

WINTER 2024



# Act4Kids Nevada

ACTION FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH

CLICK TO READ ACT4KIDS NEVADA'S

## WINTER NEWSLETTER



**Impact Report:** As we welcome in 2025, we reflect on this past year. Dive into our 2024 Impact Report to see our programming and outcomes from the last 12 months! Please click [here](#)!

**Fundraising Campaign:** Thank you to those who have donated to our fundraising campaign! Our efforts are led and executed by a board of volunteers; your donation dollars go far. If you would like to donate to our programming costs, please click [here](#)!

**In this newsletter you will find:**  
Latest projects, news and more. Keep Reading!

# JOIN US:

## ACT4KIDS NEVADA STORYTELLING WORKSHOP



### LEARN TO EFFECTIVELY TELL YOUR FAMILY'S STORY



**January 28, 2025**  
**6:00pm - 7:30pm**

Act4Kids Nevada knows that stories from children and families make the biggest impact on our State Legislators. If you are the parent of a child who is medically involved, this workshop is for you! Get ready to learn the ins and outs of sharing your story and effectively advocating for change. This workshop is free for all attendees and is hosted on the Zoom platform.

#### About the Workshop

- Introduction to Act4Kids
- Overview of advocacy efforts
- Strategies for effective storytelling
- Practice your story with live feedback
- Opportunity to film your story for a future advocacy campaign

 **REGISTER NOW**



# JOIN US: SIGN OUR COMMUNITY LETTER OF SUPPORT



## BE A HERO **4** KIDS!

Healthcare providers and administrators, youth-serving organizations, advocates, educators, coaches, mentors, businesses, families, and the general public are invited to voice their support for comprehensive pediatric healthcare in Nevada.



@act4kidsnevada  
act4kidsnevada.org  
act4kidsnv@gmail.com



<https://bit.ly/CommunitySupportLetter>

# FAMILY LISTENING SESSION

In October, we hosted a Family Listening Session in collaboration with Las Vegas HEALS, held at the International Innovation Center in Downtown Las Vegas.

This event brought together community members to hear about families accessing healthcare in Nevada. This highlights our mission in bringing family voices to the table for these important discussions.



Mindy, Taosies, and Chaneé spoke with us about their experiences, sharing how they have navigated Nevada's fragmented healthcare system.

Following family experiences, we had a panel discussion, hearing from our families and pediatric healthcare providers about what changes could benefit those accessing care.

Attendees were encouraged to submit questions for our Q&A section along with "Wish List" items for what they would like to see for pediatric healthcare for Nevada.

Thank you to board members Eric Ballew and Rebeka Acosta, from A&J Patient Advocacy for their support in planning the evening.

See videos of the event on our [Youtube Channel!](#)



Website: [act4kidsnevada.org](http://act4kidsnevada.org)

Socials: [@act4kidsnevada](https://www.instagram.com/act4kidsnevada)

Email: [contact@act4kidsnevada.org](mailto:contact@act4kidsnevada.org)



## **PEDIATRIC ROUNDTABLE**

In collaboration with Las Vegas HEALS, we at Act4Kids Nevada hosted the first Pediatric Roundtable!

Bringing together stakeholders is key for collaboration. We are excited to gather like-minded individuals to discuss pediatric healthcare issues in our state.

Thank you to our board member, Eric Ballew, for leading the Roundtable.

If you would like more information on the Roundtable, please email us at [contact@act4kidsnevada.org](mailto:contact@act4kidsnevada.org)



## **DREAMSICKLE KIDS HOLIDAY EVENT**

Thank you to the families who came and shared with us at the Healthy Holiday Celebration Brunch!

We heard from many families about their experiences in accessing medical needs for their kids, and the change they would like to see.



## **SITE UNVEILING PRESS RELEASE**

We are grateful to have attended the site unveiling for the announcement by Intermountain of their plans to build the first Stand-alone children's hospital in Nevada!

Read our press release here:

[Act4Kids Nevada Press Release](#)

Website: [act4kidsnevada.org](http://act4kidsnevada.org)

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## DESERT COMPANION'S "LOST CHILDREN"

Thank you to Anne Davis for featuring stories from Act4Kids Nevada board members in the December issue of Desert Companion.

Read moving stories from board members, Eric Ballew, about his son, Tyler, and Chelsea Bishop, and her daughter, Navy, in their experiences travelling out of state for healthcare.

[Read "Lost Children" Here!](#)



## FAMILY FILMING

Check out our [Youtube Channel](#) for our recently released family stories!

Hear from Kinnsi, who shares how a diagnosis was significantly delayed for her daughter's Chiari malformation.

Also hear from Staci, a local audiologist, sharing her perspective parenting her child with CHARGE Syndrome and having to get much of their care outside of the state. Thank you to our wonderful families for sharing.



## HARVESTING HOPE RESOURCE FAIR

In November, we joined dozens of other child-focused organizations at the Collaboration Center's Harvesting Hope event. We heard from families about what they would like to see in children's healthcare and invited families to sign our Community Letter of Support!

[Join Our Campaign!](#)

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Email: [contact@act4kidsnevada.org](mailto:contact@act4kidsnevada.org)

# COMMUNITY RESOURCES

## Children's Advocacy Alliance-Mental Health

The Mental Health Impact Story collection project is driven by the Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA), a nonpartisan, community based non-profit organization in partnership with the Children's Mental Health Action Coalition. "We recognize that Nevada is currently facing a youth mental health crisis, and we need your support to influence positive change. Mental health affects all of us - we can use our voices to amplify our needs for better access to mental health services across the state."

Find out more about CAA at [caanv.org](http://caanv.org).

## Veridian Wellness



"Veridian Wellness is an outpatient psychotherapy practice located in Henderson, NV. We believe that healthcare, including mental health care, is a human right. We appreciate diversity in BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+ individuals, and abled and disabled bodies. We welcome people of all ages and life stages, and see kids as young as 7 years old.

All of our therapists are trauma informed and center their work on empowering clients, and creating inclusive and welcoming environments for their healing journeys. We have low cost therapy options to make mental health support more accessible to everyone seeking it, and offer both in person and virtual sessions.

To learn more about us and to see a full list of clinicians, please visit <https://www.veridianwellness.com!>

**THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY ALLIANCE**



**WE INVITE YOU TO SHARE YOUR MENTAL HEALTH STORY!**

Has finding Mental Health resources negatively affected your family?

Are you a provider for Children's Mental Health?

Share Your Story, find community, and you may be eligible to receive a financial stipend!

SCAN HERE

This project is supported by the Children's Mental Health Action Coalition

**Interested in sharing? Click here!**

# COMMUNITY RESOURCES



## Moriah Health

Moriah Behavioral Health provides comprehensive, evidence-based mental health treatment for adolescents and young adults.

With Residential Treatment Centers (RTC) for those needing a structured and supportive living environment, as well as Partial Hospitalization (PHP) and Intensive Outpatient (IOP) programs for step-down care or less intensive support, Moriah offers a full continuum of care.

“Our programs address a wide range of mental health challenges, including anxiety, depression, trauma, and disordered eating. At every level, care is tailored to meet each individual’s unique needs, fostering emotional resilience and personal growth. Moriah’s experienced clinical team utilizes therapeutic modalities such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), and experiential therapies to create a holistic healing experience.”

Families are also an integral part of the treatment process, with family therapy and support designed to strengthen relationships and promote lasting recovery. Moriah Behavioral Health accepts most major insurances, including Medicaid, making care accessible to Nevada families.

## Baby & Child Lab

**BABY & CHILD REBEL LAB**

### CALLING ALL JR. SCIENTISTS...

At the UNLV Baby & Child Rebel Lab, our primary goal is to explore and comprehend the ways infants and kids acquire knowledge about individuals within their social environment. We provide research opportunities for various age groups.

Participate in our studies either through in-person sessions held at the UNLV campus or conveniently from your home with our remote study options!

**INTERESTED IN JOINING A STUDY?  
PLEASE REACH OUT VIA:**

- ✉ [unlvchildlab@gmail.com](mailto:unlvchildlab@gmail.com)
- 📱 @unlvchildlab
- 📞 (702)895-4651

**SOCIAL CHANNELS!**  
SCAN QR >>>

UNLV | Infant-Child STUDIES



# COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Join us at our annual Walk with the Heart of a Child event!

**SATURDAY**  
**MARCH 29**

**CRAIG RANCH**  
**REGIONAL PARK**

851 LONE MOUNTAIN ROAD | NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89032

Fun for the whole family!

Use the QR Code to register today!



\*Food Trucks \*Raffles \*Carnival Games \*Jump Houses

Check-In/Walk Day Registration Opens at 9:00 am - Opening Ceremonies 10:00 am

# GiGiFIT

**ACCEPTANCE CHALLENGE**

**5K**  
FUN RUN

**1 MILE**  
INSPIRATIONAL WALK

**KIDS DASH**  
for DOWN SYNDROME

A Physical and Social Movement for Acceptance

MARCH 23, 2025 | CORNERSTONE PARK | 10AM-1PM



## THERAPEUTIC ART FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS WORKSHOP

THIS CLASS OFFERS A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT WHERE PARTICIPANTS CAN EXPLORE THEIR EMOTIONS, REDUCE STRESS, AND ENHANCE THEIR WELL-BEING THROUGH ARTISTIC EXPRESSION.

WITH CHAMPAGNE SMITH



MONDAY

**JAN 13TH, 2025**

6PM - 7PM  
NAMI SOUTHERN NV  
2820 W CHARLESTON  
BLVD UNIT 19,  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89102

IN EACH SESSION, WE WILL:

- ENGAGE IN VARIOUS ART ACTIVITIES
- USE THE CREATIVE PROCESS AS A TOOL FOR SELF-EXPLORATION AND EMOTIONAL RELEASE.
- RECONNECT WITH YOURSELF AND YOUR INNER CREATIVITY

**MATH SCIENCE HISTORY ENGLISH**

This program focuses on youth, under 18 that would like extra help with school homework and understanding. This group is taught by licensed teachers from Nevada.

[WWW.HENDERSONEQUALITYCENTER.ORG](http://WWW.HENDERSONEQUALITYCENTER.ORG)

[bit.ly/NAMISNVEvents](https://bit.ly/NAMISNVEvents)



# COMMUNITY RESOURCES



## Upcoming Events

January/February/March 2025

PLEASE RSVP ON OUR WEBSITE, <https://downsyndromeconnections.org/rsvps>

### ARTS WORKSHOP - ACTING

Sat, Jan 11 - 10:30 a

West Sahara Library - Board Room  
9600 W Sahara

### SIGN LANGUAGE W/JERAMY

Sat, Feb 8 - 1 p

West Charleston Library  
6301 West Charleston Boulevard

### SIGN LANGUAGE W/JERAMY

Sat, Jan 11 - 1 p

Sphere Office, 7785 W Sunset Rd

### A LITTLE EXTRA PT W/ KAT & FRIENDS

Tue, Feb 18 - 4:30 p

The Behavior Center Suite Y  
3920 West Charleston Boulevard

### A LITTLE EXTRA PT W/ KAT & FRIENDS

Tue, Jan 21 - 4:30 p

The Behavior Center Suite Y  
3920 West Charleston Boulevard

### ARTS CLASS AND WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY POTLUCK

Save the date!

Sun, Mar 2

### PANCAKES WITH PRINCESSES & SUPER HEROES

Sat, Feb 1 - 8 & 9 a (two seatings)

Tickets \$10-\$15. Invite your friends.

Ticket link here:

<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/2025-pancakes-wprincesses>

### SIGN LANGUAGE W/JERAMY

Sat, Mar 8 - 1 p

West Charleston Library  
6301 West Charleston Boulevard

### ARTS CLASS - POTTERY AND GARDENING

Sat, Mar 8 - 10:30

West Sahara Library - Board Room  
9600 W Sahara

### A LITTLE EXTRA PT W/ KAT & FRIENDS

Tue, Mar 18 - 4:30 p

The Behavior Center Suite Y  
3920 West Charleston Boulevard

### MONDAYS DARK TO BENEFIT DSCLV

Save the date!

Mon, June 9 - 8 p

**UPDATED**

All events can be found at <https://downsyndromeconnections.org/events>