



We are meant to parent in community!

That is the theme of our PEPS Benefit Luncheon this year. Why did we choose this theme? Because it speaks to the essence of our work at PEPS: connecting parents to strengthen families and build community.

Parenting in community means recognizing that none of us have all the answers, and that's okay! It's about leaning on each other for wisdom, encouragement, and a helping hand when we need it most. The benefits of being part of a community are endless.

Just like with parenting, as an organization, we cannot do our work alone. PEPS relies on our amazing community to thrive. That's where you come in! Your experiences, support, and involvement are crucial in driving our mission forward. I invite you to join us at [GATHER: The PEPS Benefit Luncheon](#) on Tuesday, May 7, at Seattle Center's Fisher Pavilion.

As someone who's attended 17 Luncheons at PEPS (!!), I can tell you firsthand how fun and heartwarming this event is every year. It's a time for all of us in the PEPS community to come together, celebrate, and rally behind a cause we all believe in. And as a treat, we've got an incredible keynote speaker lined up this year: Kat Vellos is an author, speaker, and expert on cultivating meaningful friendships and healthy workplace colleagueships. Get ready to be inspired!

Let's ensure that PEPS can keep making a difference in the lives of families for years to come. Spread the word. Invite your friends. Join us for lunch and community-building. [Register here](#).

See you at the Luncheon!

Marion  
PEPS Development Director

PS: If you already know that you won't be able to join us on May 7, you can be there in spirit by [supporting PEPS with an online gift](#).

# PEPS Updates

## Wrapping Up the 2024 Legislative Session

The Washington State legislative session ended earlier this month. In collaboration with statewide advocacy coalitions, PEPS rallied our community of engaged parents to weigh in on important policy issues that will impact parents and families.

We're pleased to share that many of our 2024 advocacy priorities were approved and funded, moving forward important policy changes that will:

- Expedite access to Paid Family Leave, providing economic security to families.
- Increase funding for affordable housing projects, helping families access stable housing they can afford.
- Provide mental health consultations for preschool teachers, strengthening our state's commitment to young learners.

Enable WA State to purchase the new RSV vaccine for children, increasing families' access to this important immunization.

Excited about this systems change work? Learn more about [advocacy at PEPS](#) and [sign up for our advocacy email list](#) to receive more detailed updates and action alerts.

Feeling inspired? Read about how two local parents are engaging in advocacy work [on our blog](#).

## A Year of Impact and Intentionality

In the first quarter of each year, we take time to gather and analyze data, review feedback from our participants and partners, and reflect on the previous year at PEPS. We ask ourselves questions, like: What were the successes and highlights of last year? Which areas were challenging? What can we learn from those challenges to adapt this year? We gather these results and insights into our Annual Report.

Read our [2023 Annual Report](#) to learn more about the highs and lows of our 40th anniversary year and how we continued to center our organizational values of equity, innovation, inclusion, community, and authenticity.

## GATHER: The PEPS Benefit Luncheon

**Tuesday, May 7, 2024 — Seattle Center Fisher Pavilion**

*11am Social Hour*

*11:45am - 1pm Seated Lunch and Program*

*Featuring Keynote Speaker [Kat Vellos](#): Author of *We Should Get Together: The Secret to Cultivating Better Friendships*.*

Mimosas, bubble tea, and a keynote speaker who's an expert in cultivating meaningful friendships? Say no more! Join us at the [PEPS Benefit Luncheon](#) for a joyful gathering to celebrate community and connection while raising critical funds to support families.

Babes-in-arms are welcome, and free childcare will be provided for children ages 18 months - 5 years. There is no cost to attend the Luncheon, but guests will be asked to make a personally meaningful donation during the program.

**We hope to see you (and your baby, your mom, your PEPS Group, your neighbors, or anyone else who's part of your village) there!**

## Curious About Becoming a PEPS Group Leader?

In 2023, volunteer PEPS Group Leaders donated over 8,000 hours of their time to support parents through challenging transitional phases. Group Leaders create a welcoming space for parents to share, connect, and support one another. Group Leaders give their time and gain community, connections, and skills along the way with in-depth training and support from PEPS.

Interested in learning more about volunteering as a PEPS Group Leader? Join us on Wednesday, April 3 from 12-1pm for a virtual Group Leader info session to learn and ask questions!

## Saving for Your Child's Education With WA529

Thanks to all who joined us at last night's virtual event, 5 Steps to Saving for Your Child's Education Plan. And a BIG thank you to PEPS Sponsor Washington College Savings Plans (WA529) for sharing their expertise and guiding the PEPS community through the education savings process. When it comes to saving for your child's future education expenses, the sooner you can start, the better! And the good news is, getting started is probably easier than you think.

Missed the event? Check out [A Beginner's Guide to 529 Plans](#) on our blog or register for one of WA529's [Knowledge Cafe webinars](#) to learn more about education savings plans.

## Local Partners and Sponsors

### Stronger Together: A New Model for Modern Marriage

*Tuesday, April 16, 1pm*

Join ParentMap for a free virtual talk, "Stronger Together: A New Model for Modern Marriage," with marriage experts Nate and Kaley Klemp.

[Register now](#) and take the first step towards building stronger, healthier and more fulfilling relationships with your loved ones.

### Embracing your Legacy: Estate Planning

When you think of leaving your legacy, you may think of grand accomplishments or your family's special memories of your life. But have you thought about your estate plan? Estate planning isn't just for the ultra-wealthy – it's simply a process of making decisions and filing documents to prepare for the end of your life. Your estate plan is an important way to leave your legacy – especially for parents! [Check out our recent blog article](#) from PEPS Sponsor Gebhardt Law Office to learn more.

### Support PEPS Partner Open Arms Perinatal Services

Our longstanding Community Partner Open Arms is hosting their [annual benefit luncheon](#) on Thursday, April 25, from 11am-1pm at Seattle Center's Fisher Pavilion. PEPS is hosting a table, and we invite you to join us to support this amazing organization that provides accessible, community-based perinatal care to families across the Puget Sound region!

[Register here](#) and write "PEPS Table" in the "please seat me with" field to join our table. Can't come? You can still [support Open Arms with a donation](#).

### Enjoyed this email?

Forward it to your friends and let them know they can [sign up here](#).

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