

Family to Family of Rhode Island

Last updated: August 13, 2014

WELCOME!

Family to Family of Rhode Island is a network created by families for families of children and adults with special needs. We offer opportunities for families to connect with one another to share experiences, information, and/or support. Family to Family of Rhode Island is sponsored by Family Voices of RI and the Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities.

We, as families of people with special needs, often find that our best source of information, resource and support comes from other families who have lived with similar experiences. Family to Family of Rhode Island is now making available several simple ways to connect with other families.

If you want to connect to another family, one-on-one, you can search the Family to Family Directory which lists families' names, towns, contact information, age and special need to family member, and areas of experience. Listed families have agreed to share their experiences with other families seeking support or information. The Directory is sorted by City/Town.



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Victoria Duarte

City: Barrington

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number:

Contact Preference: Day

E-mail address: duarte.victoria10@yahoo.com

Participates in following organizations:

Autism Project; SPRED (Catholic Special Education)

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 18 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** PDD; Cognitive delays

Experience:

Accessing/managing/supervising in-home supports

Early Intervention

Hygiene, grooming, self-dressing

Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for children

Inclusion in faith communities for children

Navigating the special education system

Public transit

Sexuality and/or social skills

Support groups for person with disability

CEDARR family centers

Grieving and loss

Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for adults

Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for teens

Navigating SSI/Medicaid system

Navigating the transition to pre-school

School Inclusion - Elementary

Support groups for family members



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Betsy Friedman

City: Barrington

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: 401-245-5355

Contact Preference: No Preference

E-mail address: betsy2821@cox.net

Participates in following organizations:

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 11 **Gender:** Female **Special Need:** CHD & pulmonary hypertension and Developmentally Delayed

Experience:

Accessing dental care

Accessing/managing/supervising in-home supports

Diet and nutrition interventions

Feeding problems

Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for adults

Navigating SSI/Medicaid system

Navigating the transition to pre-school

Taking family vacations

Accessing specialty clinics

Challenges of caring for medically fragile person

Early Intervention

Hospital stays

Issues of multiple disability

Navigating the special education system

School Inclusion - Elementary



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Kathy Goldberger

City: Barrington

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: (401) 245-2804

Contact Preference: Day

E-mail address: kgoldberger@cox.net

Participates in following organizations:

Families First R.I.; A volunteer mother mentoring & support program with in-home weekly visits to pregnant and post-partum mothers

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 34 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** Cerebral Palsy-DD

Experience:

Accessing/managing/supervising in-home supports

Grieving and loss

Navigating the special education system

Person-directed funding

Self-determination

Specialized vans

Supported decision-making

Understanding the adult DD system

Alternatives to guardianship

Issues of multiple disability

Person-centered planning

School Inclusion

Special needs estate planning

Support groups for family members

Transition from school to adult life

Working with the Office of Rehabilitation Services



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Dawn Wardyga

City: Barrington

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number:

Contact Preference: email

E-mail address: thegov@cox.net

Participates in following organizations:

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 22 **Gender:** Female **Special Need:** Technology Dependent/Medically fragile secondary to brain injury

Experience:

Accessing/managing/supervising in-home supports

CEDARR family centers

Early Intervention

Grieving and loss

Issues of multiple disability

Navigating the transition to pre-school

Acquiring durable medical equipment

Challenges of caring for medically fragile person

Feeding problems

Hospital stays

Navigating SSI/Medicaid system

Respite Care



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Dawn Gayer

City: Bristol

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: 401-253-8034

Contact Preference: Day or Evening

E-mail address: richgeletric@aol.com

Participates in following organizations:

Mother's Meetings

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 11

Gender: Male

Special Need: Pervasive; Developmental; Disorder/NOS

Experience:

Child Care

Sexuality and/or social skills

Taking family vacations

School Inclusion - Elementary

Support groups for person with disability



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Shayira Diaz

City: Central Falls

Language/s Spoken: English
Spanish

Phone number: 401-952-3934

Contact Preference: Day

E-mail address: shayiracompres@hotmail.com

Participates in following organizations:

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** Benjamin Cabrera

Experience:

Early Intervention



Family to Family of RI

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1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Jamie Stubbs

City: Coventry

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: 401-489-0424

Contact Preference: No Preference

E-mail address:

Participates in following organizations:

Early Intervention

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: **Gender:** Female **Special Need:** ADHD, Adenoids removed, tubes in ears

Age: **Gender:** Female **Special Need:** Bi-Lateral Hip Dysplasia, Plagiocephaly, Torticollis,
Multiple hospital stays & infections

Experience:

Acquiring durable medical equipment

Early Intervention

Hospital stays

Navigating SSI/Medicaid system

Taking family vacations

Child Care

Grieving and loss

Issues of multiple disability

Support groups for family members



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: William Washington

City: Coventry

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: 401-406-1706

Contact Preference: No Preference

E-mail address: billwashington13@gmail.com

Participates in following organizations:

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 16 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:**

Experience:

Accessing/managing/supervising in-home supports
Hygiene, grooming, self-dressing

Acquiring durable medical equipment
Issues of multiple disability



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Carmen Boucher

City: Cranston

Language/s Spoken: English
Spanish

Phone number: 401-222-4963

Contact Preference: Day or Evening

E-mail address: boucher@ripin.org

Participates in following organizations:

RI State PTA

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 16 **Gender:** Female **Special Need:** Dislexia/Learning Disability; Asthma

Experience:

After school care

Private Schools

Self-determination

Navigating the special education system

School Inclusion - Elementary

Supported decision-making



Family to Family of RI

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1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Danelle Littleton

City: Cranston

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number:

Contact Preference:

E-mail address: dlittleton@cox.net

Participates in following organizations:

Cranston Special Education Parent Advisory Board (SEPAB)

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 13 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** PDD-NOS

Experience:

Navigating the special education system

School Inclusion - Elementary



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Jennifer Long

City: Cranston

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: (401) 785-4289

Contact Preference: Not Applicable

E-mail address: jenjen71379@yahoo.com

Participates in following organizations:

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 12 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** Autism Spectrum Disorder

Age: 15 **Gender:** Female **Special Need:** Autism Spectrum Disorder, PDD-NOS, A.D.D.

Experience:

Accessing specialty clinics

CEDARR family centers

Early Intervention

IEP

Navigating the special education system

Positive behavior support

Sensory Integration Dysfunction

Support groups for family members

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Child Care

Hygiene, grooming, self-dressing

Navigating SSI/Medicaid system

Navigating the transition to pre-school

School bus issues

Sexuality and/or social skills

Teen & Young parents



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Matilde Lopez

City: Cranston

Language/s Spoken: English
Spanish

Phone number:

Contact Preference:

E-mail address: tilly_lop@yahoo.com

Participates in following organizations:

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** David Naz

Experience:

Accessing dental care

CEDARR family centers

Navigating the special education system

Accessing specialty clinics

Early Intervention

School Inclusion - Elementary



Family to Family of RI

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1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Leslie Bobrowski

City: Cumberland

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number:

Contact Preference: Day or Evening

E-mail address: lbobrowski@ric.edu

Participates in following organizations:

Fragile X Assoc. of RI and Southern MA, Sp. Ed. Parent Advisory Group, Sherlock Center on Disabilities at RI College

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 13 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** Fragile X Syndrome

Age: 13 **Gender:** Female **Special Need:** Fragile X Syndrome

Experience:

Early Intervention

Navigating SSI/Medicaid system

Navigating the transition to pre-school

Support groups for family members

Taking family vacations

Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for children

Navigating the special education system

School Inclusion - Elementary

Support groups for person with disability



Family to Family of RI

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1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Betsy & Mike Masse

City: Cumberland

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number:

Contact Preference:

E-mail address: bandm@masse.us

Participates in following organizations:

RIPIN, Fathers 1st.

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 17 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** Cerebral Palsy, failure to thrive

Experience:

Accessing dental care

Accessing/managing/supervising in-home supports

Baclofen pump

Day School to Public

Early Intervention

Hospital schooling

Inclusion in faith communities for children

Navigating SSI/Medicaid system

Navigating the transition to pre-school

Specialized vans

Taking family vacations

Accessing specialty clinics

Acquiring durable medical equipment

Botox (fpr spasticity)

Diet and nutrition interventions

Feeding problems

Hospital stays

Middle School to High School

Navigating the special education system

Primary care physicians familiar with disability

Support groups for family members



Family to Family of RI

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1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Linda McMullen

City: Cumberland

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: (401) 270-0101

Contact Preference: Day

E-mail address: mcmullen@ripin.org

Participates in following organizations:

RIPIN, Family Voices, Dept. of Health, Office of Raising Children with Special Health Care Needs, ICC, Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Intervention, Adoption RI, DHS, RIDC, Groden Center, CEDARR

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Experience:

Access to lots of resources	Accessing dental care
Accessing meaningful employment in the community	Accessing specialty clinics
Accessing/managing/supervising in-home supports	Acquiring durable medical equipment
Adoption	After school care
After school tutoring - Math	Assistive technology for learning
Assistive technology for the workplace	CEDARR family centers
Child Care	Child Development Center (CDC)
Creative housing supports for adults with disabilities	Diet and nutrition interventions
Early Intervention	Failure to thrive
Feeding problems	Hospital stays
Hygiene, grooming, self-dressing	I can help families navigate the systems
Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for teens	Living independently
Navigating SSI/Medicaid system	Navigating the special education system
Navigating the transition to pre-school	PASS Program
Person-directed funding	Positive behavior support
Primary care physicians familiar with disability	School bus issues
Sexuality and/or social skills	Special needs estate planning
Specialized vans	Support groups for family members
Support groups for person with disability	Transition from school to adult life
Understanding the adult DD system	Working with the Office of Rehabilitation Services



Family to Family of RI

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1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Claire Rosenbaum

City: Cumberland

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: (401) 728-1646

Contact Preference: Day or Evening

E-mail address: claire.h.rosenbaum@gmail.com

Participates in following organizations:

TASH, US Society for Alternative & Augmentative Communication

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 31 **Gender:** Female **Special Need:** Complex communication needs, Developmental Disabilities, ADHD, Vision Impairment (Keratoconus), Abdominal Migraine

Experience:

Accessing meaningful employment in the community
Alternatives to guardianship
Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for adults
Inclusion in faith communities for adults
Issues of multiple disability
Person-centered planning
Positive behavior support
School Inclusion - Secondary
Sexuality and/or social skills
Transition from school to adult life

Accessing/managing/supervising in-home supports
Augmentative communication
Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for teens
Inclusion in faith communities for children
Navigating the special education system
Person-directed funding
School athletics and clubs
Self-determination
Supported decision-making
Understanding the adult DD system



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Lorie Stearns

City: Cumberland

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: 401-439-6663

Contact Preference: Day

E-mail address: Las67@cox.net

Participates in following organizations:

Autism Project

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 8 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** Autism

Experience:



Family to Family of RI

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1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Janet M. Iovino

City: East Greenwich

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: (401) 456-4791

Contact Preference: Day

E-mail address: janiovino@aol.com

Participates in following organizations:

Board of Directors, the Kent Center

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 21

Gender: Male

Special Need: Global developmental delays; speech/language; ADHD; sensory integration deficit; multiple disabilities.

Experience:

Accessing specialty clinics

Early Intervention

Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for children

Navigating the special education system

Person-centered planning

School Inclusion - Secondary

Special needs estate planning

Understanding the adult DD system

Craniosynostosis

IEP's

Issues of multiple disability

Navigating the transition to pre-school

School Inclusion - Elementary

Self-determination

Transition from school to adult life

Working with the Office of Rehabilitation Services



Family to Family of RI

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1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Leann Archibald

City: East Providence

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: (401) 431-0444

Contact Preference: Evening

E-mail address:

Participates in following organizations:

Parent Support Network

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 19 **Gender:** Female **Special Need:** Global Developmental Delay

Experience:

Accessing meaningful employment in the community

Early Intervention

Navigating the special education system

Public transit

Child Care

Navigating SSI/Medicaid system

Navigating the transition to pre-school

Working with the Office of Rehabilitation Services



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: David & Laura Harris

City: East Providence

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: (401) 434-2386

Contact Preference: Day or Evening

E-mail address: harrisfamily@cfaith.com

Participates in following organizations:

E.I.

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 12

Gender: Male

Special Need: Spina Bifida, VP Shunt, seizure disorder, swallow disorder

Experience:

Accessing specialty clinics

Acquiring durable medical equipment

Diet and nutrition interventions

Feeding problems

Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for children

Issues of multiple disability

Navigating the transition to pre-school

Taking family vacations

Accessing/managing/supervising in-home supports

Challenges of caring for medically fragile person

Early Intervention

Hospital stays

Inclusion in faith communities for children

Navigating SSI/Medicaid system

Primary care physicians familiar with disability



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Kay Gibson

City: Exeter

Language/s Spoken:

Phone number:

Contact Preference:

E-mail address: kaygibson@aol.com

Participates in following organizations:

Paraprofessional in special needs classes for 17 years, helped set up classroom for autism in North Kingstown.

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 34 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** Autism, ADHD

Experience:

Accessing college and post-secondary options
Adaptive driving
Early Intervention
Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for adults
Navigating the special education system
Positive behavior support
Transition from school to adult life

Accessing meaningful employment in the community
Creative housing supports for adults with disabilities
Hygiene, grooming, self-dressing
Living independently
Navigating the transition to pre-school
School Inclusion - Elementary
Working with the Office of Rehabilitation Services



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Catrina

City: Foster

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number:

Contact Preference:

E-mail address: catrina.austin@icloud.com

Participates in following organizations:

CEDDAR

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 9

Gender: Male

Special Need: Aspergers, OCD, ADHD

Experience:

CEDARR family centers

Sexuality and/or social skills

Diet and nutrition interventions

Taking family vacations



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Alessandra Rocco

City: Greenville

Language/s Spoken: English
Italian

Phone number: (401) 949-7368

Contact Preference: Day or Evening

E-mail address:

Participates in following organizations:

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 19 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** Quadroplegic, CP

Experience:

Accessing dental care

Air travel

Early Intervention

Navigating the transition to pre-school

School bus issues

Taking family vacations

After school tutoring - Other

CEDARR family centers

Hospital stays

Primary care physicians familiar with disability

School Inclusion - Elementary



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Barbara A. Chadwick

City: Johnston

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: (401) 351-2750x1979

Contact Preference: Day

E-mail address: rose1766@yahoo.com

Participates in following organizations:

RI Special Education Advisory Committee-Term Complete
Johnston Substance Abuse Coalition

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 24 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** ADHD, Tourette's Syndrome, Learning Disabilities, Neuro Imp.

Age: 22 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** ADHD

Experience:

After school care

Early Intervention

Navigating the special education system

Parents as Leaders

School Inclusion - High School

Single parenting to special needs child

Child Care

Involvement on the State Level

Navigating the transition to pre-school

School Inclusion - Elementary

School Inclusion - Secondary

Transition from school to adult life



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Audrey Loberti

City: Johnston

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: (401) 942-8191

Contact Preference: Day

E-mail address:

Participates in following organizations:

RI Parents of the Visually Impaired & Blind Children, National Parents of the Visually Impaired, attend Legislative Commission for the Blind meetings.

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 20 **Gender:** Female **Special Need:** Legally Blind

Experience:

Assistive technology for independent living
Early Intervention
Home schooling
Navigating the special education system
School Inclusion - Elementary

Assistive technology for learning
General advocacy for rights of the visually impaired in ac
IEP's
Navigating the transition to pre-school



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Iraida Williams

City: Johnston

Language/s Spoken: English
Spanish

Phone number: (401) 455-3511

Contact Preference: Day or Evening

E-mail address: Iraida28@hotmail.com

Participates in following organizations:

Works for Sherlock Center on Disabilities, Commissioner for Human Rights, Interpreter

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 19 **Gender:** Female **Special Need:** Deaf/Vision

Experience:

CEDARR family centers

Deaf/Education

Living independently

Navigating the special education system

School Inclusion - Elementary

Child Care

Early Intervention

Navigating SSI/Medicaid system

School bus issues



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Donna Theriault

City: Lincoln

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number:

Contact Preference:

E-mail address: dndtheriault@cox.net

Participates in following organizations:

Autism Society, Special Olympics, Autism Speaks

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 25 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** Autism, Congenital heart defect, OCD, Sensory Integration issues.

Experience:

Accessing dental care

Child Care

Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for children

Navigating the special education system

Positive behavior support

School Inclusion - Elementary

Sexuality and/or social skills

Taking family vacations

Understanding the adult DD system

Challenges of caring for medically fragile person

Hygiene, grooming, self-dressing

Navigating SSI/Medicaid system

Person-directed funding

Registering for selective service

School Inclusion - preschool

Special needs estate planning

Transition from school to adult life



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Stasia Zawacki

City: Lincoln

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: (401) 333-4629

Contact Preference: Day or Evening

E-mail address: szawacki@cox.net

Participates in following organizations:

DD Options Program; DD Council; Vice-chair of Exec. Committee; Chairperson of Individual and Family Advocacy Committee; Member of Lincoln Substance Abuse Council

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 37 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** Down syndrome

Experience:

Accessing meaningful employment in the community

Inclusion in faith communities for adults

School Inclusion - Secondary

Transition from school to adult life

Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for adults

Living independently

Taking family vacations

Working with the Office of Rehabilitation Services



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: JoAnn Boss

City: Pawtucket

Language/s Spoken: English
Portuguese
Spanish

Phone number: (401) 728-5416

Contact Preference: Morning

E-mail address:

Participates in following organizations:

RI Autism Society

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 21 **Gender:** Female **Special Need:** Autism

Experience:

Accessing dental care
Child Care
School Inclusion - Secondary

Bilingual Advocacy/Interpreter
Navigating the special education system



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Veronica I. Carney
City: Pawtucket
Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: (401) 729-0468
Contact Preference: Day or Evening
E-mail address: Njoybooks@aol.com

Participates in following organizations:

PASS-Devereux, MA

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 21 **Gender:** Female **Special Need:** ADHD, SID; Asperger's, Mood Disorder NOS; Generalized Anxiety Disorder

Age: 18 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** ODD; SID, Depression

Experience:

Accessing/managing/supervising in-home supports
Hospital stays
Issues of multiple disability
School bus issues
Support groups for person with disability

CEDARR family centers
Individual O.P. Therapy
Navigating SSI/Medicaid system
Support groups for family members
Working with the Office of Rehabilitation Services



Family to Family of RI

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1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Dora Cooney

City: Pawtucket

Language/s Spoken: English
Spanish

Phone number: 401-351-5142

Contact Preference: Evening

E-mail address: dora_cooney@hotmail.com

Participates in following organizations:

Early Intervention

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 4 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** Special need was not provided

Experience:

Child Care

Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for children

Navigating the transition to pre-school

Early Intervention

Inclusion in faith communities for children



Family to Family of RI

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1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Lisette Jenkins

City: Pawtucket

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: 401-5807188

Contact Preference: Evening

E-mail address: ljightyelf@gmail.com

Participates in following organizations:

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 7

Gender: Male

Special Need: Down Syndrome, hearing loss, sensory processing disorder

Experience:

CEDARR family centers

Hygiene, grooming, self-dressing

Navigating the transition to pre-school

Taking family vacations

Early Intervention

Navigating the special education system

School Inclusion - Elementary



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Roberta Zimmerly

City: Pawtucket

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: 401-321-2419

Contact Preference: Day

E-mail address: roberta_zimmerly@mhri.org

Participates in following organizations:

Autism Project

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: **Gender:** **Special Need:** Autism

Experience:

Augmentative communication

Grieving and loss

Navigating the special education system

Primary care physicians familiar with disability

School bus issues

School Inclusion - Secondary

Support groups for person with disability

Early Intervention

Inclusion in faith communities for children

Navigating the transition to pre-school

Respite Care

School Inclusion - Elementary

Sexuality and/or social skills



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Sheila Collins
City: Portsmouth
Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: (401) 848-5525
Contact Preference: Day or Evening
E-mail address: sheilakcollins@cox.net

Participates in following organizations:

St. Lucy's Circle of Friends, Newport County Special Ed. Advisory Committee, Foggarty Foundation, Former-State Special Ed. Advisory Committee, William's Syndrome Association

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 30 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** Williams Syndrome

Experience:

Accessing college and post-secondary options
Accessing/managing/supervising in-home supports
Early Intervention
Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for children
Inclusion in faith communities for adults
Navigating the special education system
School athletics and clubs
School Inclusion - Secondary
Support groups for family members
Transition from school to adult life
Working with the Office of Rehabilitation Services

Accessing meaningful employment in the community
Berkshire Hills Music Academy
Hygiene, grooming, self-dressing
Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for teens
Inclusion in faith communities for children
Navigating the transition to pre-school
School Inclusion - Elementary
Sexuality and/or social skills
Support groups for person with disability
Williams Syndrome



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Luisa Castro

City: Providence

Language/s Spoken: Spanish

Phone number: (401) 943-0994

Contact Preference: Day or Evening

E-mail address:

Participates in following organizations:

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 15 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** Autism

Experience:

CEDARR family centers

Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for children

Navigating SSI/Medicaid system

Navigating the transition to pre-school

School bus issues

Support groups for family members

Taking family vacations

Child Care

Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for teens

Navigating the special education system

Positive behavior support

School Inclusion - Elementary

Support groups for person with disability



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Rose Marie Hernandez

City: Providence

Language/s Spoken: English
Spanish

Phone number:

Contact Preference:

E-mail address:

Participates in following organizations:

RIPIN

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Experience:

Accessing college and post-secondary options

Accessing specialty clinics

Alternatives to guardianship

Inclusion in faith communities for adults

Navigating SSI/Medicaid system

Navigating the transition to pre-school

School bus issues

Special needs estate planning

Transition from school to adult life

Accessing dental care

After school tutoring - Reading

Hygiene, grooming, self-dressing

Issues of multiple disability

Navigating the special education system

Positive behavior support

Sexuality and/or social skills

Support groups for person with disability



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Venkatakrisnan Kannan

City: Providence

Language/s Spoken: Tamil

Phone number:

Contact Preference: No Preference

E-mail address: venkat_dsk84@yahoo.co.in

Participates in following organizations:

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 2 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:**

Experience:

Accessing dental care

Assistive technology for learning

Child Care

Early Intervention

Hospital stays

Inclusion in faith communities for children

Special needs estate planning

Supported decision-making

Accessing specialty clinics

Challenges of caring for medically fragile person

Community Safety

Feeding problems

Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for children

Primary care physicians familiar with disability

Support groups for family members

Taking family vacations



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Saidat "Dott" Odunade

City: Providence

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number:

Contact Preference: Evening

E-mail address: s.dott32@yahoo.com

Participates in following organizations:

Early Intervention

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 4 **Gender:** Female **Special Need:** Spina Bifida

Experience:

Alternatives to guardianship

Navigating SSI/Medicaid system

Supported decision-making

Early Intervention

Self-determination



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Gillian Pearis

City: Providence

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: 401-521-1400

Contact Preference: Not Applicable

E-mail address: pearis@cox.net

Participates in following organizations:

Training in child and adolescent psychiatry, pediatrics

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 13 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** ASD

Experience:

Accessing specialty clinics

Early Intervention

Hospital stays

Navigating the transition to pre-school

Diet and nutrition interventions

Feeding problems

IEP

Non-public school placements



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Mary Pendergast

City: Providence

Language/s Spoken: English
Spanish

Phone number: (401) 861-6541

Contact Preference: Evening

E-mail address:

Participates in following organizations:

DSSRI, Work at Groden Center (school for children w/DD, autism, behavior disorders), RISEAC, Special Education Director @ The International Charter School, Providence, LAC

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 18 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** Down syndrome

Age: 36 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** Autism Spectrum/Emotional disorder

Experience:

Accessing dental care

Accessing/managing/supervising in-home supports

Assistive technology for learning

CEDARR family centers

Creative housing supports for adults with disabilities

Hospital stays in early infancy

Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for adults

Inclusion in faith communities for adults

Living independently

Navigating the special education system

Person-centered planning

School bus issues

Sexuality and/or social skills

Support groups for person with disability

Transition from school to adult life

Accessing specialty clinics

Acquiring durable medical equipment

Augmentative communication

Child Care

Early Intervention

Hygiene, grooming, self-dressing

Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for children

Inclusion in faith communities for children

Navigating SSI/Medicaid system

Navigating the transition to pre-school

Positive behavior support

School Inclusion - Elementary

Support groups for family members

Supported decision-making



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Catherine Howland

City: Riverside

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number:

Contact Preference: Day or Evening

E-mail address: catherine.f.howland@gmail.com

Participates in following organizations:

Past member of Arc, new to area

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 20 **Gender:** Female **Special Need:** Down Syndrome

Experience:

Early Intervention

School bus issues

School Inclusion - Secondary

Feeding problems

School Inclusion - Elementary



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Stephanie & Paul Blair

City: Warren

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number:

Contact Preference: email

E-mail address: sblair13@cox.net

Participates in following organizations:

Advisory Committee Bristol/Warren Regional School Dept.; DSSRI; Parent Support Group - Local; Trudeau Center

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 20 **Gender:** Female **Special Need:** Down Syndrome

Experience:

Accessing dental care

Alternatives to guardianship

Child Care

Diet and nutrition interventions

Hygiene, grooming, self-dressing

Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for teens

Navigating SSI/Medicaid system

Navigating the transition to pre-school

Positive behavior support

Respite Care

School bus issues

Sexuality and/or social skills

Support groups for family members

After school care

CEDARR family centers

Community Safety

Early Intervention

Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for children

Inclusion in faith communities for children

Navigating the special education system

PASS Support

Primary care physicians familiar with disability

School athletics and clubs

School Inclusion - Elementary

Special needs estate planning

Taking family vacations



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Donna Carew

City: Warren

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: 401-433-0567; 222-3002 ext. 2

Contact Preference: Day or Evening

E-mail address:

Participates in following organizations:

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 19

Gender: Male

Special Need: Over active with sports; hands always touching

Experience:

Accessing college and post-secondary options

Support groups for family members

Inclusion in faith communities for children

Support groups for person with disability



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Louis & Jane Azie

City: Warwick

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: (401) 738-9083

Contact Preference: Evening

E-mail address:

Participates in following organizations:

Special Olympics, Kent County ARC

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 31 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** Mental Retardation

Experience:

Accessing dental care

Acquiring durable medical equipment

Early Intervention

Hygiene, grooming, self-dressing

Navigating the special education system

Primary care physicians familiar with disability

School bus issues

Support groups for family members

Taking family vacations

Understanding the adult DD system

Accessing/managing/supervising in-home supports

Community Safety

Feeding problems

Navigating SSI/Medicaid system

Positive behavior support

Registering for selective service

Special needs estate planning

Support groups for person with disability

Transition from school to adult life

Working with the Office of Rehabilitation Services



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Pam Goes

City: Warwick

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: 401-921-1319

Contact Preference: Day or Evening

E-mail address: pgoes@verizon.net

Participates in following organizations:

Trudeau Center, Special Olympics, PAL

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 26 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** DD, CP, Visual impairment, non-verbal

Age: 24 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** ADHD, LD, PTSD, Reactive attachment disorder, DD, Seizure Disorder

Experience:

Accessing dental care

Accessing/managing/supervising in-home supports

Advocacy

CEDARR family centers

Facilitating support group

Hygiene, grooming, self-dressing

Living independently

Navigating the special education system

Person-centered planning

Plan writing

Primary care physicians familiar with disability

School bus issues

Sexuality and/or social skills

Support groups for family members

Taking family vacations

Transition from school to adult life

Working with the Office of Rehabilitation Services

Accessing meaningful employment in the community

Acquiring durable medical equipment

Alternatives to guardianship

Community Supports Navigator

Feeding problems

Issues of multiple disability

Navigating SSI/Medicaid system

PATH planning

Person-directed funding

Positive behavior support

Registering for selective service

Self-determination

Special needs estate planning

Supported decision-making

Testifying & public speaking

Understanding the adult DD system



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Leah Sperlongano
City: Warwick
Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number:
Contact Preference:
E-mail address: lms5183@yahoo.com

Participates in following organizations:

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 4 **Gender:** **Special Need:** Kaso

Experience:

Accessing/managing/supervising in-home supports
Challenges of caring for medically fragile person
Early Intervention
Hospital stays
Positive behavior support
Taking family vacations

CEDARR family centers
Diet and nutrition interventions
Feeding problems
Navigating SSI/Medicaid system
Primary care physicians familiar with disability
Trachs, vents & home nursing companies



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Tara Townsend

City: Warwick

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: 401-739-2545

Contact Preference: Day or Evening

E-mail address: townsend@ripin.org

Participates in following organizations:

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Experience:



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Brenda Maloney

City: West Warwick

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number:

Contact Preference:

E-mail address: ethansbuses@yahoo.com

Participates in following organizations:

none

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 16 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** Autism, Speech/Language

Experience:

Early Intervention

inclusion in comm. Recreational activities for adults

Navigating the special education system

Taking family vacations

Home schooling

Inclusion in comm. recreational activities for teens

School Inclusion - Elementary



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Amanda McKoon

City: West Warwick

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number:

Contact Preference:

E-mail address: amckoon@yahoo.com

Participates in following organizations:

The Autism Project. ASD Connections. Those with experience with or advice about ODD, please contact Amanda McKoon.

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 10 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** Autism, Oppositional Defiant Disorder

Experience:

Accessing specialty clinics	Accessing/managing/supervising in-home supports
Acquiring durable medical equipment	After school care
CEDARR family centers	Child Care
Community Safety	Diet and nutrition interventions
Early Intervention	Hygiene, grooming, self-dressing
Inclusion in comm. Recreational activities for adults	Navigating SSI/Medicaid system
Navigating the special education system	Navigating the transition to pre-school
Positive behavior support	Primary care physicians familiar with disability
Respite Care	School athletics and clubs
School bus issues	School Inclusion - Elementary
Self-determination	Sexuality and/or social skills
Support groups for person with disability	Taking family vacations



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Crystal Cabral

City: Woonsocket

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number:

Contact Preference: Day or Evening

E-mail address: omfgcrystal@yahoo.com

Participates in following organizations:

N/A

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 6 **Gender:** Male **Special Need:** Special need not provided.

Experience:

CEDARR family centers

Early Intervention

Respite Care

Child Care

Feeding problems

Taking family vacations



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Robert Hayes III

City: Woonsocket

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: 401-766-5976

Contact Preference: Day

E-mail address: rhayes02895@verizon.net

Participates in following organizations:

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: 2 **Gender:** Female **Special Need:** ?

Experience:

Feeding problems

Hospital stays



Family to Family of RI

FAMILY VOICES

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920



Member Summary

Name: Nancy Pachomski

City: Woonsocket

Language/s Spoken: English

Phone number: 401-575-3749

Contact Preference: No Preference

E-mail address: nancyjpatch@gmail.com

Participates in following organizations:

Family Member/s with Special Needs:

Age: **Gender:** Female **Special Need:** Feeding tube tracheostomy movement disorder seizures

Experience:

Acquiring durable medical equipment

Diet and nutrition interventions

Hospital schooling

School bus issues

Challenges of caring for medically fragile person

Feeding problems

Hygiene, grooming, self-dressing
