



2023 Annual Update

2,376 Regional Family Network Members
1,968 Facebook Likes



Engaging Families

Regional Family Network Activities Highlights

Family Valentines Party • Family Farmers Market • Mom's Day Out • You Are My Sunshine! Event (with a youth planning partner) • Family Fruit Stand • Fall Family Fun Event • Winter Family Event • Get Air Event sponsored by Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism



Strengthening Families

Family Training Event Highlights

- **Safe & Secure Summit** with Autism Society of Oregon, Swindells Resource Center, The Arc Oregon, Willamette Valley Down Syndrome Association, Oregon Family Support Network, Oregon Family to Family Health Information Center, Marion Polk Alerts, Marion County Health & Human Services, Salem-Keizer Public Schools, Natural Discoveries with Kathy, and Integrated Services Network
- **Housing Equity Summit & Advocacy Luncheon** with Fair Housing Council of Oregon
- **Strengthening Your Marriage While Raising a Child with Disabilities**
- **How to Be a Star in a Supporting Role: Workshop for Caregivers**
- **Creating Leaders Invitational Series**
- **Raising a Self-Advocate: Dinner Discussion for Parents of Children and Youth**
- **Back to School Support System Workshop** with a youth planning partner
- **Employing PSWs Successfully Workshops**



Equipping Families

Health Equity Initiatives

- **Cooking Safely Together Workshop** – with Oregon Health Authority grant funds, we hosted a series of Cooking Safely Together Family Food Safety Workshops throughout the year. This training series was designed to teach youth with disabilities, their siblings, parents, and caregivers the essentials of food safety including storage, preparation, and handling. Topics addressed included handwashing, surface cleaning, maintaining correct holding temperatures, proper thawing processes, cooking standards, monitoring freshness, and ensuring proper storage placement. Each participating family household received one Cooking Safely Together kit, which included oven mitts, food thermometers, timers, fire blanket and reference magnets. This [training video](#) can now be accessed at any time through our You Tube Channel.
- **Patrol Car Care Kits** – with Oregon Health Authority grant funds, we put together crisis care kits for Marion, Yamhill, and Polk County Sheriff's Departments, as well as Keizer Police Department. Each backpack featured more than four dozen items to help calm and communicate with people who experience disabilities, as well as information to connect them with community resources. The kits were distributed among patrol vehicles with the items to be given to community members as individual interactions occur.

- **Emergency Preparedness Safety Kits** – with Oregon Health Authority grant funds, we compiled and distributed safety kits to families of local children with disabilities at our seasonal events, including Cooling & Hydration Safety Kits in preparation for Extreme Heat due to Climate Change; Reflective Items & Flashlights in preparation for Outdoor Night Safety; and Warming Items & Alternate Power Sources in preparation for Ice Storms / Winter Power Outages.
- **Trauma-Informed Resource** – with Regional Family Network Funding, we distributed 100 copies of the “What Happened to You? Conversations on Trauma, Resilience, and Healing” Book by Dr. Bruce Perry & Oprah Winfrey to help local families and community partners better support children who have experienced trauma.



Building Collaboration Systems Advocacy Highlights

- **Special Education Advisory Partner for Salem-Keizer Schools**
- **Oregon’s Developmental Disabilities Services Vision Advisory Group Participation**
- **Community Service Integration Team Meeting Participation**
- **Provided Dozens of Local Families Individual Support, Consultation and Advocacy Assistance**



Contracted Program Coordination

- **Community Based Organization Health & Housing Initiatives** - Marion, Polk & Yamhill Counties Contracted by the Oregon Health Authority, Creating Opportunities has provided Health & Housing Equity information through an accessible housing rights social media postcard campaign, communicable disease prevention activities, and emergency preparedness resources. We also provided direct assistance to more than 150 local families experiencing housing instability, many of whom included a person with a disability.
- **Regional Family Network** - Marion, Polk & Yamhill Counties Contracted by the Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Developmental Disability Services and the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities to strengthen families and communities.
- **Employer Resource Connection** - Tillamook, Lincoln, Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Linn, Benton & Lane Contracted by the Oregon Home Care Commission to offer resources to those who employ support workers.
- **GO Project** – Statewide Contracted by the Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition to support legislative advocacy.



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