

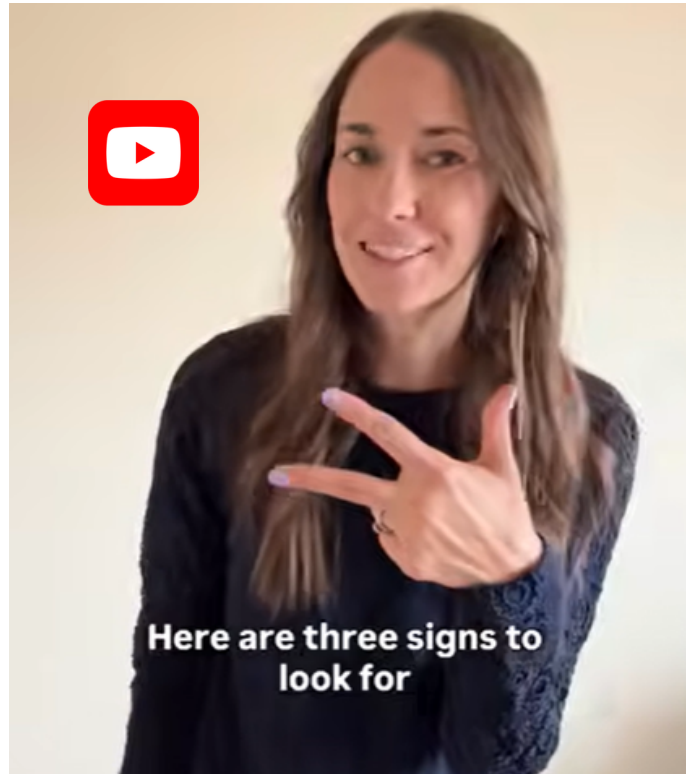
NEWSLETTER

May 2026



South Sound

PARENT to PARENT



AnneMarie Defayette, Teacher of the Deaf at SSP2P, explains
3 ways your child is communicating with you

In this issue:

- Seeking input from the Autism Parents at SSP2P
- Thank You
- Sensory egg hunt
- Upcoming events
- Early Support Matters
- Neuro-Bits & Autism Tips
- Trainings
- Holland graduates
- SSP2P Support Groups
- Community resources and events



Seeking input from the Autism Parents at SSP2P

We want to hear from you!

At South Sound Parent to Parent, your voice matters. We are seeking input from parents and caregivers of children with autism to better understand your experiences, needs, and ideas. Your feedback will help shape the supports, resources, and opportunities we offer to families in our community.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to share your thoughts, we truly value your perspective.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FZ>
RHB2M



Thank You

We are so grateful to everyone who supported our *Spring Online Auction!* Because of you, those who bid, purchased items, and shared our event, we were able to raise meaningful support for our programs.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU to the Skookum Rotary Club of Shelton and to our **consistent donors** who continue to show up for our families month after month and year after year.

Your generosity truly makes a difference!

We also want to recognize and thank our incredible
PARTNERS & GRANTORS:

- First United Methodist Women in Faith
- Early Support for Infants & Toddlers
- Grays Harbor Department of Health
- Mason / Thurston Developmental Disabilities Coalition
- Dan Thompson
- The Arc of Washington
- Thurston Mason Developmental Disabilities Coalition
- CBCAP with the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families

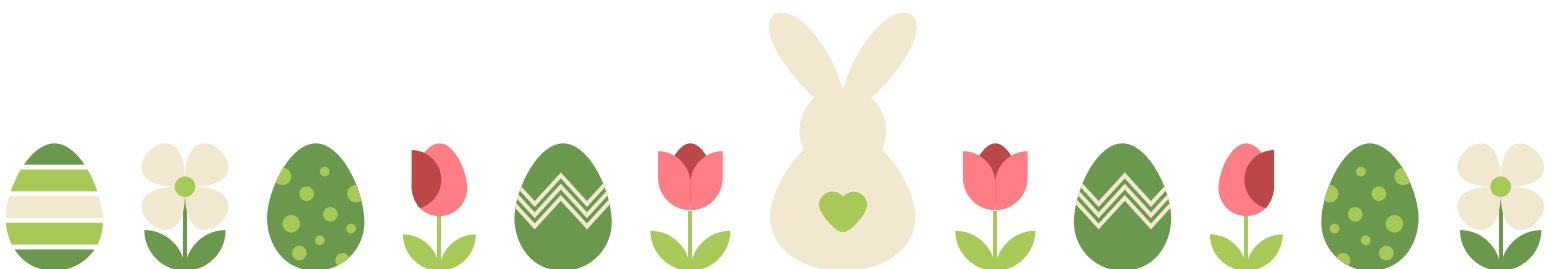
Your support helps us continue creating a space where families feel connected, supported, and where **WE ALL BELONG!**



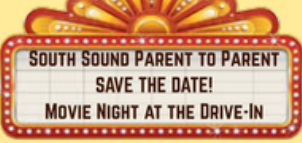
Thank you to all the families who joined us at our
Sensory Egg Hunts, we loved celebrating with you!

This spring, South Sound Parent to Parent was excited to host Sensory-Friendly Easter Egg Hunts across Thurston, Mason, and Grays Harbor counties, and what an incredible turnout! A total of 271 children, caregivers, and family members joined us for these joyful, inclusive events.

It was so meaningful to see children exploring, collecting eggs, and sharing smiles alongside their families. Events like these remind us how important it is to create spaces where every child can fully participate and feel a true sense of belonging.



Sassy



**SOUTH SOUND PARENT TO PARENT
SAVE THE DATE!
MOVIE NIGHT AT THE DRIVE-IN**

Join us at the drive-in to watch a movie together. Bring chairs, blankets, comfort items, and anything else that your family might need to enjoy a night out. **NO outside food or drink allowed.** One small dairy free popcorn and soda will be provided. Speakers are available for \$5 to rent if you need one.

Where: Skyline Drive-In
182 Brewer Rd, Shelton
When: Wednesday June 17
Time: Gates open 5:00PM
Movie starts at dusk (approx 9:15PM)
Movie: TBD

For present and past SSP2P families

For more information check out our website at ssp2p.org

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED for this FREE event

Any questions please contact:



Sylvia Davenport
Thurston County
360.352.1126
sdavenport@ssp2p.org



Angie Godinez
Mason County
360.462.0362
agodinez@ssp2p.org



Sol Gonzalez
Grays Harbor County
360.612.1324
sgonzalez@ssp2p.org

Your Sound Parent to Parent is a safe and welcoming space for all families. We do not share personal information with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and immigration enforcement is not part of our events.

Drive -in Movie Night

Save the Date!

We're hosting a Drive-In Event for SSP2P families —those who have been part of our programs or are currently receiving services.

Bring your people, get cozy, and enjoy a fun, low-pressure evening with other families who understand the journey.

June 17th.

Free Admission. Stay tuned for more details!



SAVE THE DATE!

THE GREAT INFLATABLE KICKBALL EVENT

making the invisible visible

DID YOU KNOW? 80% of disabilities are non-visible. 1 in 6 children has a developmental disability. Most are invisible. The exhaustion of masking, the effort of sensory overload, the invisible labor of navigating a world not built for them.

ON AUGUST 8TH, we're turning that **INVISIBLE LOAD** into something you can **SEE, FEEL, AND CHEER FOR!**

Activities:

- Giant Inflatable Suits
- Face Painting
- Tie-Dye Community Quilt
- Sensory Zone
- Cheer Sign-Making
- Inflatable Play Zone

Saturday, August 8, 2026
LBA Park, Olympia, WA
10:30 AM – 2:00 PM

More details coming soon! Follow us for updates.
Sponsorship opportunities available.
Contact Melissa at melissa@ssp2p.org by June 28.

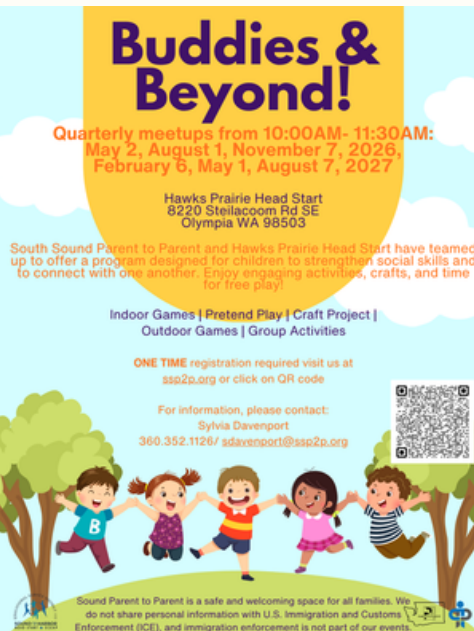
Presented by South Sound Parent to Parent in partnership with Kokua.

The Great Inflation Kickball Event!

Save the Date!

South Sound Parent to Parent invites you to an Inflation Kickball Event, a chance for families to come together, play, and connect in a welcoming and inclusive space.

More information coming soon, we can't wait to see you there!



Buddies & Beyond!

Quarterly meetups from 10:00AM- 11:30AM:
May 2, August 1, November 7, 2026;
February 6, May 1, August 7, 2027

Hawks Prairie Head Start
8220 Steilacoom Rd SE
Olympia WA 98503

South Sound Parent to Parent and Hawks Prairie Head Start have teamed up to offer a program designed for children to strengthen social skills and to connect with one another. Enjoy engaging activities, crafts, and time for free play!

Indoor Games | Pretend Play | Craft Project |
Outdoor Games | Group Activities

ONE TIME registration required visit us at ssp2p.org or click on QR code

For information, please contact:
Sylvia Davenport
360.352.1126 / sdavenport@ssp2p.org



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Buddies & Beyond

Buddies & Beyond is a fun, welcoming program where kids can build friendships and strengthen social skills through play, activities, and shared experiences. With supportive guidance and opportunities to connect, kids grow confidence, practice communication, and feel a true sense of belonging. Click [HERE](#) to register



Do you have concerns that your child, age birth - three, is not yet:



Crawling?



Walking?



Talking?

The first three years are a big time for growth and learning. Early Support (Birth to Three) helps children with developmental delays or disabilities build important skills during this critical stage.

Services are tailored to your child and family, with support like speech, movement, and learning built into everyday routines at home or childcare.

You're not alone, Early Support connects you to caring professionals, helpful resources, and a team ready to support you every step of the way.



Dawn Harrison (She/Her)
Early Support Intake Coordinator
(360) 489-6374
dharrison@ssp2p.org

[Click here to self refer](#)



Our Grays Harbor Peer Mentorship / Information & Support Program was honored to host a special gender reveal celebration for one of the families we serve! It was a joyful time filled with food, fun, and connection, and we're so excited to share... it's a girl! ❤️

Moments like these remind us how powerful community can be as we celebrate alongside families every step of the way.



NEURO-BITS & AUTISM TIPS

by Trish Byrne

SSP2P Autism Support Program Director

Certified Autism Specialist • Special Education Teacher

Celebrating Neurodiverse Families This Mother's Day

Mother's Day is a time to honor the strength, love, and dedication of moms raising children with autism and other neurodiverse experiences. Every journey looks different, and every milestone matters.

Having the right support, whether through peer connections, resources, or early services, can make a meaningful difference. It reminds families that they are seen, supported, and not alone.

This Mother's Day, we celebrate the incredible moms and caregivers who show up every day with resilience, advocacy, and love. You matter, and your journey matters.



[Fun Mother's Day Craft for Children with Autism](#) | Circle City ABA



[A salute to mothers of children with autism](#) | [Autism Speaks](#)



What to Expect on Mother's Day



Neurodiversity Understood – Parent Resource Guide

[What to expect on Mothers Day.](#)

[Neurodiversity-Understood-Parent-Guide.pdf](#)

Autism Training Series



Saturdays at 10:00 AM / April 25, May 30, & June 13, 2026

SSP2P Office: 2505 Olympic Hwy N. #140 Shelton, WA

In this 3-part, in-person autism training, Jim Smith will share information and supports for parents and caregivers of children with a new or existing diagnosis. Families will learn what to expect, explore available services, and connect with local resources.

Spanish-speaking families are warmly welcome, and support will be available to help everyone feel comfortable participating.

1st Session: What is Autism?

- A safe space to ask questions, share concerns, and learn more about autism.

2nd Session: Continuing the conversation

- A deeper conversation, building on the questions and topics brought up during Session 1.

3rd Session: Where to go from here

- Learn where to go for services, how to access local resources, and what steps to take next for your child and family.

FREE to register by contacting Angie, visiting www.ssp2p.org or clicking on the QR code.



Angie Godinez
Bilingual-Spanish
Helping Parent Coordinator
(360) 462-0362 agodinez@ssp2p.org



Jim Smith (He/Him) MA SPED, MA
Transition Coordinator
Developmental Specialist



Autism Training

Join South Sound Parent to Parent for a 3-part Autism Training Series designed to support families and caregivers of children with autism or developmental differences.

Whether you are new to the journey or looking to deepen your understanding, this training offers a welcoming space to learn, ask questions, and connect with others, because every family deserves support and a place where they belong. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

Internet Safety for Children with Disabilities or a Developmental Delay

South Sound Parent to Parent in collaboration with Olympia Police Department invites you to learn about how to keep our children safe online.

Topics include:

- Cyberbullying
- Common challenges
- Oversharing personal information
- Red flags to watch for
- Password management and much more!



Available in Spanish: date to be announced

Where: Virtually on Microsoft Teams

When: May 13, 2026 @ 5:30-7:00PM

Registration: is Required and is open April 1 -May 12 at Noon. Please use the QR code or visit our website at www.ssp2p.org



Sylvia Davenport
Helping Parent/ Transition Program Director
(360)352-1126
sdavenport@ssp2p.org



Presenter Rebekah Ziesmer
Community Programs Officer

Sound Parent to Parent is a safe and welcoming space for all families. We do not share personal information with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and immigration enforcement is not part of our events.

South Sound Parent to Parent es un espacio seguro y acogedor para todas las familias. No compartimos información personal con el Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas de EE. UU. (ICE), y la aplicación de la ley migratoria no forma parte de nuestros eventos.



Internet Safety Training

We're excited to partner with the Olympia Police Department to bring important information to families about internet safety for children with developmental delays or disabilities. As more of our kids connect online, for learning, communication, and fun, it's important to make sure they are safe and supported.

Together, we're working to create safer online spaces for all children. For more information or to register, please click [HERE](#)

A big congratulations to our Holland Training graduates! Your willingness to reflect, connect, and support one another is what makes this community so special. We're honored to walk alongside you and celebrate this step in your journey.



Our Holland Training is a welcoming workshop for parents and caregivers raising a child with a developmental delay or disability.

Using the "Welcome to Holland" story, we gently explore what it can feel like when your parenting journey looks different than you expected.

It's a space to connect, share, and feel understood, while gaining support, tools, and community from others who have walked a similar path.



WE'RE HERE. TOGETHER.



Our support groups offer a welcoming space to connect, share, and learn from others who truly understand. Together, we can navigate the journey and celebrate the wins; big and small.

(Programs & Support Groups- Click on flyers for more info)

Helping Parent Program Thurston & Mason Counties



South Sound Parent to Parent

Helping Parent Program

Peer support from people who have walked the path before you

You don't have to navigate this alone

Our Helping Parent Program connects you with trained volunteers, 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
- 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.



www.ssp2p.org

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
Helping Parent Support- Ani Andrade 360.352.1126 aandrade@ssp2p.org



Peer Mentor / Information & Support Grays Harbor County



We help individuals and families find services, understand their options, and connect with peer support.

As a valuable resource for families in Grays Harbor raising a child with a developmental delay or disability, we're here with you every step of the way.

Support includes:

- Peer Mentors
- Emotional Support
- Community Resources
- IEP Support
- Support Groups
- Parent Education
- Inclusive family events
- And more!



Sol Gonzalez
Peer Mentor
Information & Support
Coordinator
(360) 612-1324
sgonzalez@ssp2p.org



MOM TO MOM

Welcome to South Sound Parent to Parent
Mom to Mom Support Group!

Mom to Mom is a relaxed, private space for moms raising kids with disabilities, developmental delays, or chronic illnesses. It's a place to connect, share resources, swap stories, and support one another—no pressure, no judgment.

Be yourself, say as much or as little as you want, and know you're not alone. This is community, support, and understanding. We're in this together!

To join, please visit ssp2p.org or contact Sylvia



Meeting Options (Olympia office)

Virtual (TEAMS) Meet-Up

1st, 3rd, & 4th Tuesday of each month
5:30–7:00 PM

In-Person Meet-Up (potluck)

2nd Tuesday of each month
6:00–8:00 PM
SSP2P Office 2108 Caton Way SW Olympia

Sylvia Davenport
Helping Parent/Transition Program Director
(360) 352-1126
sdavenport@ssp2p.org



NEW! Mom to Mom

In person in Yelm!

Join other moms or female caregivers in a time of companionship to share victories and the hardships that can come with raising a child with a developmental delay or disability.

When: 3rd Tuesday of every month starting April 21st
Time: 11:00AM-12:00
Where: Timberland Regional Library
210 Prairie Park St NE Yelm 98597

To join please visit our website at ssp2p.org, use the QR code, or contact Sylvia Davenport

When: 3rd Tuesday of every month starting April 21st
Time: 11:00AM-12:00
Where: Timberland Regional Library
210 Prairie Park St NE Yelm 98597

To join please visit our website at ssp2p.org, use the QR code, or contact Sylvia Davenport

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Sylvia Davenport
Helping Parent/ Transition Director
360.352.1126
sdavenport@ssp2p.org

Mamá con Mamá

Mamá con Mamá es un grupo de apoyo donde puedes conocer a otras mamás con hijos como los tuyos que tienen una discapacidad o necesidades especiales.

Como madre, sé que estamos ocupadas con la rutina diaria, así que aquí puedes encontrar apoyo emocional, recursos o simplemente alguien con quien hablar desde la comodidad de tu hogar.

Por favor, únete yendo a ssp2p.org o llamando a Angie

Nos reunimos por Zoom el primer sábado de cada mes a las 11:00 a. m., o en persona el tercer viernes de cada mes a las 6:00 p. m. en las oficinas de Mason.

Así que no dudes en inscribirte llamando o enviando un correo electrónico a mí!
Espero verlas!

Mom to Mom

South Sound Parent to Parent's Mom to Mom support group is a space where moms raising children with disabilities can connect, share, and have fun together. As a mom, I know life gets busy, so this is a time to slow down, build friendships, enjoy activities, and talk with moms who get it.
One time registration required, please call or email Angie.

We meet every second Friday of the month at 5:00 PM at the Mason office.
Come as you are — you're welcome here.

Hope to see you there!



Angie Godinez
(360) 462-0362
agodinez@SSP2P.org



English



Español



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 in person at SSP2P office located at 611 North F St. Aberdeen, WA. 98520 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.

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

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.



Dad TO Dad

Grays Harbor Bilingual

Community Information & Education Program

Are you looking for a laid-back space to connect with other dads who get it?

Join South Sound Parent to Parent's Dad to Dad support group, a casual meet-up for fathers raising children with developmental delays or disabilities.

-  Share your story
-  Build connections
-  Swap ideas and resources
-  Support each other through the ups and downs

Where & When?

This bilingual support group will meet in person at SSP2P office located at 611 North F St. Aberdeen, WA from 6:00 - 7:30PM on the following Wednesday's:
January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22, May 27 & June 24, 2026.

You don't have to go through this journey alone, come hang out with other dads who understand!



To Register, please call or email:
Sol Gonzalez
Bilingual Community Information & Education Coordinator
(360) 612-1324
sgonzalez@ssp2p.org



SSP2P SIBSHOPS

A fun space just for siblings

What Are Sibshops?

South Sound Parent to Parent Sibshops is a FREE program offering supportive, activity-based workshops created especially for siblings ages 7-18 who have a brother or sister with a disability, developmental delay, or special health care needs.

This is a place where siblings can:

-  Have fun and be themselves
-  Meet other kids who "get it"
-  Share feelings in a safe, supportive space
-  Play games, crafts, activities and make new friends



Please join by visiting ssp2p.org or contacting Sylvia.
Hope to see you!

Meets on the 4th Thursday of each month 5:30 - 7:00pm
SSP2P Office, 2108 Caton Way SW, Olympia.



Sylvia Davenport
Helping Parent/
Transition Program Director
(360) 352-1126
sdavenport@ssp2p.org

DINNER INCLUDED!



TALLER DE NIÑOS

Porque los hermanos también necesitan apoyo

Un Taller divertido y de Apoyo para los hermanos y hermanas South Sound Parent to Parent ofrece un taller para niños, un grupo de apoyo GRATUITO y divertido para niños y jóvenes de 6 a 18 años que tienen un hermano o hermana con un retraso en el desarrollo o una discapacidad.

Por favor, únete yendo a ssp2p.org o llamando a Angie

El Taller de niños es un espacio donde los niños pueden:

- Conectarse con otros niños que los entienden
- Compartir experiencias en un ambiente seguro y de apoyo
- Divertirse con juegos y actividades
- Sentirse escuchados, valorados y apoyados
- **¡CENA INCLUIDA!**

3er Sabado de cada mes 4pm-5:30pm
SSP2P Office Olympic HWY #140 Shelton Wa

SIBSHOPS

Because siblings need support too

South Sound Parent to Parent Sibshops, is a FREE and fun support group for children ages 6-18 who have a sibling with a developmental delay or disability. **Please join by going to ssp2p.org or calling Angie**

Sibshops is a place where kids can:

- Connect with other kids who get it
- Share experiences in a safe, supportive space
- Have fun through games, activities, and conversation
- Feel seen, heard, and supported
- **DINNER INCLUDED!**

3rd Saturday of each month 4pm-5:30pm
SSP2P Office Olympic HWY #140 Shelton Wa



Angie Godínez
(360) 462-0362
agodinez@ssp2p.org





Are you looking for community resources & family friendly events in **Thurston, Mason or Grays Harbor Counties?**

CLICK HERE 

South Sound Parent to Parent connects families to local community resources and events across Thurston, Mason, and Grays Harbor counties. From support groups and family activities to essential services and educational opportunities, we're here to help you find what you need, right where you live.