



There's a lot going on in the world right now. Even as the sun and spring flowers start to peek out and Covid mandates lift a bit, we continue to navigate so much. From the war in Ukraine to the dehumanizing attacks on trans children in Texas and Idaho and a new variant starting to impact other parts of the world, it's a scary time to be a parent! That's why, [as Gergana shared](#), it's helpful to know we aren't alone – to come together in community. That's at the heart of what we do and the magic of PEPS, and why our incredible staff, board and Group Leaders keep showing up for parents in our community every single day.

The first quarter of 2022 was completely overwhelming and exciting at PEPS (both things can be true!). We engaged in advocacy during the Washington State Legislative session for the first time, launched our new Program for Parents of Adolescents and Teens, and given all the burnout parents were feeling, made the decision to forego a virtual fundraising event and opted for a Benefit Campaign instead. Please [support our work](#) during this campaign. It will make a difference – and every dollar is being matched!

We are thrilled to have welcomed a new Program Director, Melanie Roper, to the team. As Program Director, Melanie will oversee our program evolution from a one-size-fits-all program approach to one that offers families multiple ways to connect and engage and expand our scope to serve later stages of parenting. You can get to know Melanie better in [her letter to the PEPS community](#).

It seems that every day requires more from us than the last. My wish for each of you is that you can make some time soon to reach out to someone from your PEPS Group or community for a phone call, walk, or text. We need each other and we need joy in this challenging time! Oh - and for another ounce of joy, check out some [magic tricks](#) shared by local dad and professional magician Nash Fung for the PEPS community.

With gratitude,

Dana Guy

PEPS Executive Director
danag@peps.org

PEPS Updates

Program Updates

Parents of Adolescents & Teens Program (PAT): Our newest permanent program for [Parents of Adolescents & Teens](#) is off to a great start! This virtual program is open to solo parents and caregivers, couples, and co-parents with children aged 10 - 19 years living in our service region. The PAT curriculum was developed specifically for this community and covers topics ranging from adolescent mental health to the online world of adolescents. We have new groups starting throughout spring – don't hesitate, sign up today!

[Register for PAT](#)

Community Partners: One of our community partner organizations, [Open Arms Perinatal Services](#), is getting ready to launch their second session of a Black Moms parent support group based on PEPS curriculum. The first group was a huge success! Facilitators reported that participants found connecting with other Black moms to be an incredibly healing and therapeutic experience. We are honored to work with incredible partner organizations that support their communities so well!

The Magic of PEPS: A Place to Say Raw Feelings Out Loud

When you support PEPS, you help create a safe space for parents to share their highs and lows - including feelings that might otherwise be kept inside.

[Watch the video](#) as new parents Rusna and Trevor candidly share their experience with postpartum anxiety. They credit their PEPS Group with helping them find community and healing.

PEPS can offer a caring space for families like Rusna and Trevor thanks to the support of our entire PEPS community. Please send your gift today. If received by March 31, it will be matched, dollar for dollar.

Advocacy Update

The 2022 Washington State Legislative Session wrapped up earlier this month. We're thrilled to report that two PEPS priorities were funded in the final state budget! Both priorities will provide important support to new and growing families:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families households with children under three will receive extra cash assistance to pay for diapers and wipes beginning November 2023.
- Perinatal Support-WA's [Warm Line](#) will receive new funding in the coming years to expand parental peer mental health support. This funding will begin in July.

Governor Inslee signed SB 5838 (the diaper subsidy bill) into law last week. The budget bill that includes funding to expand the Warm Line and implement the diaper subsidy bill will be signed into law before April 2.

PEPS believes that our voices together can advocate for more equitable policies for new and expecting families. We hope you will join us as we continue our advocacy journey! Learn more about our advocacy priorities and outcomes [here](#).

We're Hiring

PEPS is searching for passionate, thoughtful, multi-tasking and innovative fundraising professionals to join our Development team! We are seeking seasoned professionals who will bring strong organizational and communication skills as well as a commitment to Community-Centric Fundraising. The ideal candidates will promote a culture of philanthropy, teamwork, wellness, and inclusion. If you are passionate about parent support, connecting with the community, and juggling multiple projects in a strengths-based, learning organization, these roles might be a good fit for you!

Donor Relations Manager

This person will manage and strategically advance the comprehensive PEPS Annual Giving Program and manage and further develop a dynamic mid-level donor strategy. The position will authentically, innovatively, creatively, and persistently cultivate, solicit and steward our mid-level individual donors to support the PEPS mission. [Learn more about this role.](#)

Development Manager

This person will focus on cultivating and stewarding donors through events and community engagement. The Development Manager will plan and execute the PEPS signature Benefit Event, strategically orchestrate and grow virtual and in-person gatherings and events to engage with the PEPS community, and develop a corporate giving strategy, including sponsor solicitation and relationship management, that is in line with PEPS values. [Learn more about this role.](#)

Not job searching right now? Help us spread the word about these opportunities by sharing with your network!

Transgender Day of Visibility

March 31 is [International Transgender Day of Visibility](#). This is a day to celebrate the accomplishments of transgender and gender nonconforming people around the world as well as uplift the work that still needs to be done in pursuit of transgender justice. We've gathered some resources for you to explore - whether you're a transgender parent, parenting a transgender child, or educating yourself to be a better ally to the transgender community.

- Read these [reflections from parents](#) raising trans children. *(Estimated reading time: 14 min)*
- This article from Family Equality provides some perspective on the [ways parenthood can impact the transition process](#). *(Estimated reading time: 7 min)*
- Listen to this ACLU podcast episode about [finding trans joy through sports](#). *(28 min)*
- Read these [10 Misconceptions Every Trans Ally Needs to Understand](#). *(Estimated reading time: 8 min)*
- Check out this [list of trans-affirming resources in WA State](#) and educational articles on issues affecting trans kids from local organization Children's Alliance.

From Our Sponsors and Local Partners

Estate Planning for Single Parents

As a single parent, there are some additional considerations to keep in mind when creating an estate plan. The good news is, creating an estate plan is probably easier and faster than you think. Read our [recent blog article](#) by PEPS Sponsor Megan Gebhardt of Gebhardt Law Office, P.S. to understand important estate planning considerations for single parents. *(Estimated reading time: 4 min)*

Talking to Kids About Tough Topics in the News

For many parents, figuring out if or how to talk to your children about scary events in the news is top of mind right now. If you need some guidance and practical tips for those challenging conversations with your kids about war, violence, or trauma, our friends at Seattle's Child have provided some guidance from a pediatrician for how to navigate these topics. [Read more on Seattle's Child](#). *(Estimated reading time: 2 min)*

Enjoyed this email?

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PEPS Sponsors & Partners



Are you a local business interested in becoming a sponsor? [Contact us](#) to learn more!



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