

NEWSLETTER

January 2026



South Sound

PARENT to PARENT

Happy New Year from our community to yours!

As we welcome 2026, we look forward to another year of walking alongside families, strengthening connections, and creating spaces where we ALL belong.



In this issue:

- Sensory Santa
- Thank you Kimberly Adams
- Pic from Zoo
- We want to hear your stories!
- We have a NEW support group!
- Power Up Auction
- SSP2P Upcoming events and support groups
- Giving Space
- Community resources and events
- SSP2P Resources, events & Support Groups
- Events by County
 - Grays Harbor, Mason & Thurston

Almost 250 people attended our sensory Santa days at our Grays Harbor, Mason and Thurston County offices

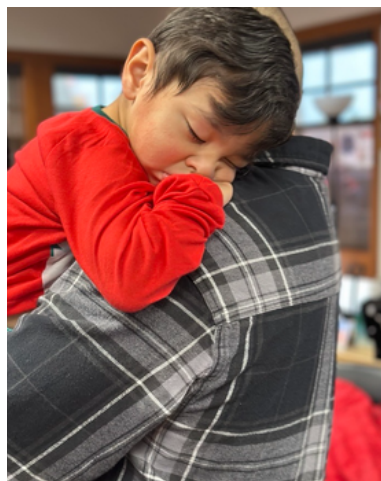
Thank You for Supporting Sensory Santa!

A huge thank you to Starbucks, Don Enrique's Bakery, and Toys for Tots for your generous support and donations toward our Sensory Santa events.

Because of your kindness, families were able to enjoy a welcoming, inclusive holiday experience filled with comfort, joy, and smiles. We are so grateful to our community partners who help make moments like these possible for the families we serve. ❤️



MARINE CORPS RESERVE





THANK YOU KIMBERLY ADAMS!

The Kitsap Helping Parent Program is moving to Holly Ridge. We would like to thank Kimberly Adams for the amazing work she has done with our SSP2P program over the years and wish great things for the county!



We are grateful for the complimentary tickets we receive from organizations that we get to pass on to our families in program! See below from Kathleen Thompson



*Thank you! We went to the zoo this week and had a wonderful visit. We appreciate your work to get the passes for us. Here's a pic of Luke enjoying the Zoo.
Thanks so much,
Kathleen Thompson*

Building a Bridge to Belonging

Your Story is the Map

Join the SSP2P Story Vault & Guide Families from Isolation to Connection.



Share Your Journey

Why Share Your Story?



Inspires Families:
Shows new parents they are not alone.



Fuels Our Mission:
Helps us secure funding.



Builds Community:
We All Belong.

How to Share



Quick Email: Answer a few simple questions



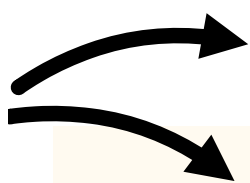
Audio Story: Zoom call or voice note.



Short Video: Record on Zoom or your phone!

Ready to help Build the Bridge?
Click [HERE](#) or Scan to share your story!





NEW support group!

Strong Hearts

Grandparents Support Group



A welcoming space where any grandparent who provides care, support, or guidance, whether they are supporting their own adult child who is raising a child with a disability, or they are directly raising or supporting their grandchild.

Grandparents are the heart of so many families. Strong Hearts is a place to find support, connection, and community with others who understand the unique joys and challenges of your role.

What You Can Expect

- Warm, judgment-free conversations
- Connection with other grandparents
- Tips for navigating services and supports
- A chance to share your story and learn from others
- A space to feel seen, valued, and supported



Group Details

When: February 2, 2026 / 1-2pm

Where: Virtual

Cost: Free for all families

Registration: Click on QR code or visit www.ssp2p.org

Hosted by: South Sound Parent to Parent (SSP2P)

For questions: Contact Sylvia Davenport 360.352.1126



This group will be facilitated by Kay Richardson and available in Thurston, Mason & Grays Harbor Counties.



Power Up Auction 2026

LAST CHANCE ESCAPES

Bid on a Getaway. Fund Hope for Caregivers.

OPENS JAN 13 - CLOSES JAN 19

Cozy Mountain Retreat

LAST CHANCE ESCAPES

Cozy Mountain Retreat

A winter escape for two with lodge dining and lift tickets.

Seattle Spring Awakening

The ultimate city adventure with tickets to the Space Needle, Aquarium, and more.

Local Spring Renewal

Refresh your routine with golf, dance, and car care.

Seattle Spring Awakening

Local Spring Renewal



SCAN TO BID NOW



*Be the reason someone feels seen
Be the reason hope continues*

SOUTH SOUND PARENT TO PARENT

SENSORY Skate Night!



Please join **South Sound Parent to Parent** for a fun and sensory, friendly family skate night.

Wheelchairs, strollers, and walkers are all welcome on the rink, everyone gets to glide, roll, and enjoy together!

****Admission is FREE. Concessions available at your expense- Cash Only***

February 15, 2026 / 5:00PM - 7:00PM
Skateland: 2725 12TH Ave. NE Olympia

For more information, please contact:

Sylvia Davenport- 360.352.1126 sdavenport@ssp2p.org

Angie Godinez- (ENG) 360.462.0383 / (SPA) 360.462.0362 agodinez@ssp2p.org

Sol Gonzalez- 360.612.1324 sgonzalez@ssp2p.org



No registration required
Exclusively for past and current SSP2P families.





DDCS Town Hall

DDCS (Developmental Disabilities Community Services, formerly DDA)

Let's Discuss Intake & Eligibility!

South Sound Parent to Parent is hosting a DDCS Town Hall! Join us for a FREE, informative and supportive gathering with Doreen Vandervort, who will be available to answer your questions about how DDCS can partner with and assist your family.

Intake and eligibility staff will be on-site to:

- Guide families through the application process
- Provide one-on-one support
- Help you understand what DDCS services may be available for your family

All families are welcome, come learn, ask questions, and get connected to helpful resources! We want every family to feel supported.

Please share any accommodations that would help you fully participate. Support for Spanish-speaking families will be available.



 **January 15, 2026**

 **3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

 **SSP2P Office, 2108 Caton Way SW, Olympia**

 **Please register at www.ssp2p.org or by scanning the QR code.**



For questions, please contact:

Sylvia Davenport

Helping Parent/ Transition Program Director

sdavenport@ssp2p.org / 360-352-1126



South Sound Parent to Parent

Dad to Dad

Looking for a group where other dads truly get what you're going through?

South Sound Parent to Parent

Where dads find connection, understanding, and community.

Join us for Dad to Dad, a relaxed and welcoming meet-up designed just for fathers navigating similar journeys. We talk, listen, share stories, and support each other through the ups and downs of parenting a child with a disability or developmental delay. When we meet in person, you might find us bowling, at the golfing range or having a hobby night!

Meeting Options

Virtual (TEAMS) Meet-Up

2nd Wednesday of each month

6:30–7:30 PM

In-Person Meet-Up

4th Wednesday of each month

6:30–7:30 PM

Contact Jordan for the meeting location.



Jordan Kennedy (He/Him)
Developmental Specialist
(360) 352-1126
jkennedy@ssp2p.org



A laid-back space for dads raising kids with developmental delays or disabilities.





SOUTH SOUND PARENT TO PARENT

Helping Parent Program

Peer support from people who've walked the path before you.

You don't have to navigate this alone.

Our Helping Parent Program connects you with trained volunteer parents and caregivers who have lived experience raising a child with a developmental delay, disability, or special health care needs. They understand the questions, emotions, and challenges, because they've been there too.

We Offer:

- One-on-one peer support from someone who understands
- Educational trainings and webinars
- Connection to a community of families who "get it"
- FREE fun inclusive family events and activities
- Virtual and in person support groups
- Support however your family looks — single parents, couples, grandparents, kinship caregivers, all are welcome

Why Peer Support Matters

Families consistently share that connecting with someone who truly understands brings comfort, hope, and confidence. You are not alone. There is a whole community ready to walk alongside you.



Mason County- Angie Godinez 360.462.0362 agodinez@ssp2p.org

Thurston County- Sylvia Davenport 360.352.1126 x106 sdavenport@ssp2p.org

Program Assistant- DeAnn Bogar 360.352.1126 dbogar@ssp2p.org





Need Support? You're Not Alone

HELPING PARENT MATCH Peer Support For Families

South Sound Parent to Parent understands that raising a child with a disability, developmental delay, or chronic illness can sometimes feel overwhelming and isolating. That's why we offer one-on-one support through our Parent Match Mentorship, part of the Helping Parent Program.

A Helping Parent Mentor Can:

- Offer one on one support
- Listen and share experiences
- Offer encouragement without judgment
- Help you navigate complex systems
- Be a trusted support as you care for your child

Whether you need...

- Someone to talk to
- Help finding resources
- Or just a reminder that you've got this



Angie Godinez
Mason County
360.462.0383
agodinez@ssp2p.org



Sylvia Davenport
Thurston County
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MOM *to* MOM



Grays Harbor Bilingual Community Information & Education Program

A safe and confidential space for moms raising children with developmental delays or disabilities. Share stories, celebrate wins and encourage each other through the challenges.



Where & When?

This bilingual support group will meet virtually from 6:00 - 7:30PM on the following Wednesday's:

January 21, February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13 & June 10, 2026.

To Register, please call or email:

Sol Gonzalez

Bilingual Community Information &
Education Coordinator
(360) 612-1324 / sgonzalez@ssp2p.org



Here, you can be your authentic self, no judgment, just understanding.





We are so glad to see families using our Giving Space — that's exactly what it's here for! ❤️

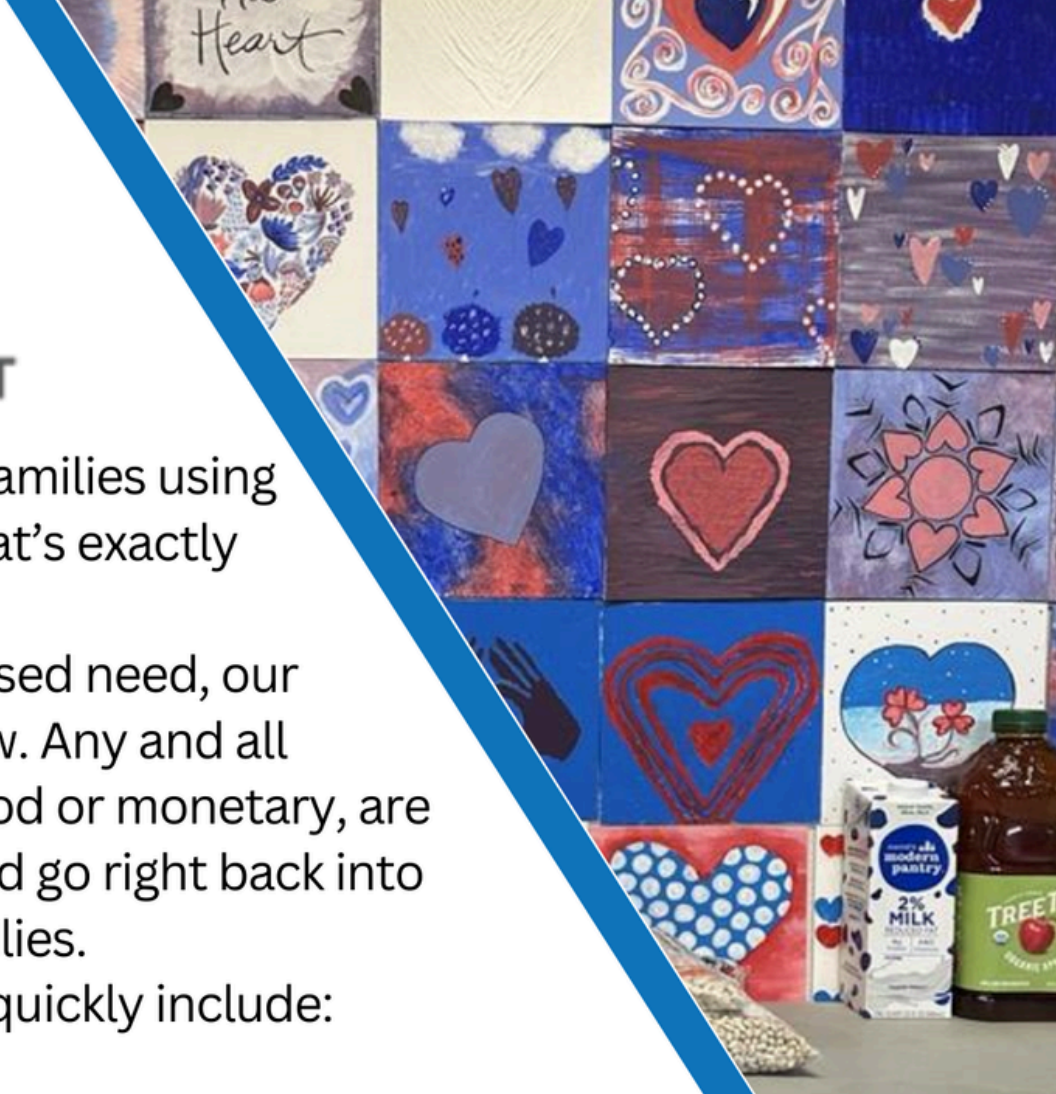
Because of this increased need, our shelves are running low. Any and all donations, whether food or monetary, are deeply appreciated and go right back into the hands of local families.

Popular items that go quickly include:

- Jam & jelly
- Breakfast cereal
- Pastas & pasta sauces
- Fruit squeeze pouches

Thank you for helping us keep this space stocked with love, dignity, and support for every family. Together, we make a difference. ❤️

Please visit our website
@ssp2p.org or click on
QR code to give



ALL County Community Resources & Events



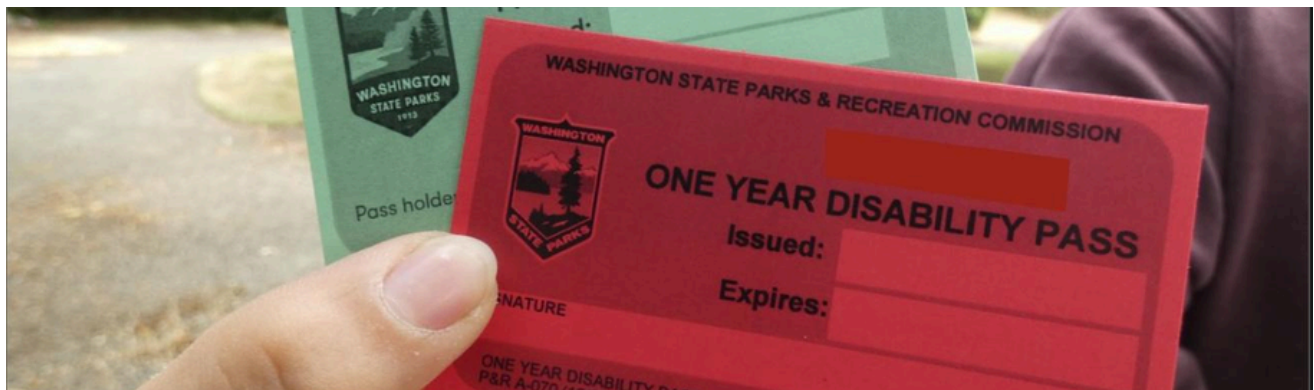
Nominations for the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families' (DCYF) Unsung Hero Awards are open and due Jan. 6, 2026. Learn more at

[Click Here](#) to learn more



Disability Pass

Offered to Washington state residents who are legally blind, profoundly deaf, or who meet the disability definition used by the Social Security Administration and are currently receiving benefits.



<https://parks.wa.gov/passes-permits/get-park-pass/disability-pass>



**Do you
need help
finding
extra food
or meals?**



Grays Harbor County Community Resources & Events



DIABETES



Self-Management Workshops

Are you living with diabetes or pre-diabetes?

Empower Yourself with Knowledge and Skills

Join our **FREE** Diabetes Self-Management Workshops and take control of your health!



Dates: 1/10, 1/17, 1/24,
1/31, 2/7, & 2/14.
10:00 am to 12:30 pm



GRAYS HARBOR PUBLIC
HEALTH, PEARSALL BUILDING,
2109 SUMNER AVE, ABERDEEN



- Diabetes disease process
- Blood Sugar Monitoring
- Medication
- Health Eating and Nutrition
- Physical Activity
- Preventing High & Low Blood Sugars

- Preventing or delaying acute & Chronic Conditions
- Stress & depression management
- Action Planning, problem solving, health and behavior change

Who Should Attend? - Individuals with diabetes or caregivers and family members.



For more information or to
Register, Contact us @

360.500.4072

ALL ACCESS

WITH **ANDY GARCIA**

Coming Soon:

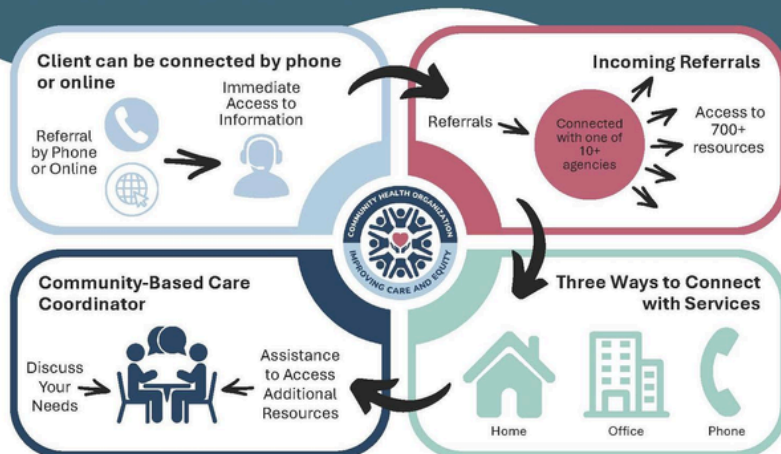
Summit Pacific on *All Access with Andy Garcia*

Summit Pacific Medical Center in Elma, Washington, will soon be featured on the national documentary series *All Access with Andy Garcia*. This special episode will spotlight Summit Pacific's innovative approach to rural healthcare — where compassion, community, and forward-thinking care come together.

[Notify Me When It's Live](#)

YOUR HEALTH MATTERS. LET'S NAVIGATE IT TOGETHER.

How to Connect to the Community Care Hub



Our free program connects you with a dedicated community health worker who will partner with you to access a variety of services that you might need, including:

- Food security
- Housing
- Medical referrals
- Social services
- Mental health
- Medical care
- Healthcare coverage
- Employment
- Adult education
- Medication assessments
- Substance use
- Oral health
- Family planning
- Pregnancy support
- Postpartum support

CHOICE (Community Health Organization Improving Care and Equity) is a nonprofit organization driven by a mission to reshape health equity and a commitment to ensuring everyone has access to quality care, resources, and connections that make life better.

CONNECT NOW



1-800-662-2499



[crhnweb.org/
community-
based-care-
coordination](https://crhnweb.org/community-based-care-coordination)



Mason County Community Resources & Events



Weekly Gatherings
Jan. 22 - Feb 26, 2026

Thursdays

5:30 - 7:30 PM

Join us for a nationally-recognized, evidence-based parenting workshop series. Topics include positive discipline tools, communication skills, child development and stress/anger management.

Take home practices that can be applied immediately.

LOCATION:

Shelton Family YMCA

**3101 N Shelton Springs Rd,
Shelton, WA 98584**

**FREE FOOD
& CHILDCARE**

**LEARN PRACTICAL
TOOLS, TIPS,
STRATEGIES**

**MEET & CONNECT WITH
OTHER PARENTS**

For more information or to register:

www.familyess.org/ggc

or call (360) 754-7629

Washington State
Health Care Authority



2026 MASON COUNTY POINT IN TIME COUNT RESOURCE FAIR

Homeless? In danger of becoming
homeless? Fleeing from domestic violence?

JOIN US

JANUARY 30, 2025 10 AM – 2 PM

**Connect with community
service providers!**

**Free supplies, snacks, resources
and MUCH MORE!**

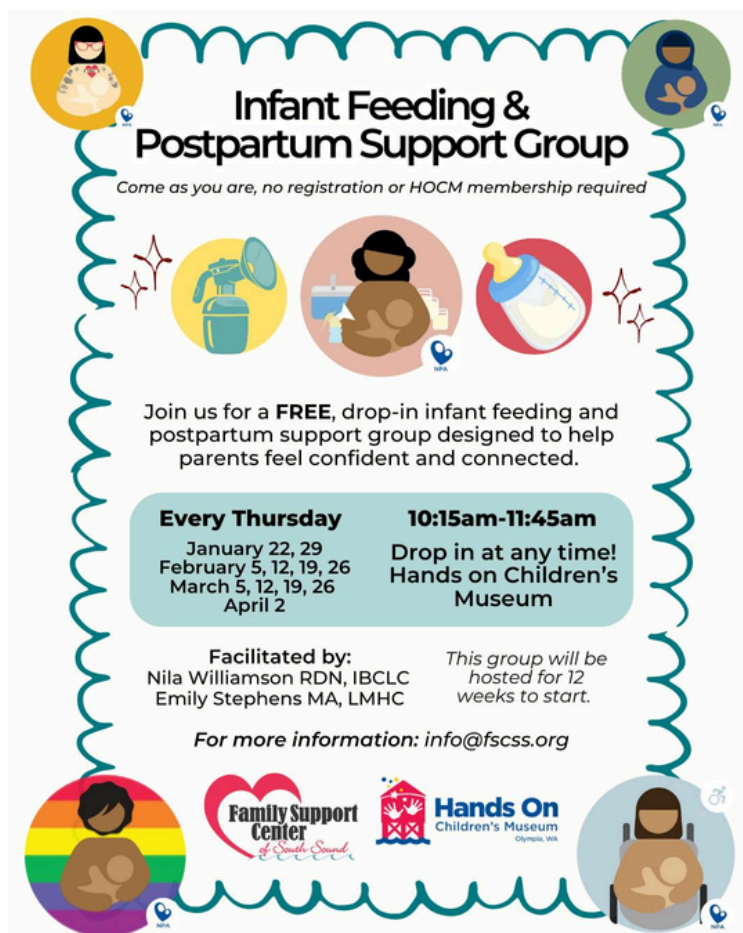
TWO LOCATIONS

123 S. 2nd St, Shelton, WA 98584

140 NE State Route 300, Belfair, WA 98528



Thurston County Community Resources & Events



Infant Feeding & Postpartum Support Group
Come as you are, no registration or HOCM membership required

Join us for a **FREE**, drop-in infant feeding and postpartum support group designed to help parents feel confident and connected.

Every Thursday
January 22, 29
February 5, 12, 19, 26
March 5, 12, 19, 26
April 2

10:15am-11:45am
Drop in at any time!
Hands on Children's Museum

Facilitated by:
Nila Williamson RDN, IBCLC
Emily Stephens MA, LMHC

This group will be hosted for 12 weeks to start.

For more information: info@fscss.org

Logos: Family Support Center of South Sound, Hands On Children's Museum Olympia, WA



COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL

January 2026

Energy Assistance Dates & Times

- Lewis County: Call 360-736-1800 starting at 7:00 AM on January 8th
- Mason County: Call 360-426-9726 starting at 7:00 AM on January 13th
- Thurston County: Call 360-438-1100 starting at 7:00 AM on January 9th

Book appointment online at <https://cacimt.org/>

Logos: Community Action Council of Lewis, Mason & Thurston Counties

Seasonal Drop-In Spaces at Pear Blossom Place Family Shelter

Daily from November 1st through April 30th

837 7th Ave SE Olympia, WA 98501

- First come, first served
- Open 5:00pm - 10:00am
- What's provided: Indoor tents, mats, and bedding
- 24/7 staffing
- On-site parking
- RSO checks
- Secure facility

Families must have a child or a pregnant person present at the time of check-in. No ID or proof of pregnancy is required. For safety, all adult names will be checked through the national database to ensure they are not registered sex offenders.



Questions about drop-in shelter?
Call 360-628-7343

THE PARENT PERK

Coffee & Conversation

JANUARY 16TH @ 10:00AM

WAGNER'S BAKERY & CAFE

1013 CAPITOL WAY SE, OLYMPIA 98501

360-357-7268

Hosted by Thurston Mason DD Coalition

Contact Michelle ddcoalition@arcwa.org with questions