Volunteer and Faith-Based Respite Learning Collaborative

Youth Volunteers Providing Respite for Children and Young Adults with Disabilities

Lessons from Northern Nevada RAVE

August 10, 2023
Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- ARCH Announcements
- Today’s Topic: Volunteer Respite for Children with Disabilities
- Q&A and member updates
Innovative and Exemplary Respite Services 2024 Call for Programs

- **Application for 2024 Program Recognition:**
  Opens September 1, 2023. Deadline: October 15, 2023

- **Purpose:**
  1. To identify and document promising respite practices across settings and service populations.
  2. To learn more about respite services that are evidence-based or evidence-informed
  3. To learn ways of addressing challenging aspects of providing respite to special populations.

- For more information: [https://archrespite.org/provider-resources/innovative-and-exemplary-respite-services/](https://archrespite.org/provider-resources/innovative-and-exemplary-respite-services/)
Innovative and Exemplary Respite Services Evaluation Mini-Grants

- Program Grantees
  - Agape Respite Care, Inc., Berne, IN
  - The Center for Volunteer Caregiving, Cary, NC
  - Claude Moore Precious Time, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA
  - Vanessa Behan, Spokane, WA

- Among the Purposes:
  1. To show the merit of respite services to collaborators and funders;
  2. To create an evaluation model that other respite programs and services may learn from or use in their work.
Welcome, Jennifer Abernathy!

As New Facilitator for the Collaborative!

- Former Director of the Tennessee Respite Coalition
- Currently works at AgeWell, Middle Tennessee
- Email: jabernathy2112@gmail.com
Today’s Presenters

Korine Viehweg, Executive Director
Jada DeLeon, Director of Programs

Northern Nevada R.A.V.E. Family Foundation
My name is Korine Viehweg, and I am the Executive Director of the Northern Nevada RAVE Family Foundation. I accepted the position of Executive Director in September 2012 after serving as the Director of Programs for 6 years. It has been my passion from day one to provide more respite opportunities to more children and their families annually. Since accepting such an important role the organization has grown by more than 500%.

“My RAVE “why” is the thousands of families who have been given the gift to love and raise a child or children who have special needs. To live the mission of RAVE “to improve the well-being of these families by providing respite care—a much-needed break—to caregivers.” And to build lasting programs filled with vision driven, loving and compassionate individuals who work daily to improve the lives of the families and children we have the opportunity to serve."
My name is Jada DeLeon, and I am the Director of Programs at the Northern Nevada RAVE Family Foundation. I have been with the organization for 7 years starting as a RAVE volunteer my freshman year in high school. I have grown alongside the organization, and I am currently obtaining my Masters in Special Education. It has been a personal goal of mine to provide optimal care and inspire the youth in our community.

What do you love most about working at RAVE?

"What I love most about RAVE is the change that is being made each day. I started as a volunteer and watching these kids grow and develop each year is magical. The ability to provide services to families in the area is inspiring and I am forever grateful to be apart of the RAVE team."
R.A.V.E., AN ACRONYM FOR

Respite
And
Volunteer
Experiences

Respite:
“A Gift of Time”
“Respite is a temporary relief for caregivers and families who are caring for those with disabilities, chronic or terminal illnesses, or the elderly.”
-ARCH National Respite Network 2007

The Northern Nevada RAVE Family Foundation provides free respite care—a much-needed break—to caregivers of children and young adults with special needs.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3xSimNvRDF8&t=18s
HISTORY & MISSION

• RAVE, started with a single grant from the Department of Health and Human Services in 1992 with a goal of reducing and preventing child abuse and neglect for children with disabilities. The need for respite was so great that RAVE became its own 501c3 nonprofit organization just three years later in October 1995.

• RAVE has been a driving force in the disability community for nearly three decades and is still the only organization in the state of Nevada that provides respite to parents and children combined while providing youth volunteer opportunities. By providing a reprieve for caregivers and a safe, fun, social environment for children and young adults with special needs and their typically developing siblings who reside in the home, we are giving the entire family unit the “Gift of Time” while also helping to normalize the need for a break.

RAVE’s mission is to improve the well-being of families in the Northern Nevada region by providing free respite care—a much-needed break—to caregivers of children and young adults with special needs. This includes children with developmental disabilities, autism, a special health care need, children with mental and behavioral health concerns, children in foster and adoptive care, and their typically developing siblings who reside in the home. RAVE accomplishes this by training youth volunteers to care for these exceptional children.
RAVE’s dynamic center & community-based programs provide respite care, a much-needed break, to families caring for children with developmental and physical disabilities, including autism, children with mental and behavioral challenges, as well as children in foster and adoptive care. Our programs recruit local junior high and high school student volunteers and train them in the care of children. Most notably, the RAVE Family Center, Jr. RAVE, and Teen RAVE programs offer support services to both the child with a special need, and their siblings who reside in the home. This attention to the whole family fulfills RAVE’s mission to provide comprehensive respite to parents and caregivers to assist them in strengthening their family unit.

“Our son really enjoys his time with the RAVE TEAM. While we are spending some time to ourselves it’s nice to know he’s having fun while we are having fun too.”
BENEFITS OF RESPITE CARE

Reduce STRESS!

Giving parents or caregivers a break has shown to reduce the risk of abuse or neglect experienced by children with special needs.

Respite has been shown to help sustain family caregiver health and well-being, avoid or delay out-of-home placements, and reduce the likelihood of abuse and neglect. Respite may also reduce the likelihood of divorce and help sustain relationships.

Regular breaks could be the difference between a person remaining in their natural environment and being placed in an out-of-home care facility.
RAVE Family Center

This essential program gives families caring for children with special needs the well-deserved gift of time. Serving ages 3 months to 7 years, this program provides high quality care and supervision to children while giving youth volunteers from 6th to 12th grade an opportunity to give back to the community in a meaningful way. During after-school hours and on weekends, the RAVE Family center is a positive environment for providing respite care services to parents in need of a break from caregiving. The center provides interactive and loving activities for the children participants, as well as a chance for volunteers to develop leadership skills to help them grow into responsible, successful adults.
The Jr. and Teen RAVE programs provide center and community-based respite care to families caring for children with special needs ages 7 to 22 years. These programs provide 3-4 nights of free care each month for families, provided by a team of well-trained youth volunteers and respite staff. While the parents of children and young adults with special needs get a much-needed break from caregiving, program participants have a chance to play, interact and build social skills in a variety of community environments.
RAVE RESPITE SESSIONS

Reno/Sparks

Monday – Thursday
The RAVE Family Center (7 sessions weekly)
Jr./Teen RAVE Center (4 sessions weekly)
The Rock Church Tuesdays (1 session)

Saturday
The RAVE Family Center (2 sessions)
Jr./Teen RAVE Center (2 sessions)
The Rock Church (1 session)
Jr./Teen RAVE Community Outings
3-4 Outings Scheduled Monthly (Wednesdays)
Local Satellite Sites

The Rock Church – Tuesdays & Saturdays

Respite Voucher Program
• Reimbursement Program to support families in rural communities and families caring for a child who is considered medically fragile.

RAVE – Elko Edition
• Head Start of Eastern Nevada – Tuesdays & Saturdays

RAVE – Carson City Newest Edition
• Boys & Girls Club of Western Nevada – Thursdays & Saturdays
Respite care is provided to children with a variety of disabilities and special needs.

Examples: Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, speech delays, hearing impairments, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and children in foster & adoptive care.

Typically developing siblings who reside in the home are also welcome at the Center.

“RAVE is the only place that I know my children are safe and happy to be at, always. The staff is amazing and caring. There is no other place like RAVE!”
RAVE YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

Youth Volunteer 6th-12th Grade

Commitment of 4-8 hours a month (flexible)

Provide one-on-one time to a very special child through activities and play

Change the lives of families, children, and the volunteers

Volunteers say RAVE is their Respite too!

“5 Stars, a great way to connect with the people in your community and learn from the people around you. Made me break out of my comfort zone to help others and I have zero regrets.” – RAVE Volunteer
VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT, TRAINING & RECOGNITION
RAVE YOUTH VOLUNTEERS
OUR WHY

Families with Special Needs across Nevada

• More than 61,000 children eligible for our services across the state of Nevada

Youth Volunteers

• The sense of belongingness and community built
POWERED BY:
The Northern Nevada R.A.V.E. Family Foundation is a Northern Nevada non-profit 501(c)(3)

State Grants
Local Foundations Grants

Fundraising Efforts
  RAVE Invitational Golf Tourn. – August 25, 2023
  An Evening to RAVE About – April 13, 2024

Corporate Gifts
  Charles River, Pala Investments, Renown Health, Aspen Earthworks, Spine Nevada, Scheels...

Business Sponsorships
Private Donations
MARKETING

• NEVADA FAMILIES who have a child or young adult with special needs (Disabilities, Special Health Care Needs, Children in Foster & Adoptive Care. Center and community-based respite care available in Reno, Sparks, Carson City, and Elko. Voucher reimbursement program available to families across the state of Nevada only excluding Clark County.

• VOLUNTEERS Youth (6th-12th grade), College, and Community. RAVE strives to provide a 1:1 ratio for each and every child we serve. We do that by providing training, mentorship, and hands on experience.

• COMMUNITY PARTNERS program sponsors, event sponsors, auction and raffle donors, in-kind givers (goods and services), individual donors.

• LOOKING FOR INTRODUCTIONS to grant opportunities, community members who might want to learn more about RAVE, individuals looking to join a board of directors or nonprofit committee, or someone looking to join the RAVE team.
7th Annual
August 25, 2023
Lakeridge Golf Course
SAVE THE DATE
16TH ANNUAL
APRIL 13, 2024
Grand Sierra Resort

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR
15TH ANNUAL
AN EVENING TO
RAVE
ABOUT
APRIL
SATURDAY 22 2023
VIP DOORS OPEN AT 5PM • GENERAL ADMISSION AT 6PM
RENO BALLROOM
GRAND SIERRA RESORT
2500 E 2ND ST • RENO, NEVADA
dinner, dancing, raffle, live & silent auction
“Our family has been incredibly grateful for the respite care services that we have received through RAVE. As parents, we often find ourselves overwhelmed and exhausted, trying to balance work, household responsibilities, and the needs of our children. The RAVE program has provided us with a much-needed break and allowed us to recharge and take care of our own well-being. Knowing that our children are in safe and capable hands has given us peace of mind. The volunteers have been wonderful in creating a nurturing and stimulating environment for our children. They have taken the time to understand their unique needs, interests, and routines, ensuring a seamless transition and continuity of care. RAVE has not only benefited us as parents but has also been beneficial for our children. It has provided them with an opportunity to socialize and interact with other children in a supervised and supportive setting. We have noticed improvements in their social skills, independence, and overall well-being. I cannot express enough gratitude to the RAVE program and the dedicated caregivers who have made a positive impact on our family’s life. The support and understanding they have provided have been invaluable. We highly recommend respite care for any family in need of a helping hand and a much-deserved break.” -RAVE Family