ASK Family Services
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SHARING EXPERIENCES, STRENGTH & HOPE

A Story of Strength

My name is Dawn Daly and George is my 17-year-old son who was diagnosed with autism in the first grade. He started at KRESA in the Early Childhood preschool program because he was not meeting developmental or social milestones and his growth took off like a rocket. I was stunned with the autism diagnosis and felt overwhelmed. I was introduced to the Family Support Partner service at Parent to Parent and I knew right away that it would be okay. She provided resources and one of them was a six week course at KRESA about autism and I began to understand my son's diagnosis, how to help him and that I was not alone.

George struggled in middle school with bullying and being sent home because of his behaviors. I met Marge Parmenter, my current family support partner at ASK Family Services during this time. She attends meetings with me and gives me many different resources; I call her "my secret weapon". She has kept me grounded, or I would have lost my mind. She helped me survive the middle school years.

High school has been amazing for George and the high school staff helped find ways to keep him in school and teach him lessons and provide guidance in difficult situations. He has learned social and life skills, work experience and has been included in sports. His high school peers have helped teach George appropriate behavior in social situations and he has been able to do typical teenage things such as hanging out. This year, George was nominated for homecoming King by his senior class and won! I am so proud of him and the happiest mom in the world. I never thought my child would come this far and at first I was not prepared for all I had to go through, but I would do it all again. I appreciate the support and encouragement that I received from my FSP. I have good feelings about his future and I think he will be ok. George said it best when he was asked, "My future, I got this".