

**FAMILY  
VOICES**  
COLORADO



IOWA  
DEAFBLIND  
PROJECT



**National Center  
on Deaf-Blindness**



# **Building Family Leadership and Collaborative Partners with a Family-Centered Approach**

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**Michele Williers, Executive Director PEAD Parent Center, Co-Director of  
Region D Parent Technical Assistance Center**

# Community and Family Engagement: Partnership and Empowerment

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## The 'How'

- Give time for the families to move through the trauma, grief, and overwhelming number of priorities they are navigating and processing.
- Understand the need for connection with friends, family, and other champions in their community.
- Build collaborative partnerships with family systems to increase the families ability to navigate these support systems.
- Prioritize the value of families finding their voice to become empowered to lead their family and move towards a voice for other families.

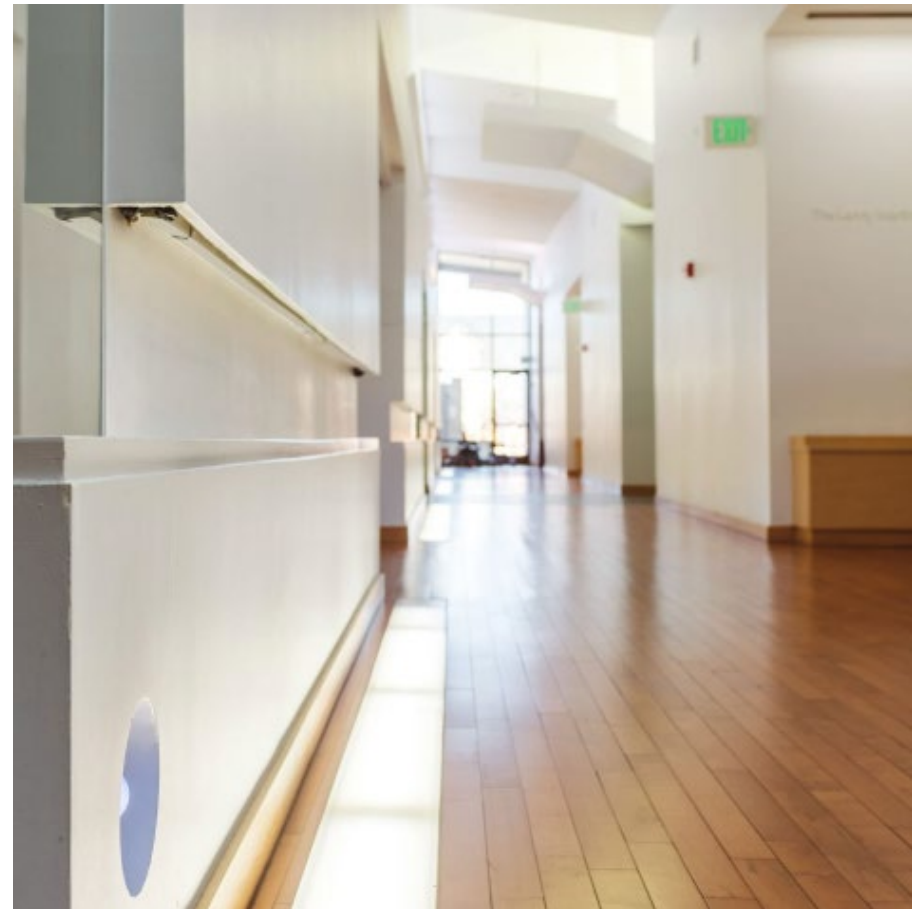
# Welcome to the World Wesley!

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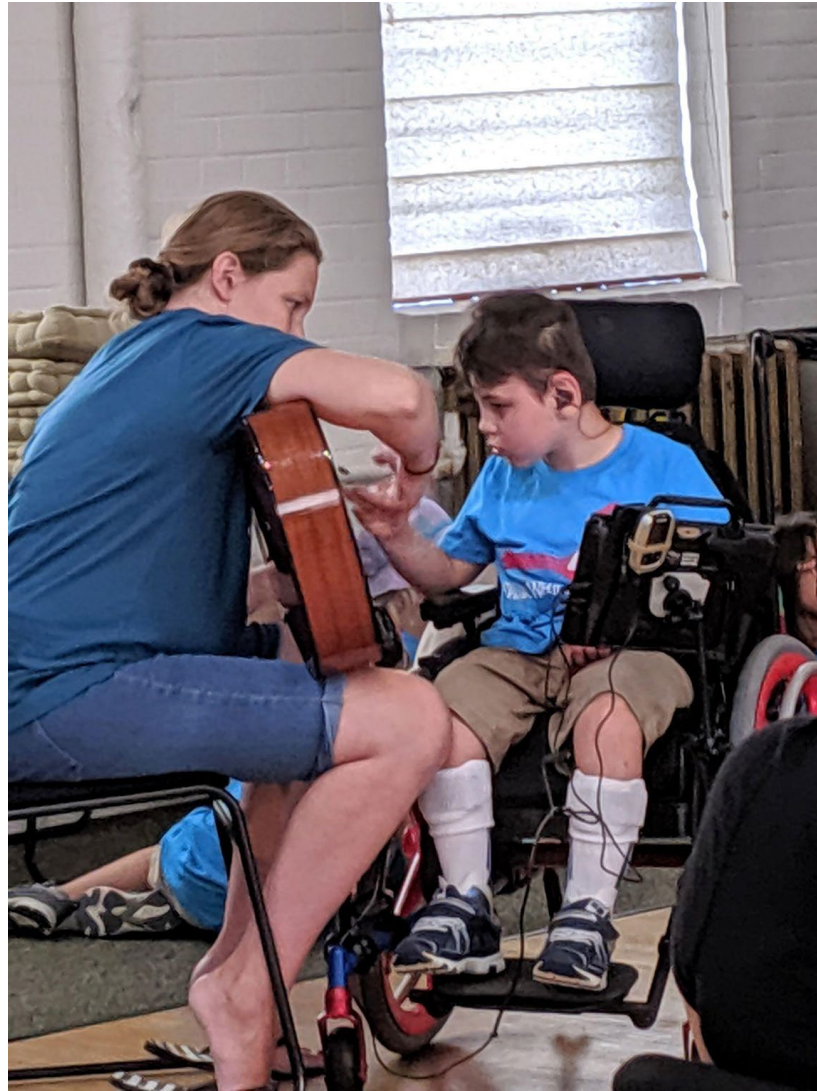
# Anchor Center for Blind Children

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# School Intervener: Access

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# 2 Moms and a Dream

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# Legislative Success



# Family

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# Everything Changed

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# What did we know?

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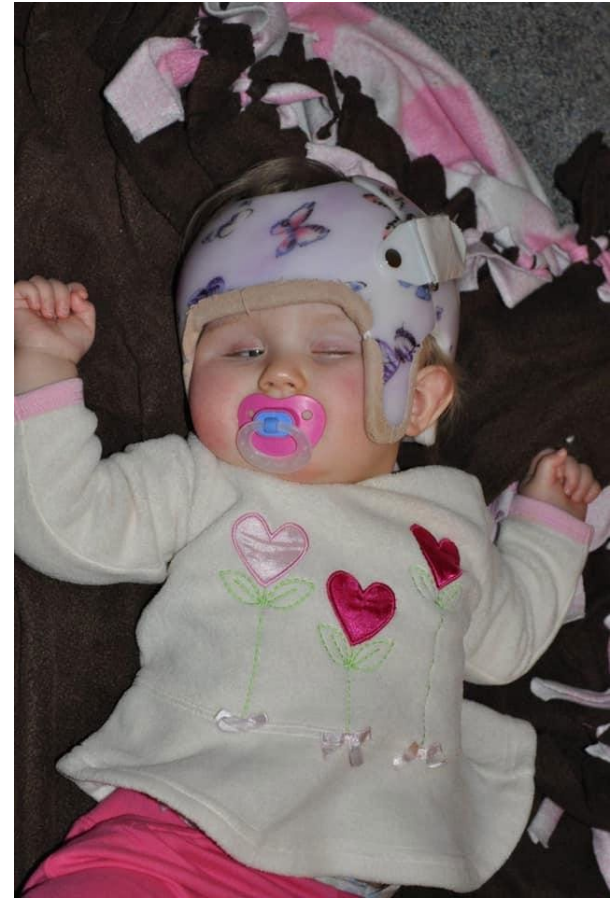
# Learning A Lot

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# Not “Typical”

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# Growing Together



# Tenacity, Perseverance, Strength, Authenticity, and Hope



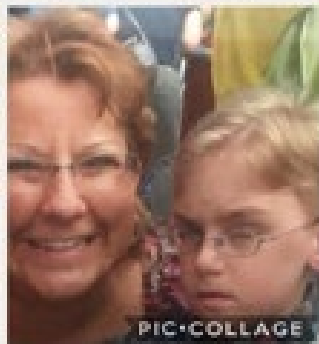
# Power of Hope

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# A Pivotal Moment–The Power of Voice

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# From Legacy Winner to A Leap of Faith

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# The Power of Community Connections!

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# The Future is Bright!



# Tenacity, Perseverance, Strength, Authenticity, and Hope

**“Hope confronts. You can't have hope without despair because hope is a response. Hope is the active conviction that despair will never have the last word.”**



# Resources

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[Contact Your State Deafblind Project](#)

[Contact your State Parent Center](#)

[Family-to-Family Health Information Center \(F2F\) or Family](#)

[Voices Affiliate Organization \(FVAO\)](#)

[Medicaid - Find Your State](#)

[National Family Association for DeafBlind](#)

[The Value of Family Engagement: Identifying Unique Needs  
and Priorities of Families with Children Who Are Deafblind](#)

*Please be respectful of the family pictures presented in this presentation. All pictures are not to be removed and used elsewhere without written permission from the families.*

**Thank you!**

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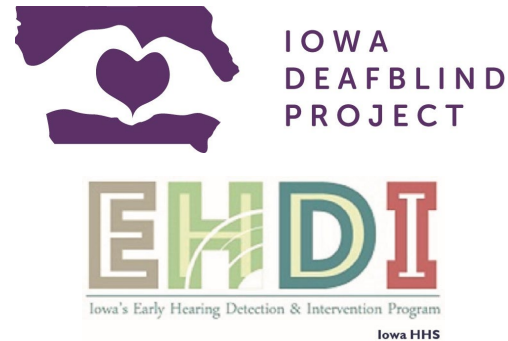
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# National Center on Deaf-Blindness



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