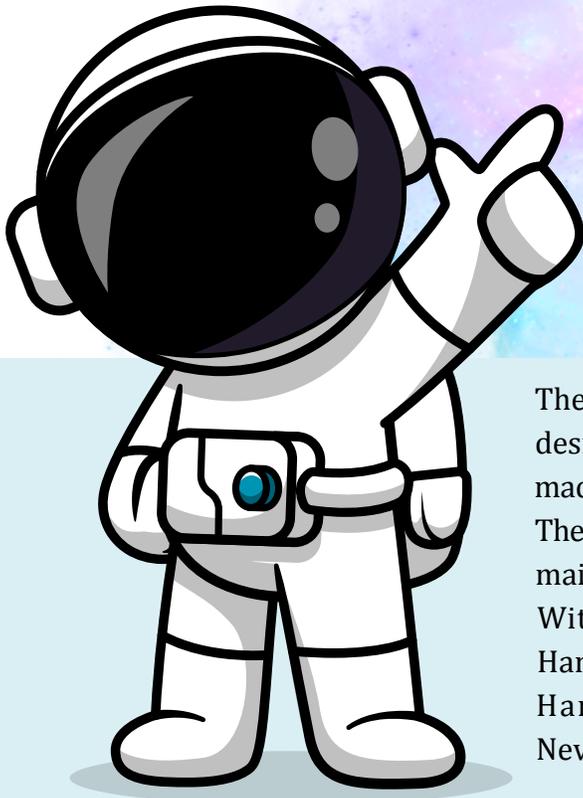
VOLUNTEER CONNECTION

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.



262 VOLUNTEER HOURS

HAND IN HAND TOGETHER WE CAN STORIES!



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.

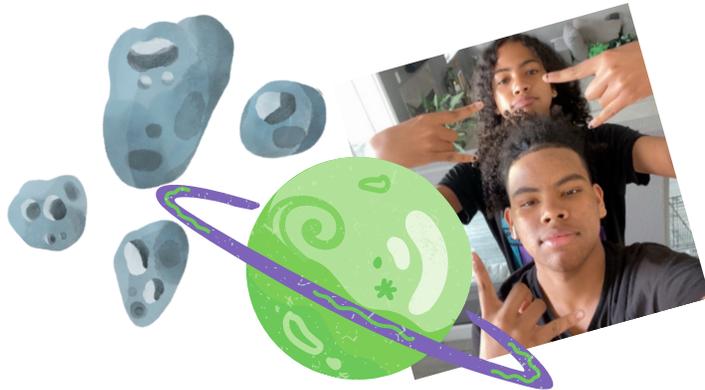
Nevada PEP always welcomes new individuals or businesses to be a part of this amazing program by becoming a Hand in Hand Sponsor. For additional information contact Nevada PEP Hand in Hand Together We Can!

HAND IN HAND STORIES

ANDELYN OLSEN FRIEND

We love our platitudes. Here's one: "A friend in need is a friend indeed". I am a senior living with my daughter who has special needs. I have no other family within 3,000 miles but I have a very good friend, Andelyn. Despite the slings and arrows of her own troubles, she will drop everything and run to help someone in need. Recently, I had a stroke and Ande took me to the hospital, took care of my daughter and of my dog. She did not hesitate, and in taking care of me she is taking care of my daughter and I love her for that. It is no platitude to tell you that Ande is a friend indeed.

John C Godenzi
Friend



BARBARA DAVIS MOTHER

Barbara Davis is my mother and I am so thankful to her for all that she does for me and my son. Having a child with a disability can take you in so many stressful directions. My number one priority has been doing all I can to take care of my son. My mom is the best because she will put everything down to help me take care of him. She does so as if he was her own son. She takes the time to cook and clean for us. If I'm too tired she will get him up for school, get him his breakfast, lunch, dressed for school and on the bus. With all she does for him, she is also doing for me. I want her to know how much I love and appreciate all that she does for us.

Elisa Kline
Daughter

CASS AVONA VOLUNTEER

The Volunteer Coordinator at Nevada PEP introduced me to a veteran volunteer named Cass. We were both there to help with a large project to get the newsletters out, famously known as bulk mail. I had reached out my hand to shake Cass's hand but instead he pulled me in for a friendly hug. He looked at me and intuitively said, "You have had a rough go in your childhood." He was right. I thought this was amazing that he recognized my reality and he genuinely cared. We had a brief conversation and got to work, labeling and sorting the mail. He soon became a grandfather figure; baking cheesecakes, making coleslaw, and potato salad. He would put my name on the containers when he came into volunteer. He has never forgotten my birthday in all these years. He's told me that making a crab salad for me was on his bucket list. Cass is a special person who has volunteered at PEP for decades. I am sure he has touched many lives and I speak for them all as I say, "Thank you with much love to a real class act. You are a true gentleman!"

Krystal Lombardo
Volunteer

HAND IN HAND STORIES

CHRISTOPHER EECKLOR TEACHER



I'm convinced that there's only one Mr. Eecklor in this world. He is an 8th grade science teacher and has been the only "A" my daughter has received ever. He made sure she earned it. He is the best with first impressions and his first impression reflects him as a teacher. He is passionate about his students, notices the important little things, and takes his conversations with parents to heart. He wears his heart on his sleeve and wants all the kids to feel comfortable and be successful. His energy and endurance are commendable. He is deserving of this award. Thank you, Mr. Eecklor, for everything you do!

Bonnie Ybarra
Mother



COLOMBO FAMILY FRIENDS

When I think of kindness, it is not about being thanked or even acknowledged. I think of those anonymous people who give of themselves for those they do not even know and may never even meet. The Colombo family, including twin sons Daniele and Dante, have been making beautiful holiday cards for our veterans for the past few years. These gifts from the heart are not anticipated. These cards may be the only cards a deserving veteran will receive. The Colombo's will never hear "thank you" and they will never meet the grateful veterans. This wonderful family is the perfect nomination for this Hand in Hand award.

Judy Cobb
Friend

CITLALY ALVAREZ CORREA DAUGHTER/HIJA

Yo, la Sra. Maria, nomino a la persona llamada Citlaly, por su gran trabajo, dedicación, y empeño en esta larga lucha, con su hermanito, que tiene Autismo. Ya que esta condición es muy difícil lidiar con ello, Citlaly, es una persona que en todo momento está ahí para ayudar a su hermanito. Ella es muy atenta, sabe cómo cuidarlo, entenderlo, y guiarlo. Ella se enfoca mucho en él. Hasta ha tomado la decisión de estudiar para trabajadora social, para así poderlo ayudar en el futuro con lo que el necesite. Yo agradezco mucho y le doy las gracias a Nevada PEP por este reconocimiento a la comunidad de familias con alguna discapacidad en el hogar.

I, Maria, nominate Citlaly, for her magnificent work, dedication, and commitment to the long struggle with her little brother, who has Autism. Citlaly is a person who is always there to help her little brother. She is focused and very attentive to his needs; she knows how to understand, guide, and care for him. Citlaly has even made the decision to study to become a social worker, so that she can help him in the future as he grows up with whatever he may need. I am grateful and appreciative of Nevada PEP for creating a program to recognize families and children with disabilities in the community.

Maria Ayala
Mother/Madre

HAND IN HAND STORIES



DEANA SNAPP SITE COORDINATOR

I would like to nominate DeAna Snapp for the Hand in Hand Award because of her passion and dedication to our local community. She is the site coordinator of my kids Boys & Girls Club held at their school. If it wasn't for her efforts to understand, communicate, and support my special needs children, and countless other children with and without special needs, our foundation would crumble. Thank you for all the love and care you give to the children who need it most. We appreciate you!

Audre Large
Mother

DANIELE COLOMBO SON

Daniele carries a full academic load in his second year of college at UNLV. He still manages to help with household chores and continues to be a great support to his twin brother. He is a tremendous role model, a great mentor and passionate advocate. He finds time in his demanding schedule to volunteer virtually for Nevada PEP, completing beautifully, hand crafted, annual, holiday greeting cards for grateful veterans.

We are so proud of You

May Ling Kuan- Colombo
Mother



DRAKE MATZKE GRANDSON

My grandson is really a source of pride. He moved right in to help me get through a very challenging time. I fell and shattered my elbow. I had to have surgery. He brought me my meals, my drinks and an icepack when I was confined to bed. He is helping me get up and around safely. He is always by my side, building my confidence to start using the stairs again. He has shown maturity far beyond his 14 years. He has been there for me and never complains, all while juggling his schoolwork and the extra chores of the holiday season. He is my special gift.

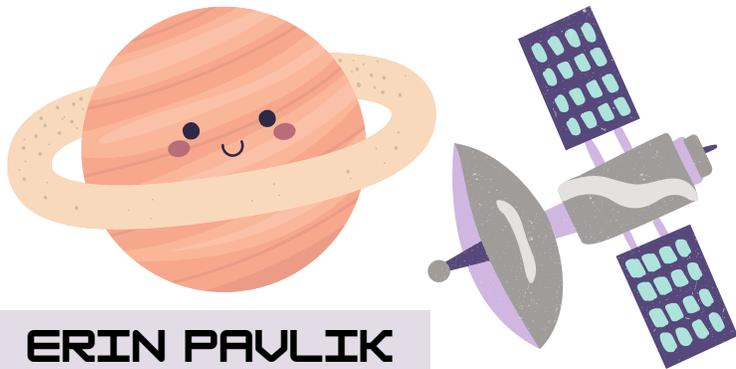
Gloria Martino
Grandmother

HAND IN HAND STORIES

ELLEN JOHNSON TEACHER

I would like to nominate my son's strategies teacher, Ellen Johnson, for the Hand in Hand Award. She has gone above and beyond for her students, not only in the in-person and virtual classroom setting, but also throughout the school. She volunteers for events within the school and PTA. She's always making sure her students are safe and learning according to policies, and that parents are informed and included in all parts of the schooling process. Thank you, Ellen, you make a difference in our children's lives, and we appreciate you!

Audre Large
Mother



ERIN PAULIK TEACHER

Mrs. Pavlik has worked with my son since the beginning of his struggles and stood by his side the entire way. She goes above and beyond for him. She has not only been a support system for him, but for myself as well. She is there any time she is needed and goes out of her to offer comfort and support and helps him through his toughest days. Her warmth, kindness and patience does not go unnoticed, she has an amazing heart and has been such a blessing in our lives. Without her my little guy would not have made the strides he has in the last few years. They say it takes a village to raise a child and Mrs. Pavlik is a huge part of our village! Thank you for all you do and all your support, we would not be where we are today without you!

Carrie Wittig
Mother

FRED ROSE HUSBAND

My late husband and I both retired from the post office and decided to travel the United States. We both shared a love for the ocean, so we started out for Biloxi, Mississippi. We were evacuated from the area when Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005. We moved to Galveston, Texas and experienced Hurricane Rita just three weeks later. We became roaming volunteers, crisscrossing the country many times. We volunteered at state and national parks, police stations, schools, numerous charity races, blood banks, children's museums, zoos and pretty much anywhere there was a need. The reward was simply making people smile and spreading happiness along our way while contributing to the communities in which we lived. We earned the name traveling volunteer angels. We were featured in many newspapers' including the Review Journal while volunteering at Nevada PEP during their massive bulk mail project where Fred took great pride in organizing their mail room. Fred dedicated his whole life to bringing love and laughter to the world. I honor him with this award and celebrate this tribute to his life well lived forever.

Marion Rose
Wife

HAND IN HAND STORIES

GILLIAN SILVER-RODIS TEACHER

The past few years have been a challenge with offices being closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. I took a Travel and Tourism class, a Risk Management and Security class, a Social Media class and a Fundraising for non-profits class all remotely. This professor has run things smoothly under the circumstances and, in my opinion, this great instructor deserves to be recognized with this award for accepting my final project by e-mail while I was experiencing difficult technical issues. Thank you, Mr. Silver, for all that you do.

Mo Matsuda
Student

JACKIE FOSTER FRIEND

Miss Jackie is the sweetest person. She helps us get from day to day. She takes us places so we can get out of the house and have new experiences together. She is such a nice and kind person. We appreciate her for her caring heart. Thank you for taking time to visit with us and for bringing joy to our days.

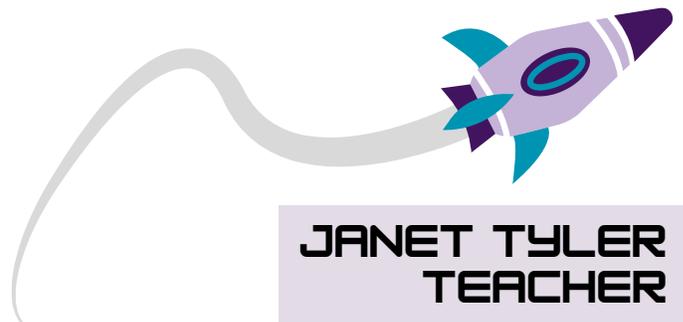
Christina Taylor
Friend



GLORIA COMEAUX FRIEND

I would like to nominate Gloria Comeaux for this Hand in Hand award. Gloria takes us to the movies and to bingo. She even gets us a room in a hotel to provide a welcome change and little mini vacation from time to time. We get to go swimming and do all kinds of healthy activities. She comes to visit us when we are at home, and she talks with us and listens to us as we watch movies together. We are so grateful to have her in our lives.

Phyllis Taylor
Friend



JANET TYLER TEACHER

Mrs. Tyler is a great support for my daughter, she is the perfect example of a caring and inclusive teacher, through her music, choir group and big enthusiasm she invites all the kids to be part of the group. My daughter feels that she is an important part of the class, she knows Mrs. Tyler always recognized her talent and effort.

Thank you, Mrs. Tyler, for being so great and caring to all your students, your group is the best.

Ana R. Gonzalez
Mother

HAND IN HAND STORIES

JASON ONELLO ABOGADO/ATTORNEY

Mis hijos y yo estamos muy agradecidos con el abogado Jason Onello, que en 2020 peleo en la corte de familia en pro-bono por la custodia de mi hijo. Me defendió de falsas acusaciones e injusticias. Lo bendigo y le hago honor a su gran corazón. Hacen falta más abogados, así como él; reales, fieles, y honestos con integridad. Lo bendigo por su esfuerzo y lucha, gracias porque nadie quería tomar mi caso y solo él lo tomo. Hoy en este día sonrió con mis 3 hijos. Bendiciones eternas abogado Jason Onello.

My children and I are very grateful to attorney Jason Onello, who in 2020 fought for us at the family court on pro-bono for custody of my son. He defended me from false accusations and injustices. I bless him and honor his great heart. More lawyers are needed like him in our communities; real, faithful, and honest with integrity. I bless him for his fight and effort. Thank you, Jason, because no one wanted to take my case and only you did. On this day I smiled with my 3 children. Eternal blessings, Attorney Jason Onello.

Isaura Lagunas Tamayo
Madre/Mother



JOANNA GONZÁLEZ ESPECIALISTA EN FAMILIA/FAMILY SPECIALIST

Mis hijos y yo estamos agradecidos por Joanna González en Nevada PEP. Ella es muy paciente y nos ayuda a encontrar recursos. Joanna, espero que continúes ayudando a las familias con tu sabiduría y dedicación. Agradezco su apoyo en el bienestar de mi hijo. Gracias por todo lo que haces, bendiciones.

My children and I are grateful for Joanna Gonzalez at Nevada PEP. She is very patient and helps us to find resources. Joanna, I hope you continue to help families with your wisdom and dedication. I appreciate your support in my son's well-being. Thank you for all that you do, blessings.

Phyllis Taylor
Friend



JODIE WESTMONT CASE MANAGER

My son has always had a hard time making friends at school and using appropriate social skills. When we met my son's new Special Education Case Manager, I was so relieved to know that someone so amazing was supporting him in his educational environment. Jodie was always such a positive influence on my son and helped him make new friends. She was always in constant positive communication with me as a parent. I appreciate how she has always put her heart into her work and made my son feel loved at school. Jodie, thank you so much for all that you do. You definitely made a positive impact in my son's life.

Ana R. Gonzalez
Mother

HAND IN HAND STORIES

JOEL ROJAS WIN FACILITATOR



I wanted to nominate Joel Rojas for an outstanding job helping my son and I. Mr. Rojas is responsible and very respectful towards my family. He tries the best to help my son with getting community services; recently he was able to help me get respite for him. My son trusts him, which has helped them build a connection. With the help of Joel and Nevada PEP I have seen an improvement in my son, and he has had less crisis.

Doris Ortiz
Parent

JUDY COBB VOLUNTEER/ FRIEND

I would like to nominate Judy Cobb for this well deserving Hand in Hand award. Judy is always helping people. She is very involved in the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #14; she collaborates with PEP volunteers and oversees the delivery of greeting cards hand made by the PEP volunteers for our American veterans, thanking them for their service to our country. Judy delivers the cards full of best wishes to the veteran hospital.

Judy is positively cheerful, bubbly awesome, giving, and supportive. I am so thankful and lucky to know her. She is a person full of compassion and positive energy. She has a big heart. I like to brighten people's day with my drawings, I have a sense of honor, when I work on her greeting cards for the veterans, it is so enriching knowing that I have a chance to send well wishes to support someone else also bringing smiles one card at a time.

Kenneth Taycher
Special Projects Mentor

KENNY TAYCHER SPECIAL PROJECTS MENTOR

Kenny loves people and people love spending time with him because he is such a joy to be around. He makes you feel so welcome. A person cannot stay down or depressed in his company. He just exudes positivity. He lifts you up with his bubbly personality. We wish we had half his energy. I try to bring a little something with me when I come to volunteer, and I will never forget the time he said, "I hope you brought something to eat, I'm hungry," and it made us all laugh. Kenny is a very talented artist, and he shares his drawings with us all the time. He is a picture of kindness. Our world would be a better place if only there were more Kenny's.

Susan Lebitski
Volunteer



HAND IN HAND STORIES

KIM COMPTON FACILITATOR

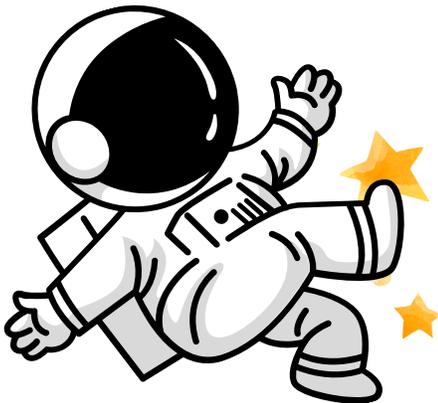
I would like to nominate Kim Compton; I cannot express how caring and compassionate she is. Kim's a facilitator that truly cares about children and what's best for them. I am never rushed in an IEP, if I don't understand something she always makes sure that I do. She will help come up with ideas that could help my son. She makes an IEP team truly a team. I have sat in many IEP's where that was not the case. We are truly lucky to have her in our lives.

Patricia Whisnand
Mother

DR. KIMBERLY SMERKERS EDUCATOR

Dr. Smerkers is a wonder woman in the world of education. She brings brilliance, humor, love and passion to her work with her students and families. She listens to the needs of her families and is an amazing educator. Through professionalism, trust, guidance and ambition, she stands apart from others and is a leader. She is creative, kind and enthusiastic in her work with families. She deserves all the recognition possible. Thank you, Dr. S, for all you do every day!

Anne George
Parent



KRYSTAL LOMBARDO DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

Times have been tough for everyone these past couple of years. A global pandemic took us by surprise. We experienced many changes. My family stayed home together, avoiding any risks of contracting the awful illness. My son with autism lost all his services because of permanent closings. We did a lot of therapeutic cooking and ventured out only to fulfill necessary medical appointments. A real-life change happened- I fell and broke my hip and my femur bone. I was laid up for weeks and had to learn to walk again. My daughter-in-law, Krystal, was forced into double duty. She not only helped to make sure my son's needs were met but nursed me back to health at the same time. She brought me my morning coffee, meals and made sure both my son and I took our medication each day. She provided me with peace of mind, knowing my son was well taken care of and all I needed to concentrate on was healing and getting back to work. Thank you for being my saving grace.

Diane Lombardo
Mother-in-Law

HAND IN HAND STORIES

LADAWN MALONE PROFESSIONAL

Mrs. Malone has been such a wonderful asset to my child and me. She exhibits high levels of patience and professionalism in addition to a level of care that should be standard anywhere in the state or country among educators. She has a good sense of humor and is friendly and polite to anyone that I have seen her interact with. She is stern when she needs to be and is not easily pushed over. She is strong in the face of adversity, and she has made my child feel completely welcomed, safe, and cared for when at school, as much as that is possible. This means the world to us both.

Adrienne Clark
Professional



LAUREN AMBERCROMBIE LEADER

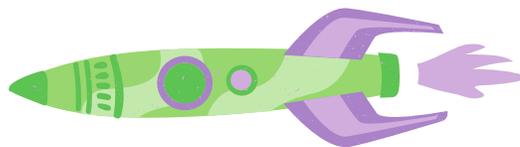
As a sibling of someone on the spectrum, Lauren has a very deep understanding of everyone in her programs. She is a wonderful teacher and leader. Some of her accolades include founding Inclusion Fusion and Promapalooza, as well as various fundraising activities. Her and her programs give a needed sense of sanity to our household. I am so grateful to her and everyone in her business. Thank you so much!

Marilyn Willick
Parent

LISSETTE AVILA PROUD MOMENTS RBT

Lissette, RBT from Proud Moments has played a vital role in my daughter's progress. During COVID, we had to transition to distance learning. If we didn't have in-home ABA services, my daughter would have suffered major setbacks. Instead, she was able to thrive due to the programming that Lissette implemented. In addition, she accompanied us to various provider visits which helped decrease or eliminate behaviors during visits and allow for treatment or assessments. We are very thankful for the impact she made during her time with my daughter.

Frances Malinis
Mother



HAND IN HAND STORIES

MARIA CAMPOS AMIGA/FRIEND

María Campos es una amiga que conocí en la Iglesia. Han pasado muchos años donde ella ha estado conmigo y mis hijos, apoyándonos moralmente y despensas en momentos muy difíciles tanto fáciles. Le agradezco el amor incondicional reflejado de nuestro creador a través de ella, un amor y respeto para mí y mis hijos. Le agradezco su soporte emocional y su amistad y consejos bendecidos. Yo deseo agradecerle mucho por todas las obras que ha hecho para mí y mis hijos. Los raites para la marqueta y las citas al doctor en momentos de altas temperaturas y en la lluvia. Gracias María, bendiciones eternas que nuestro Creador le multiplique su servicio para él.

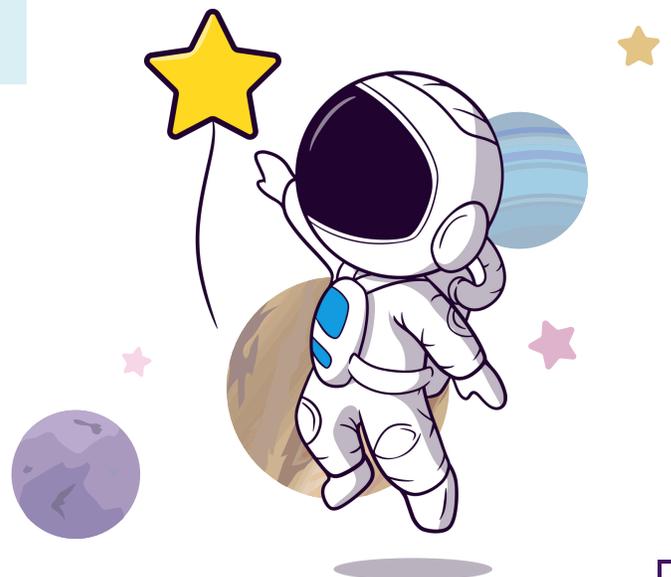
Maria Campos is a friend I met at the Church. Many years have passed where she has been with me and my children, supporting us in very difficult times as well as happy moments. I thank her for the unconditional love reflected from our creator through her, a love and respect for me and my children. I thank her for her emotional support, her friendship, and advice. I want to thank her very much for all the work she has done for me and my children. The car rides to the supermarket and to the doctor appointments in times of high temperatures and in the rain. Thank you, Maria, may our Creator continue to bless you.

Susan Lebitski
Volunteer

MARION ROSE VOLUNTEER

We first met Marion while volunteering at Nevada PEP in 2013. We had just lost our grandfather the previous year and meeting her was a particular comfort to us at a very fragile time. We immediately felt as though we had known her all along. She told us of her many travels across the country and how she and her husband volunteered at baseball parks in so many different cities. She gave me and my brother, Dean who has autism and is nonverbal homemade Dino Buddies which we still have kept throughout the years. She lives across the country now but never forgets our birthdays. She sends us cards with stickers and news articles of interest whenever possible. We look forward to seeing her again someday. She touched us with her generous heart and will forever be a part of our family.

Anthony Lombardo
Volunteer



HAND IN HAND STORIES

MARTHA ZACATECANO BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS TRABAJADORA/WORKER



Martha ha mostrado ser una mujer entusiasta y amante de su trabajo. Le encanta ayudar a los niños con falta de algo. Martha siempre me ha dado algo para mis hijos, yo no sé cómo ella sabe que lo necesitan. Pero ella les roba sonrisas bellas a mis hijos. Y que madre no es feliz con esas sonrisas, especialmente cuando hay adversidades como COVID 19. Gracias Martha por ayudar a mis hijos encontrar a sus big brothers y a los que encontraran uno pronto. Gracias a la organización Big Brothers Big Sisters por valorar y tener una buena trabajadora como Martha. Deseo que Martha sonría con este bello gesto de Mano a Mano Justos Podemos nominación. Muchas gracias, Martha, bendiciones.

Martha has shown herself to be an enthusiastic and loving woman of her work. She loves helping children who are missing something. Martha has always given me something for my children, I don't know how she knows they need it. But she steals beautiful smiles from my children. And what mother isn't happy with those smiles when there are adversities like COVID 19. Thank you, Martha, for helping my kids find their big brothers and those who will find one soon. I would like to give thanks to the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization for valuing and having a good worker like Martha. I hope Martha smiles with this beautiful gesture of the Hand in Hand Together We Can nomination. Thank you, Martha, blessings.

Isaura Lagunas Tamayo
Amiga/Friend

MR. MATTHEW OSTLIE CHOIR TEACHER

It's almost a year since I've joined the Choir class at El Dorado HS. From day one, Mr. Ostlie received me with a sincere and warm welcome. It made me feel like I have known him for a long time. I have so much fun learning and performing at school events. Mr. Ostlie makes everyone feel welcome and brings out the best in people. He does such a great job at teaching us how to sing and improve daily. He does not only care about how we perform in his class, but he also makes sure we are doing well in our other classes. He has made a difference in my singing voice over the course of the year, he discovered my singing voice that I didn't know I had. I'd like to thank him for being such a dedicated teacher and want to make sure everyone knows how awesome he is. Thank you, Mr. Ostlie for making my senior year not so stressful, can't thank you enough.

Dexter Curiel
Student



HAND IN HAND STORIES

MICHAEL DALTON TEACHER

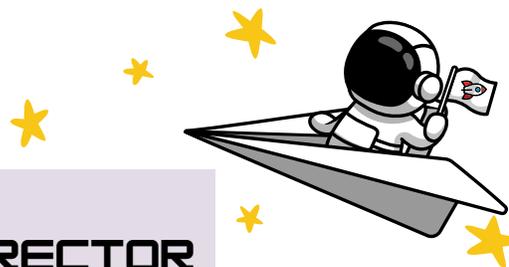
Mr. D is a devoted Special Education teacher. My son has made remarkable changes in his classroom. He is very dedicated to his students. As parents we feel very comfortable coming to him for any issue we have. He is very approachable, and I feel that this is a trait that every educator should have. Our communication level is high thanks to his understanding and support. He always makes sure all our questions and concerns are answered and addressed. Sending my son to school and knowing he has one of the best teachers that CCSD has to offer, brings us a huge relief. Thank you, Mr. D for all your support!

Aida Obando
Mother

REINA CONNOLLY DAUGHTER

Reina is a graduate student at Northwestern University in the Master of Counseling program. She is planning to become a child therapist and is currently working with children and adolescents who face a variety of challenges. In addition, Reina provides care to her sister with special needs. With her empathy and kindness, we are proud to nominate Reina for the Nevada PEP Hand in Hand program!

Regina Connolly
Mother



ROBIN KINCAID EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

We appreciate Miss Robin, providing us with so much advocacy and support for my son from Elementary School all the way through High School. She helped us understand Mike's special education rights. She is a wonderful lady who shares her wealth of knowledge with parents like me so that they learn how to be their child's best advocate. She was kind enough to see us through many struggles and because of her, Mike graduated and recently became employed.

Margarita Gozalez
Mother



SALVADOR VILLANUEVA HUSBAND

My son and daughter were blessed with a wonderful stepfather. He coached Challenger Little League Baseball for two years before being sidelined because of the Covid-19 pandemic. We think about his generous and kind heart every time we look at my son's end of season trophies. He used to reward the players with pizza after the games. He even picked players up and brought them to our place for a barbecue and swimming. He is very good to both of my children. We are thankful that he remains a part of our lives and want to thank him with this award.

Arlene Vargas
Wife

HAND IN HAND STORIES

SAMUEL ARJONA SON



I'm nominating my son, Samuel Arjona, for a Hand in Hand Award for the sacrifices he has made over the years to support me, the youth and family serving systems change work that I do with Nevada PEP. Through his teen years, I was often traveling all over Nevada and the U.S. to advocate for families of children with disabilities, including those with mental health. He understood that the work I was doing was to try to make things easier for other families than what we experienced. Nevertheless, he is an individual with a disability and although he never complained, I know that it was not always easy for him. I'm so lucky to have his quiet support and I could not have continued to do this very important work on behalf of Nevada families of youth with disabilities without his patience and understanding.

Char Frost
Mother



SILVIA ROMERO GUZMÁN TRABAJADORA DEL CONSULADO MEXICANO/CONSULATE WORKER

Silvia Romero Guzmán es una trabajadora del consulado mexicano. Ya tiene 7 años ayudándome a orientarme y hacerme saber que tengo derechos para mi y mis hijos. Y que debo seguir luchando por hacer lo correcto. Nunca le he escrito o mostrado algo por su gran labor y hoy deseo nominarla. Ella es una persona tierna, respetuosa, y atenta. Y ella siempre busca la manera de explicarme lo más fiables a mi necesidad como mexicana. El creador ayuda a las personas que ayudan a otros con escasas fuerzas. Deseo que Silvia sea reconocida por su trabajo. La bendecimos a ella y su familia. Muchas gracias a Nevada PEP por permitirnos agradecerle a Silvia a través de este premio.

Silvia Romero Guzman is a Mexican consulate worker. For the past 7 years, Silvia has been helping me, guiding me, and letting me know that I have rights for myself and my children. And that I must keep fighting to do the right thing. I have never written or shown her any gratitude for her great and hard work and today I wish to nominate her. She is a tender, respectful, and attentive person. She always looks for an easy and honest way to explain things to me. Our creator helps people who helps others with little strength. I would like Silvia to be recognized for her work. We bless her and her family. A big thanks to Nevada PEP for letting us thank Silvia through this award.

Isaura Lagunas Tamayo
Madre/Mother

HAND IN HAND STORIES

SUSAN LEBITSKI FRIEND

Look in the dictionary under caring and you will probably see a photo of Susan. She is always busy bringing joy to others in so many ways. She stays up late at night knitting scarves, lap covers and baby blankets. She gives these away to basically anyone who may need something soft and warm to huddle and cuddle with during the cooler, winter season. Beadwork is another one of her talents and she is passionate about giving her beautifully crafted bracelets and necklaces out to people everywhere she goes. She can be found offering her jewelry to people in doctors' offices, tire repair shops, at church, and in her own neighborhood, where she is a friend to everyone. Susan's favorite thing seems to be generously giving of her time to put smiles on the faces of patients, professionals, children, and yes, even priests. She is the neighbor everyone wants next door, quick to share tasty snacks or a good recipe or two. She prefers not to be recognized. However, the Hand in Hand Together We Can award, and Susan are a perfect match.

Judy Cobb
Friend

TONISHIA PORTER ABA SERVICE PROVIDER

Ms. Tonishia has been working with my daughter for more than 10 years. Ms. Tonishia is always looking for more support and strategies to help my daughter accomplish her goals. Thanks to her, my daughter has gained many life skills and self-confidence. Ms. Tonishia made the difference in the way that ABA can be successful in kids under the spectrum. Thank you, Ms. Tonishia, for being part of my daughter's life.

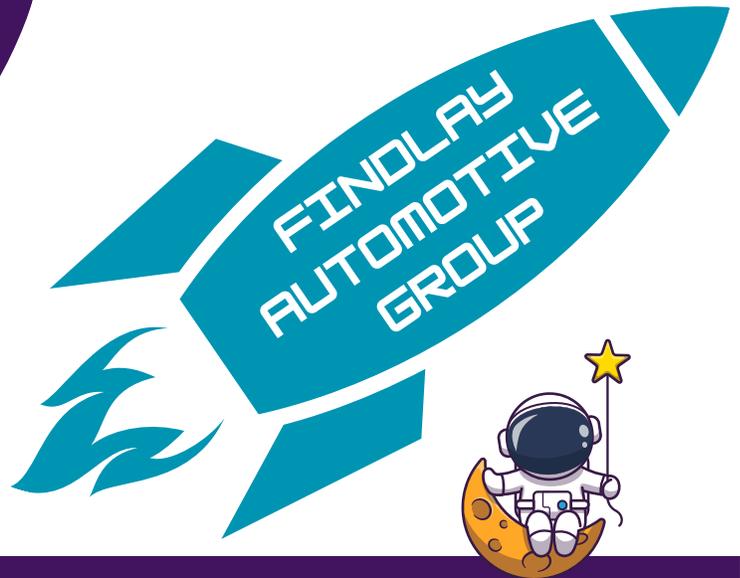
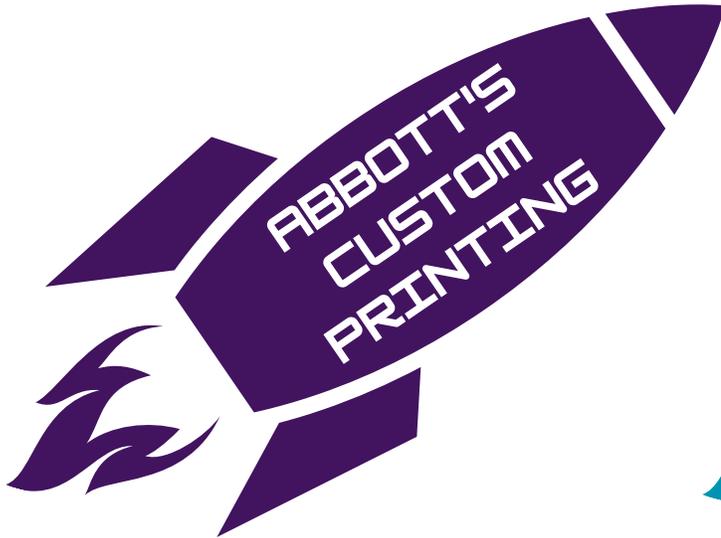
Ana Gonzalez
Mother



HAND IN HAND APPRECIATION PROGRAM SPONSORS



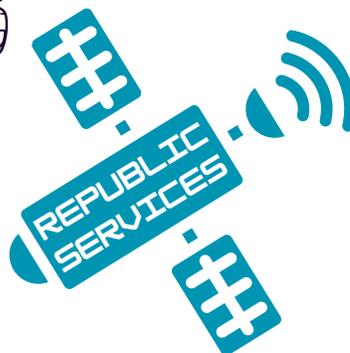
PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



ANNUAL SPONSORSHIP HAND IN HAND APPRECIATION PROGRAM

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.

PLATINUM SPONSORS

Sponsors who donate \$3,000 and above are our very special Platinum Sponsors! If you become a Platinum Sponsor, you will receive a special Hand in Hand Sponsor Recognition Certificate, a half-page recognition in our annual Hand in Hand Yearbook, a copy of our Hand in Hand Yearbook, our quarterly PEP Post newsletter, recognition on the Nevada PEP website, a unique lapel pin, a very special Hand in Hand Sponsorship Plaque, and an Honorable Mention in all Hand in Hand literature!

GOLD SPONSORS

Sponsors who donate \$1,000 to \$3,000 are our Gold Sponsors. If you become a Gold Sponsor, you will receive a special Hand in Hand Sponsor Recognition Certificate, business-card size recognition in the annual Hand in Hand Yearbook, a copy of our Hand in Hand Yearbook, our quarterly PEP Post newsletter, recognition on the Nevada PEP website, a unique lapel pin, and a very special Hand in Hand Sponsorship Plaque!

SILVER SPONSORS

Sponsors who donate \$100 to \$1,000 are our Silver Sponsors. If you become a Silver Sponsor, you will receive a special Hand in Hand Sponsor Recognition Certificate, a unique lapel pin, recognition in our annual Hand in Hand Yearbook, a copy of our Hand in Hand Yearbook, receive our quarterly PEP Post newsletter, and recognition on the Nevada PEP website!



Back Cover for Abbot's