

Inspirational Family or Guardian Award Nomination

Award Description:

The Inspirational Family or Guardian Award will be presented to a family or guardian who has significantly contributed time and talents to the InterHab member agency and/or the individual served by the agency.

NOMINEE: The Bashaw Family

ORGANIZATION: COF Training Services

Provide a narrative including answers to the following questions. You may also attach a maximum of three letters of support. Additional information may be attached if necessary.

- Describe the impact this family or guardian has had on the individual.
- What outcome has resulted from this effort?
- How long has this effort been provided?
- Provide a biographical sketch of this family.
- Additional information.

NARRATIVE:

I am honored to share the heartwarming story of the Bashaw family, consisting of Greg and Kim Bashaw, and their unwavering dedication as guardians to their daughter, Laura, who has intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

I first had the privilege of hearing Greg speak about his daughter, Laura, at a Friends of COF meeting. I was deeply touched by their story of love, determination, and advocacy for their daughter. When Laura was diagnosed with IDD, Greg and Kim, as any loving parents would, shed tears but quickly decided to put one step in front of another and make the most of their daughter's life. From that moment, 31 years ago, the Bashaw family has never stopped striving to provide a better way of life for Laura and supporting COF and the IDD community. Greg serves on the COF Board of Directors, showcasing their continued commitment to making a positive impact in the community.

In addition to their unwavering advocacy for Laura, the Bashaw family has been actively engaged in the local IDD community, generously volunteering their time to raise awareness, promote inclusion, and advocate for policy changes to improve services and support for individuals with IDD in their community. A perfect example of their willingness to step in and step up is the 2023 Kansas Special Olympics Regional Bowling tournament. Special Olympics had coordinated a group of volunteers who were unable to show up last minute. The Bashaw family had a large group show up to support Laura and she saw the need. They immediately stepped in and began filling the volunteer gap without hesitation. Laura's parents, sister, niece, and other extended family members jumped in and began supporting all special Olympics athletes present at the event. The Bashaws show up in masses at any event that they have the opportunity to positively impact not only their daughter but any and all individuals with IDD in Kansas.

In summary, the Bashaw family's dedication and advocacy for Laura has had a profound impact on her life, resulting in significant improvements in her well-being and quality of life. Their ongoing efforts and involvement in the IDD community have made a positive impact on the lives of individuals with disabilities beyond their own family. I wholeheartedly support their nomination for recognition of their outstanding contributions to the IDD community.

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*I have reviewed and agreed to the criteria for filming the awards video.
I have obtained approval for this nomination from the submitting agency's Executive Director.*

Send this form via email to mshreve@interhab.org

The deadline to submit award nominations is June 7!