Submitter: Jackie Taylor

On Behalf Of:

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Measure, Appointment or SB5526

Topic:

When I first moved to the area I didn't know anyone, nor did my children. Three of my children had no problem making friends and finding friend groups to hang out with, as for my child with special needs this was much harder. We were here for about 2 years and my son and I still hadn't made any friends. One day while looking at reviews online for a good pediatrician, one who works well with special needs children I stumbled upon another person who was asking for recommendations for the same thing. As I was reading the recommendations I seen a comment that said "you should join this Facebook group called FEATT" so of course I searched this up, requested to join the Facebook group and I was accepted that day. I immediately noticed everyone was so friendly and helpful. It took a while to become comfortable enough for my son and I to go to an event, but once we finally did, he found friends, and so did I. This group made us feel so welcome and so comfortable NO QUESTIONS ASKED. Watching my son play and have a good time was all I wanted, but I got more... I got to watch my son be himself and not worry about what people thought of him or not worry about people telling him to be guiet or calm down. This group has provided sooo many memorable moments, not only for my special needs son but for my entire family. When we visit Santa we don't have to stand im a long single file line and be quiet THANKS TO FEATT. When we hunt for Easter eggs we don't have to hope that our son will get a chance to find an egg before other children beat him to it THANKS TO FEATT. When I am exhausted and just need a moms night out I can always look forward to doing something fun with other exhausted moms THANKS TO FEATT. When my kids want to have a fun night of bowling, a bbq in the park, a Christmas brunch, game day at the library, a visit to the safari, a water party in the summer, a sensory movie at the theater... Thanks to FEATT my son is able to have a group where he can openly be himself without fear and judgement. I've seen him grow so much as a person and learn so much thanks to this program. As a mother, and as his number one supporter, it fills me with joy to see him light up the way he does. It doesn't just benefit him, it benefits my whole family. My other three kids get to meet other children with special needs siblings. It gives them something to bond over. I cannot even begin to express my how much love and appreciation I have for FEATT. It gives me and my son a community that's so dear to our hearts. FEATT is such a beautiful and beneficial program. Even speaking with the other mothers, we can all agree we've seen so much happiness since joining. If this program didn't exist, my child and I, as well as other families, wouldn't be able to feel as included and as enthusiastic about things as we are. Every event we go to fills both my child and I's hearts with so much warmth. I am so truly grateful and so thankful to be involved with FEATT. I've never been able to find a community that

cares so much and that is so sweet. It's made even me, as a mom, come out of my shell. I've had the opportunity to bond with other mothers and make quite a bit of friends. My child has never been happier or as excited to go do anything. He's made some best friends at the FEATT events and they've shared so many heartwarming moments. Some of the moments I never thought my child would be able to experience due to his disabilities. It gives us bigger hope for the future. That maybe he can live knowing he has a group of people who support him and care for him other than his family. I cannot stress enough the importance of FEATT for the community of children with disabilities. They've been able to capture so many wonderful moments and I hope they get to continue their amazing events. The people putting the events on are truly angels and deserve the world. With each event put on by FEATT. This program is truly the best thing that's ever happened. FEATT IS AMAZINGLY WONDERFUL!