

# WASHINGTON STATE FATHERS NETWORK PRESENTS DADS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

## TESTIMONIALS

### James, former Director of the Fathers Network

"The Washington State Fathers Network is one of the finest support programs in the country. **For over 35 years the WSFN has been a powerful voice for fathers and families raising children with developmental disabilities and lifelong health issues.** It is eminently clear that support and knowledge are crucial when raising a child with special needs. Please join us."

### Dan

"Just how many of us fathers, with children with special needs, are out there? I don't know, but it is nice to meet them from time to time. **It's a great experience!**"

### Lance

"The Fathers Network opened an whole new world to me after my son had an accident that left him with significant disabilities. I was working in sawmills at the time and the guys at work tried their best to support me through a difficult time. They would ask questions like, "Can he walk yet?" or "Is he talking?" All with the greatest intent. I would reply, "No, but he's making small steps". They truly did not understand how to support me and it became increasingly uncomfortable to talk about it. **When I found the Fathers Network, the other fathers understood those small steps were tremendous gains and we were able to share our love as fathers. I felt like I was home!** I know others might have said this before, but the Fathers Network was a lifesaver at a very difficult time in my life. The support I received has expanded my life and that of my whole family!"

### John

"The Network stands on the ideal that fathers are not irrelevant especially in the parenting of a special needs family member. **It recognizes that dads need support as well as moms, but that their support is different,** e.g. the triggers of grief and tendency to anger is different. And, it has value because it recognizes that fathers need other fathers to help them aspire to be better dads and better spouses."

### Greg, former Director of Fathers Network

"**Fathers Network is a highly unique resource for fathers having children with special needs.** From its very beginning dads have found it focused on issues central to being a father and also providing very useful information about the special needs world. Research over the years has proven fathers network to be invaluable to the health and well-being of fathers and their families in Washington state and far beyond."

### Eddie

"My two youngest boys were diagnosed with autism. Sometimes it takes a persuasive wife to get you to go, but **after I went to my first WSFN conference I was hooked.** Later I actually spoke at several conferences and shared our story."

WASHINGTON STATE  
**FATHERS  
NETWORK**



### WASHINGTON STATE FATHERS NETWORK

**A Powerful Voice for Fathers and Families of Children with Special Needs**

Since 1978, the Washington State Fathers Network (WSFN) has supported, informed, educated, and learned from the fathers of children with disabilities and special health care needs across Washington. The WSFN is a program of Kindering. Learn more at [fathersnetwork.org](http://fathersnetwork.org) or call 425-653-4286.



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