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NEWS RELEASE – Indiana family-to-family support organizations combining to strengthen services

September 30, 2021, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA – Two organizations providing support statewide to the families of children and youth with a disability or a special health care need announced plans to combine early next year. The move will help them strengthen and enhance the health, education, advocacy and system-navigation resources they provide to parents, families and professionals throughout the state.

Family Voices Indiana and About Special Kids announced plans to combine forces effective in January. Both organizations provide information, training, and one-on-one support statewide to families of children and youth with special health care needs, as well as the professionals who serve them. In addition to being extensively and continuously trained, staff for both organizations are also parents of children with special needs themselves, uniquely positioning them to help other families and professionals understand the various systems that families encounter related to special needs.

Both organizations have strategic national affiliations the combined organization will continue to leverage for additional resources and funding opportunities. About Special Kids is the sole Indiana-based member of Parent to Parent USA, which supports a national network of Parent to Parent programs to ensure access to quality emotional support for families of individuals with disabilities and/or special health care needs; Family Voices Indiana is the official state affiliate of Family Voices, a national, nonprofit, family-led organization promoting quality health care for all children and youth, particularly those with special health care needs. Family Voices Indiana serves as Indiana's federally designated Family-to-Family Health Information Center.

The consolidation will enable both organizations to maintain and expand their offerings to parents and families around the state while increasing operational efficiency and maximizing donor dollars and grant proceeds. The organizations will operate under a new, shared brand identity which is currently under development and expected to launch publicly by January. It is anticipated that all staff of both organizations will continue with the new organization; in addition, all existing board members for both organizations plan to continue in their roles.

“We are incredibly excited about combining with About Special Kids to make even more resources available to the families of Indiana,” said Holly Wheeler of Family Voices Indiana. “Our goal is a world in which families are the center of care and all children and youth with health care needs or disabilities thrive – this new, bigger, and more robust organization will strengthen our work towards achieving that goal.”

“Our team is thrilled to join forces with Family Voices Indiana and know that together we will be a stronger organization,” added Cindy Robinson with About Special Kids. “We look forward to being able to help more families and professionals navigate the systems, identify resources and provide vital community connections. This is an important development for families and professionals throughout the state.”

For more information on Family Voices Indiana, visit fvindiana.org. For more information on About Special Kids, visit aboutspeakalkids.org.

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