



## Proud Aspy Mom Newsletter | May 2022



### Do Better!

A good friend of mine took time to acknowledge my journey on Mother's Day. It felt good to be heard. I think about so many other mothers who aren't heard. You see my friend sent me this article on the difficulty of obtaining a diagnosis in our state. The stories resonated with my own. Like the parents profiled in this article I remember feeling helpless, angry, confused and overwhelmed. As a mother you know when something seems off. It is painful when you know your instinct is right but you can't gain support. No one is listening.

Like the parents profiled in this story I spent countless hours researching, investigating, and requesting essential services for my daughter's sustainability.

Like the parents profiled in the story our family risked financial ruin in our effort to provide quality care to our daughter. We didn't qualify for benefits. We did not understand our rights under insurance policies. We desperately contacted ABA therapists and asked for HELP.

To their credit- they did the best they could within the confines of a stressed system with too many children to manage and significant variations in payment

plans. In short - it is ALOT!

Like the parents profiled in this story I felt like the COMMUNITY I give so much to me let me down.

To the parents who are privileged to shepherd vulnerable and valuable souls - I would share this simple advice. Keep your spirit intact, pressure our leaders to pass the RIGHT policies to protect us, do not shy away from the assignment your were given. Your child has a center of excellence and a purpose that we as parents are responsible for giving them the platform to shine.

Our leaders can DO BETTER!



### **Being autistic in Florida means delayed diagnosis, delayed therapy**

[Click to Read Article](#)

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## **The answer is NEVER no!**



Everyone has a center of excellence. I cannot say that enough! Take the time to read this article about two young men who are the first non-verbal autistic graduates of UC Berkeley.

After reading this article I thought~  
Who was on their journey to success?  
How much was sacrificed to make sure they were able to have a fruitful life and more importantly a meaningful one?  
How many people stood in their way and how many obstacles did they have to come overcome?

The point I'm making is pretty simple. Never underestimate the strength of humanity. The answer is NEVER no! Congrats to these fine young men! Their footprint will open doors for so many other deserving autistic persons



### **2 UC BERKELEY STUDENTS MAKE HISTORY AS 1ST NONSPEAKING AUTISTIC GRADUATES**

[Watch Video](#)

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## **Step Out on Faith**

This week was one of the BEST weeks of my life. Our



older daughter confirmed that she was going to Northwestern for her Ph.D program and our younger daughter passed her entrance exam to attend St. Petersburg College at the ripe age of 16!

I could not contain my joy. True unfettered JOY! I looked back over the past 10 years and remembered the exact day I knew my life would change forever. My legal career was on an amazing trajectory, my community footprint was meaningful to me, our older daughter was thriving as a 3rd grader and my husband's practice was

on fast-pace to excel. BUT the bottom dropped out and I realized our younger daughter needed far more support than we initially thought.

My first thought was this is SO unfair. We did the work, we care about our place in this world and we ARE giving back-WHY?!!! I had a talk with OUR maker and accepted that HE would not give me more than I could handle. While I was sorely disappointed and legitimately scared, I took a leap of faith and walked away from my law practice and into the field of education.

I had many opportunities but decided to land at St. Petersburg College. Why? To give and understand a different population. My peers questioned me. It was fair. The question became why would she leave and come here? I needed to experience life from all lenses. I needed to understand equity. I needed to share my gifts. I needed to let young men and women know I SAW them. I needed to thank HIM for the opportunity to serve.

I learned everything about equity. I spent time with the most vulnerable among us. I opened my spirit to them and received grace beyond measure. I had the space to SEE my child. My peers and our community taught me more than they will ever know.

It was my hope and prayer that our daughter would enter the collegiate program and begin her college journey. It is odd and unexplainable but I DREAMED of this moment since I began my journey at SPC. That was 10 years ago.

Our daughter will enter as a college student in the fall.  
Our family- while not perfect is intact.  
Our older daughter is going to RULE the world- I believe that!!

This week- was one of the best weeks of my life.  
We planted seeds. They harvested. My peers are AMAZING!  
To parents anywhere on our journey. Have Faith-it Will All Work Out!  
Hold On!

#GratefulBeyondMeasure  
#StepOutOnFaith

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