



Greetings,

As 2020 comes to a close, I am reflecting on a year full of challenges with tremendous gratitude. I stepped into the role of Executive Director at PEPS in October of 2019 – at that time, we had a new **Strategic Direction** and bold plans for the future, but 2020 had something different in mind. Yet, still, we navigated this year with all our energy pointed towards our mission, vision, and values, with innovation and creativity and a whole lot of care for one another.

I am grateful for the incredible **PEPS Board and Staff**, who have remained steadfast in their commitment to strengthen families and build community. To each of you who played a role in finding new ways to operate, work together - often while juggling children at home, remote school, and so much more – thank you.

I am grateful to our PEPS supporters. To the funders who have fueled our work and have been flexible with your giving, thank you. To donors and Table Captains who helped raise money when we had to cancel our Luncheon, thank you. And to our incredible Group Leaders who have shown up, learned, and stretched to facilitate virtual connection for parents - thank you!

To all the parents who gave virtual PEPS Groups a try this year and showed up to connect and build community with your neighbors - thank you for taking a chance. You have shared your struggles and stepped up to support one another through a year you'll never forget. Thank you for caring for one another, in big ways and small.

Finally, to every single one of you who showed up to vote this year, who advocated for change and more equitable policies for families - thank you. Every voice and vote made a difference. As we head into 2021, we know there is a lot more work to do, and we also have renewed hope and an incredible story to tell our children as we celebrate the first woman vice president-elect, the first Black woman vice president-elect, and the first South Asian woman vice president-elect. What a year!

Wishing you a connected end of 2020,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dana".

Dana Guy
Executive Director, PEPS
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Resources & Inspiration

Extending Native Heritage Month to the Everyday

November is Native American Heritage Month, but we can be talking and learning about Native American people, their history, and support more representation and inclusion throughout the year.



Get started today with an article with a [personal perspective and resources](#) shared by [We Stories](#).

A Perspective on Home Births and Hospital Births from UW

Many questions are arising for expectant parents – including whether to deliver their baby at a hospital or in a home setting. Heather Ranney, chief of midwifery at UW Medicine - Montlake, shares some considerations to keep in mind when making this decision. (*Estimated reading time: 6 min*)

[Read More](#)

Knock Out the Flu

Vaccines like the flu vaccine can help keep families from getting and spreading illnesses, especially during a pandemic. Seattle Children's Hospital shares what they know about the flu vaccine and how it could help keep families healthier this season. (*Estimated reading time: 5 min*)

[Read More](#)

Together We Give

This year has shown us that social connection is a basic need. We aren't healthy and whole when we are isolated from one another. We need each other.

Since March, we have pivoted to virtual PEPS groups faster than we thought possible. We have directed resources to our partner organizations, working together to help underserved families. We have invested in training PEPS Group Leaders to facilitate difficult conversations about race and social identity - conversations we believe must be had early and in community with one another.

We are committed to continuing our work, to showing up for parents in our community.

And we can't do it alone. We need you.

Support us this [#GivingTuesday](#) and your donation will be matched by a generous group of families. [I want to support PEPS!](#)

Delegate, Delegate, Delegate.

Local estate planning lawyer, Megan Gebhardt, shares the purpose and usefulness of having a Durable Power of Attorney document in place. (*Estimated reading time: 3 min*)

[Read More](#)

PEPS is hiring!

Join in our mission to connect parents to strengthen families and build community!

PEPS is currently searching for a:

- * Program Manager for our Parents of Adolescents and Teens (PAT) program
- * Communications Specialist for a 6-month contract

We offer a family-friendly and collaborative team environment that values flexibility and professional development. Learn more about these positions and [apply today](#) - or share this role with someone you know!

A new PEPS pilot series!

Earlier this month, we introduced our first peer-support series for parents and caregivers who identify as LGBTQIA+. In less than 48 hours, our [LGBTQIA+ pilot program](#) was full, with 16 families registered to participate!

These families will be meeting online for six weeks to build community, find support, and have conversations on six different discussion topics facilitated by a PEPS Group Leader trained in inclusive facilitation.

Interested in joining an upcoming session? Fill in our [interest form](#) to be contacted for the next available series or share your area of interest and inform future programming.

Demystifying College Savings Plans

Join PEPS and [Washington's College Savings Plan](#) (WA529) for a FREE online conversation on the decisions and steps families can take to start saving for a child's education fund.

Jackie Ferrado, the Community Relations Manager at WA529, will be our guide, highlighting the decisions and steps to get started and sharing information and resources.

[Reserve your virtual seat today!](#)

Enjoyed this email?

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

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create challenges.**

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Program for Early Parent Support
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