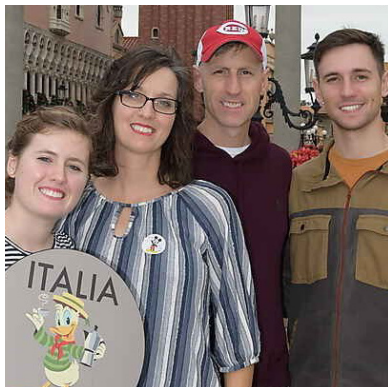


Faces of Respite

2020





My son Hudson and I can't thank the SC Respite Coalition enough for the opportunity to be awarded much needed respite. I'm a single mom from New Hampshire and we don't have a support system here in SC. I had to have two major surgeries, and being able to have the respite, I was able to pay my sister to come to SC for the first surgery and my niece came to take care of Hudson for the second surgery. I was overcome with fear that I had to have surgery and not knowing who could care for my son adequately. The only alternative I would have had if we weren't allotted the generous respite was to put Hudson in foster care until I was well. SCRC made it so Hudson and I could remain intact. As many people know, caring for someone with special needs is a 24-7 job. Not a lot of individuals can provide the care our loved one needs. However, the people that are able to provide care need to be compensated. SCRC was able to help financially and emotionally. There aren't enough words to express how grateful and appreciative we are for having the SCRC play a pivotal and supporting part in our family dynamic. Thanks from the bottom of our hearts.

— Melonie



My husband and I care for our adult daughter who has mental and physical challenges as well as a chronic seizure disorder. It is difficult to find folks who are qualified to care for or comfortable with someone who has several seizures a day. We have found a few semi-professionals who are willing to help when they can. They cannot commit to being a Personal Care Assistant, but they can offer us respite on occasion. Having the funds available from the SC Respite Coalition has been a huge blessing for my husband and I to be able to do things together – simple things like go to church together and big things like visit our adult son at college and now at his home in another city. Thank you, thank you SC Respite Coalition!!!!

— Mary



The respite voucher has been such a blessing! My sister Patricia has had multiple sclerosis for 33 years. I was able to attend some church activities, do some shopping and spend a few days at the beach without worrying about Patricia being taken care of. I really appreciate this program. Thank you!

— Shirley



We cannot thank you enough. Our son will graduate in a few months and commission as an officer in the US Army and his dad was recently activated with the US Navy. It was good to have this time with our older kids while a wonderful caregiver took good care of our daughter with special needs. She definitely would not have enjoyed the sensory overload of Disneyworld, but her siblings loved it!

— Stephanie

In Fiscal Year 2019, vouchers through the SC Respite Coalition

funded over 33,000 hours of respite

for family caregivers.



The South Carolina Respite Coalition voucher has allowed me the peace of mind of knowing I'll be able to continue to nourish and care for myself alongside my seven year old daughter while my husband deploys for a year. In the years since caring for and loving a special needs child, I've realized that self-care is equal in the equation. Without the voucher, I would have either additional stress in providing for us both or I would drop my needs so Sara could continue to thrive. Thank you for all the hard work that goes into this program!

— Pam



Our son Vanya is 6. He is a kind and happy child who has taught us so many important lessons. He likes to play in the water, go on rides and eat good snacks and ice-cream.

Vanya is severely autistic and nonverbal due to another diagnosis of severe apraxia. His medical needs are complex and taking care of him and our 2.5 year old son Andrew can be very challenging. We have no family anywhere close to where we live and receiving funds from SCRC has been a blessing to our family. We were able to hire respite care providers who were so good with Vanya. That gave Vanya's mom a chance to enjoy some activities & hobbies that many people take for granted: connecting with friends, going shopping while Vanya's dad kept his younger sibling, exercising, reading books and riding a bike. Having some time for oneself is especially

important for special needs parents who need to recharge in order to be able to continue to support their loved ones with extended needs. We are very grateful to SCRC and our coordinator Allison Poole for giving Vanya's mom an opportunity to get a much needed break. We pray for all those who made it possible for us!

— The Alekseyenko Family