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DEAR FRIENDS,

Our mission at Jill's House is to provide rest, renewal, and relationships to children with intellectual disabilities and their families, and it has been our privilege to do so since 2010. We believe that God loves these kids and their families abundantly more than we ever could, and it is our great honor to serve them.

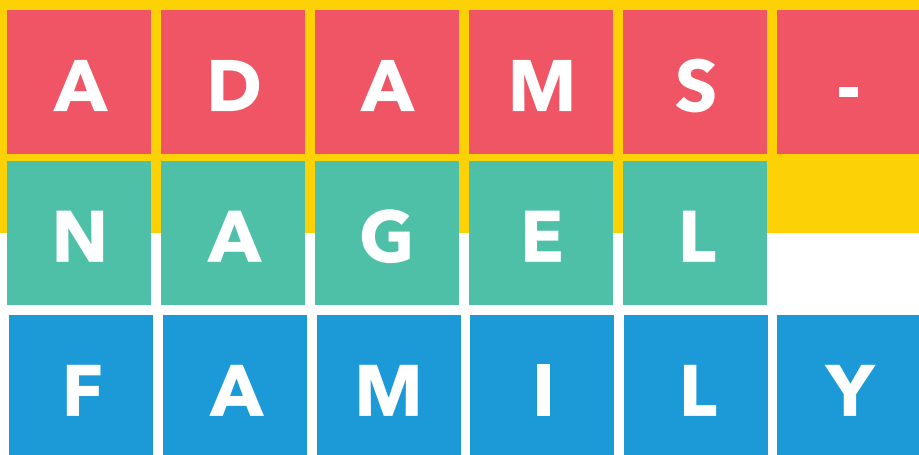
As a partner in this journey, you are making a tangible difference in the lives of hundreds of families across all our locations. Thank you for choosing to walk alongside us and the families we are called to love and serve.

We pray that you are blessed as you witness the impact of your partnership in the stories of Jill's House families.

With deep gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel', written in a cursive style.

Joel A. Dillon
President & CEO



Nico was born in Guatemala and entered

our family through adoption when he was 6 months old. Our process of adoption from Guatemala was so uncommon and totally orchestrated by God. Our names were added to a list, and we were emailed pictures and details of children seeking a forever home. For several months we received emails from the listserv, then, in March 2007, we received an email with a picture of the sweetest little one month old baby boy. We knew instantaneously that we wanted to meet him and bring him home! We arranged to visit Guatemala and meet him in July 2007, and he came home with us on a Medical Emergency VISA in August 2007.

Nico was very ill. He was medically fragile and needed urgent care which we located in the DC area before we brought him home. He was born with severe pulmonic stenosis and had his first surgery within days of being home. He was diagnosed with failure to thrive and had plagiocephaly which required 4 rounds of Doc Band treatments. He received OT to help with the formation and use of his mouth as well as PT due to his hypotonia. He is

on the Autism spectrum and has a hearing loss in which he wears bi-lateral hearing aids. In addition he has significant vision loss and wears corrective lenses. Nico has Noonan Syndrome and femoral anteversion as well.

I had to leave my career in telecommunications in 2007 because I was taking Nico to 7-9 appointments a week. I fought, and still fight for Nico to receive the best care, services and opportunities to thrive.

Before we adopted Nico, we used to volunteer with Access Ministries (ministry for children with special needs) at McLean Bible Church. In fact, as a volunteer at MBC, I cared for Lon and Brenda Solomon's daughter, Jill, whom Jill's House is named after! We remember the years of preliminary work that were so instrumental in building Jill's House. God was working in and through our lives in preparation for Nico, long before he was even born!

When Nico turned 6 years old, we were excited to register him at Jill's House. **We met and trusted the staff so much, and I knew they would love and care for him as I did. Jill's House was going to provide Nico with his very own experiences and opportunities.**

Between scheduling doctors' appointments, communications with Nico's education team, maintaining the care schedule at home, and managing my full-time work, it is hard to relax. I am also a single mom, so there's hardly ever a moment I am fully relaxed. But the school nights when Nico is at Jill's House are a huge blessing! It is nice to have a break during the week when I don't have to think about meals or the schedule, I can unwind, or work a few extra hours if I need to. Those nights are such a gift. But truly, the gift is for Nico. Where else would a kid have the opportunity to swim in an indoor pool before dinner on a school night?!

Nico thrives with a schedule and when he knows what to expect. When the Jill's House bus arrives at school, he is excited to climb on and greet his friends, and he anticipates all the fun he'll have when they arrive at Jill's House. Jill's House staff and volunteers treat him like a typical child. They treat him with honor and respect the special child he is!

There are very few places that Nico feels comfortable, safe and loved unconditionally—Jill's House is one which truly gives me the freedom to pause, breathe, and relax.

BUTLER FAMILY



When Dorothy was born, we weren't aware

she would have special needs, but my maternal instincts were telling me that something was different. I was encouraged not to worry and was told that each child develops at a different pace. But when Dorothy was almost one year old and only barely able to sit but certainly not crawl, I became her advocate. I educated myself about terms such as "low muscle tone," "occupational therapy," and "speech therapy." I had never heard of a developmental pediatrician but learned and then fought for her to be seen by one.

I continued to advocate for Dorothy through this difficult season. (I've never really stopped.) I trusted that the Lord was in control and certainly grew in faith without knowing what Dorothy's diagnosis was. Abandoning my earthly desires "to know" was not a one-time act of will; it was put on repeat.

When Dorothy was nine years old, we were finally able to understand the unique way in which God had knit Dorothy together. Through genetic testing, we discovered that Dorothy has Mowat-Wilson syndrome, a rare genetic condition with only a few hundred known cases worldwide. The moment I was told her diagnosis, I was overcome with joy. We couldn't help but praise God. Our joy might not have made sense to our medical team, but we had been searching for answers for nine years, and in a way, I felt like God had blessed us for our faithfulness.

"When I began to consider how Jill's House was providing a time of respite for our whole family, it radically changed my perspective."



God made Dorothy intentionally and on purpose, without mistakes or hiccups. Dorothy has a role to play in salvation history that only she can fulfill, and Mowat-Wilson syndrome is part of that story.

Jill's House is also part of the story!

I remember freaking out during her first weekend overnight stay at Jill's House. I called many times, and I kept thinking, "Who needs respite from her own child?" A woman I didn't know very well (we have since become friends) had come to our home for a mom's group that weekend, and she helped me understand that my children, including Dorothy, needed respite, too. Dorothy needing respite from us hadn't crossed my mind. When I began to consider how Jill's House was providing a time of respite for our whole family, it radically changed my perspective.

While Dorothy is at Jill's House, we plan activities our other five children do not get to do otherwise. Our kids don't feel that Dorothy needs to be somewhere else so they can have a good time. On the contrary, they feel free to have fun because they know she is having a blast at Jill's House!

The constant vigilance one must have on a child with special needs gets exhausting, not in an exasperating way, but mentally and physically exhausting. While Dorothy is at Jill's House, though we may be involved in busy activities, I feel relaxed. That is what respite is!

Life can get messy, full, and tough, but at Jill's House, we can rest assured our special kids are treated with dignity, respect, and love. This blesses our whole family. It is incredible!

D A M M

We have had a variety of

experiences raising a daughter with Down syndrome. From doctors who didn't see the value of life and encouraged me to terminate the pregnancy to inconsistent and challenging respite services, at times, it seemed as if the world did not want Alyssa here. At least, that's how we felt. But we have also encountered many people who genuinely love my daughter, and Jill's House offers that for our family!

Alyssa's siblings have enjoyed going to camp for years, and Alyssa began asking for the same experience. We kept hearing about Jill's House from our friend who volunteers there, and since Alyssa, at nine years old, seemed to be at the right age, we decided she was ready to go.

Though the intake process took a while, it was extremely comforting and helped in building our trust. Indeed, an immense amount of trust was required to place my child in someone else's care. All the questions we were asked made us feel like they understood our daughter, and nothing excluded her from participating at camp. Through the whole process, I gained a new perspective on our lives and what we work through day to day with Alyssa. Although I felt reluctant about entrusting her to someone else, aware of what goes into



F A M I L Y

caring for my child, every detail about Alyssa was taken into thoughtful consideration by Jill's House, and they were excited to have her at camp.

Alyssa is adventurous and outgoing. During our Meet 'n' Greet before her camp weekend, she toured the grounds, saw where she would sleep, explored the activity spaces, and enjoyed the outdoor activities. She was excited for camp and raring to go!

When her first Jill's House weekend arrived, the whole family dropped Alyssa off at camp. Her brother and sister really wanted to see where Alyssa would be staying. We also decided to stay near the camp that weekend. We relaxed, lingered, and just talked. We gave one another time to share. We couldn't believe how much we all relaxed and bonded. The weekend was amazing! Our older kids kept saying how much they needed it!

Alyssa had a fantastic time at camp, too. While she is outgoing, she still feels her way through every situation. We were so happy to learn that she enjoyed playing with her Buddy and our good friend the whole weekend! She picked up on cues that everyone there was happy to have her, and she felt safe. She was given choices, and she thrived!

At the end of the weekend, we were all so excited to be together again! Alyssa came home wanting to say grace at mealtime and share the devotionals and prayers they said at camp. We all felt refreshed and renewed; it was just the right amount to reset.

"At the end of the weekend, we were all so excited to be together again! Alyssa came home wanting to say grace at mealtime and share the devotionals and prayers they said at camp."

Jill's House is a gift from God. We can't believe we get to enjoy it multiple weekends a year! We are so grateful that this is something our family can benefit from for years to come. Thank you, Jill's House!

F A R R E L L F A M I L Y

For Sam, Jill's House Rocky Top Camp in

Nashville is the happiest place on the planet! It's his most favorite place to be.

Sam has been attending Jill's House Weekend Adventures Camp since he was 12 years old. We started exploring different day camps and programs for Sam long before we sent him to Jill's House. We wanted him to experience the youth church programs that meant a lot to us during our own childhood. However, we went through some frustrating experiences when Sam was turned away from other programs that couldn't accommodate him. It was heartbreaking!

When we first heard about Jill's House, we had obvious concerns. But when we met with the Local Program Manager, we were very impressed by the depth of her questions and her interest in Sam and his motivations. We were relieved to hear that Sam would be welcomed, cared for, and kept happy.

Sam is very social and loves to be active. He has a huge heart and a great sense of humor. He loves water slides, roller coasters, music, and dancing. He enjoys helping in the kitchen and likes knowing that he's done something well. Although we were sure that camping would be a great experience for him, we were still cautiously optimistic.

When the first weekend arrived, we anxiously waited for the phone call asking us to pick him up—the call to tell us that they could no longer accommodate Sam. This is what we had been used to. But the call never came! **Then, when we picked Sam up at the end of the weekend, he was radiating happiness.** Pictures of him from that weekend—and those of many others he's attended since



then—show him with the biggest smile and a constant look of pure joy. We finally found what we had been looking for!

Sam excels in an environment that is set up specifically for him. Inclusivity is good too, for many reasons. But Sam thrives better in an environment that is designed just for him, and Jill's House offers that experience. Everything that Jill's House offers has been designed with him and other kids like him in mind.

Having a child with special needs can be difficult. We know Sam's younger brother also feels that. But we also see how our family has grown in being compassionate and understanding of one another, and other families too. While Sam is at Jill's House, we have been able to use the opportunity to connect in our marriage and take our younger son to activities that don't interest Sam.

Sam is now 17 years old and will graduate from high school this spring. During the fall, he will move into vocational training, where he will continue to develop skills for employment. He enjoys helping in the school cafeteria and also works in the school store. Sam has a big heart and even bigger enthusiasm. He's a popular guy wherever he goes!

When Sam comes home from camp, he will go through the whole list of foods he ate and the activities he did. And he would always ask to return! We have so many emotions as we consider this next chapter in Sam's life. We are excited, yet we also feel sad that his time at Jill's House is coming to an end. We will always be grateful for Jill's House and the incredibly passionate staff at Jill's House and Camp Rocky Top!



H A N S E N F A M I L Y

Olivia is 11 years old! She loves to be with

people and socialize. She participates in her cheer team, plays all kinds of sports, and is a member of our local Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts troops. She also loves going out to eat and cooking food at home. She would say her least favorite thing is feeling bored, so we try to fill her days with activities she enjoys!

Olivia also loves being around people. Before she could even talk, she would manage to put herself in the middle of other kids while playing. As social as she is now, you wouldn't be able to guess that she didn't begin talking until after her fifth birthday!

We heard about Jill's House from a Facebook group for parents who have children with autism. A parent mentioned that she had sent her son to Jill's House, and he had a great time there. We had looked into other overnight opportunities for Olivia, but they either were week-long camps that we knew wouldn't be a good fit for her or just didn't feel right to us. However, Jill's House and the local Garden State weekend camp were exactly what we were looking for!

Eventually, we were able to visit the camp and knew right away that it would be the perfect experience for Olivia. We wanted her to feel confident that she could be without us and still be okay. The Garden State Local Program Manager made us feel so comfortable! We were even told that if Olivia needed to talk to us at any time during her first stay, the staff

"When we picked Olivia up at the end of the weekend, she got in the car and kept asking us when she could go back."



would allow her to call home. But her first stay at Garden State camp was a perfect experience for her, and we didn't hear from her at all!

Finding support is challenging. Olivia's weekend away at camp was the first time we were alone in 11 years. We were so excited to have this time together that we probably stacked our weekend with too many fun things, but it was very special for us. The best part of our weekend by far was knowing that Olivia was safe and having a great time.

When we picked Olivia up at the end of the weekend, she got in the car and kept asking us when she could go back. Although she doesn't share a lot of details about her time at camp, we learned that her favorite activity was the zip line, which she was able to ride twice. She also enjoyed playing in the pool and loved having a sleepover with her friend in the cabin.

We are truly grateful for Jill's House. We think it's amazing that Olivia has had this opportunity and that Jill's House allows her to thrive in a safe environment among other kids. Now that her needs for social interaction with her friends are being met, it is helping her grow socially and our comfort level has grown too, because we know that Olivia will be ok.

We love Jill's House so much!

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We are a close-knit family! We watch movies

together, we all talk about our favorite shows, and we spend a lot of time together at home. We are protective of our children, and our kids look after each other. Our kids are especially protective of their little brother, Ian!

Ian is 16 years old and full of life! Like other teenage boys, he enjoys his electronics and drawing, but because of Jill's House camp, he has recently taken an interest in horses. We have two cats at home, which makes him jumpy, and when he sees a dog outside, he will shriek back, but when he's at camp, he becomes a different boy. He not only enjoys the animals, but he also pets them. He has even gone riding on horseback! Jill's House does that for him! Jill's House helps him feel comfortable with new experiences and has helped him to be an adventurous boy.

Ian has been going to Jill's House since he was six years old. The first weekend he stayed at Jill's house was a nerve-racking weekend for us! As parents, we felt guilty because Ian was never away from us. We were concerned that he would be okay, or that he wouldn't understand what was happening. We worried about him eloping. We were very scared.



"He has even gone riding on horseback! Jill's House does that for him! Jill's House helps him feel comfortable with new experiences and has helped him to be an adventurous boy."

But he had the most amazing time!

Ian has been going to Jill's House for 10 years. We think that Ian considers Jill's House as an extended family. When we are talking about Jill's House, whether it is going to the "big house" in Tysons or attending a camp weekend, his face lights up, and we know that he feels connected. One of the nurses had the experience of being at both Jill's House and at the camp, and she commented that when Ian is at Tysons, he is there to chill and hang out with friends. But when he goes to camp, he is an adventurous boy! He is leading



the charge and doing everything available at the camp. That is what Jill's House has done for him. He has found relationships and connections, and he has gained confidence!

In terms of spiritual work—making sure the kids feel cared for, being kind and compassionate, and sharing God's love—we think he understands all of that! He's not super verbal, but we will often hear him singing "Jesus loves me this I know." We talk about Jesus and pray together, but we don't attend church. Jill's House has helped Ian to feel the love of Jesus. I think he has made the connection between Jill's House and Jesus, and he feels loved.

LEVINE FAMILY

We adopted Jax when he was three years old.

We noticed some developmental delays, but over time, we realized that there was more going on than just difficulty in adjusting to life with us in America. Originally, he was diagnosed with ADHD. Then after further testing, he received an intellectual disability diagnosis when he was about five years old.

As a family, we say, "Everything is figure-it-out-able." We have moved a lot, we have faced frequent health concerns, and we have received diagnoses that were unexpected, but we have always been able to figure it all out. We knew that no matter what we were facing with Jax, we would also be able to figure it out together!

"He was busy, engaged in fun activities and was doing great! We were relieved, and we were able to fully relax!"

As Jax grew older and we experienced new challenges. We also began to grow weary of finding relationships and activities for him to gain independence and help develop his social skills. One day, my husband did a Google search

and discovered Jill's House! We've never lived near family, and we always felt nervous about leaving the kids with anyone. But Jax would hear other kids talk about overnight sleepovers at a friend's house, and he would ask if he could have those same experiences. We decided to complete the paperwork for Jill's House.

Before Jax had his first overnight stay, we were invited to the Jill's House Family Christmas Party. I enjoyed chatting with other moms and felt comfortable asking my burning question, which was, "Is it really safe



here?" I wasn't sure if Jax could verbalize if things weren't right, and I was nervous. The moms understood my concerns and one mom plainly said, "Our child has been coming here for 12 years. It's the safest place for our kids!" These moms explained that there are so many eyes on the kids while they are at Jill's House, between the nurses and the program staff, and Jill's House is just as safe as my own home!

Jax finally had his first weekend at Jill's House. We let him take his phone so he could text us at any time. The first night, he sent us a text saying, "Good night. I love Jill's House!" We were so excited. The next day, he ignored us! We sent him a text in the morning, and again in the afternoon, but we never heard back from him. We decided to call later that afternoon just to see if he was okay. The supervisor shared that Jax was having a great time. He was busy, engaged in fun activities and was doing great! We were relieved, and we were able to fully relax!

We attended the Family Retreat and had such a great time! Seeing the other Jill's House families and knowing that, even though our families are all different, we all face some of the same things, was awesome!

Jax is going to high school next year and is very excited. He is part of a teen boy's group with Boys & Girls Club of America. But he says his favorite activity is going to Jill's House, where he feels so loved and welcomed.

M A N N F A M I L Y



We met in high school at Bishop O'Connell in

Arlington, VA. Although we attended separate colleges, we returned home after graduation, got married, and quickly welcomed Isaac into our family.

Isaac was a preemie and had an extensive hospital stay at the time of his birth. When he was about two weeks old, we learned that he had a genetic condition, among many other diagnoses. However, we were told that its significance was unknown.

As Isaac grew older, he missed milestones such as crawling and walking. Initially, doctors told us that this was because he was a preemie and we were hopeful that he would catch up, but he continued to fall further behind. Isaac was one-and-a-half years old when our second child was born. As his sister grew, it became more apparent to us how delayed Isaac was. Finally, when Isaac was two years old, we saw a geneticist.

The geneticist ran tests and tried to assure us by saying that everyone has some degree of abnormality. However, we learned that Isaac has 4Q Chromosome Deletion Syndrome. It is estimated that only one in 100,000 children are affected by this syndrome. The geneticist explained that the amount of information Isaac is missing in his genetic DNA is equivalent to a single page of a 3,000-page book. However, he was not sure how

this would affect Isaac because what genes are missing in our DNA is of greater concern than the number of genes missing. This has turned out to be very significant for Isaac.

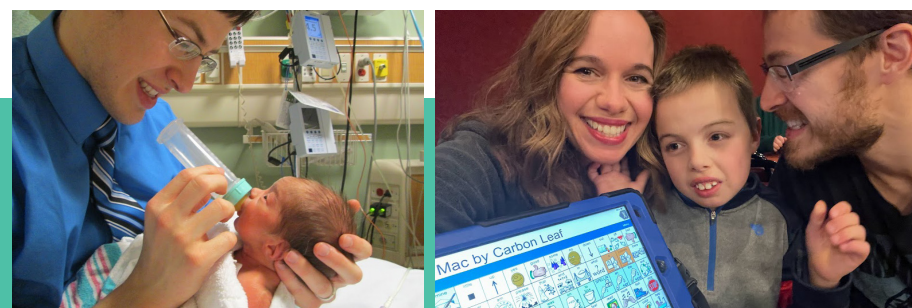
He has been through many diagnoses over the years. So, it is hard to figure out what to attribute to the genetic condition and what could be related to the other diagnoses. Thankfully, a parent support group of other 4Q Chromosome Deletion kids has been very helpful to us in navigating through this relatively unknown journey. Jill's House has also been a tremendous lifeline, providing a space for us to pause and take a breath.

We are both nurses at Children's National in DC, which is where we learned about Jill's House. The thought of sending Isaac to overnight respite care scared us because he can't talk at all. We know what Isaac needs; but sometimes, even close family members have difficulty meeting his needs. However, when a coworker who also happens to work at Jill's House shared how much she valued and trusted the organization's mission, we decided to initiate the intake process.

The first time Isaac stayed at Jill's House, we called a few times and were told that he was having so much fun. **When it was time to pick him up, it was hard to get him into the car to go home! The joy on his face was so encouraging for us! Isaac really enjoyed being at Jill's House. For a long time afterward, Isaac used his communication device to say "House! House! House!" So, we knew he thought about Jill's House often, and he now has his own "Jill's House" button.**

When you first look at respite care, there can be a little bit of guilt. But it's nice to know that we can do something with our other children, or something for the two of us, and Isaac will also have a good time with people we trust.

We are just so grateful for Jill's House!



N E L S O N F A M I L Y



Emily has her mother's straight

hair and my love for '80s and '90s music!

Emily sticks close to her mom, but she knows I'm always ready for her when she is hungry for a snack or looking for some fun. If you were to drive through our neighborhood, you might catch Emily and me cruising around in our golf cart. I'm sure it's a funny sight. This big burly guy cruising in a golf cart while Emily's favorite song is playing over the speakers, "Girls Just Want to Have Fun," by Cyndi Lauper. Cruising around on the golf cart while listening to her favorite music playing, with her hair blowing in the wind, is one of Emily's favorite things.

Emily was born in March 2003 and was diagnosed with Microcephaly when she was an infant. We were told that she would be epileptic, and sure enough, she had her first seizure in 2004. She was in and out of the hospital with bad bouts of epilepsy. I wouldn't wish that experience on any parent. You feel helpless when your child has a seizure, and you can't do anything about it. I'm a Gulf War Vet, but those moments when Emily was experiencing a seizure were the worst moments of my life.

By 2013, when Emily was ten years old, our

"I pray for the most fulfilled, safest life possible for Emily. She knows no hatred. She knows no fear. Other than the fear of not having enough french fries. But I wish people could live like her. What gets me is that God chose me to be her dad! "



doctor said, "I know this is scary, Mom and Dad, but we want Emily to have an opportunity to be medication-free." Our doctor wanted to wean Emily off the medications that were keeping her from having seizures. It was scary! But by the grace of God, she hasn't had a seizure since then.

We found out about Jill's House when Emily was 14 years old. She has since aged out of the program, but she was able to enjoy weekends at Jill's House for three years. We will forever be grateful for how Jill's House lovingly cared for our daughter. We always knew she was being cared for and in a great place! At drop-off time, we were relaxed, and she would eagerly walk into Jill's House. At pick-up time, although she was excited to see us, she would continue to look over her shoulder as if to say, "I want to stay!" For someone who didn't say a lot, her actions spoke volumes!

Although Emily no longer attends Jill's House, I still connect with other dads of Jill's House kids. The camaraderie we find in Christ and the ways we are being fortified as men and fathers mean so much!

I pray for the most fulfilled, safest life possible for Emily. She knows no hatred. She knows no fear. Other than the fear of not having enough french fries. She loves french fries! But I wish people could live like her. What gets me is that God chose me to be her dad! Anytime something is thrown at us or spilled on me, I stop and laugh, "Alright, God, I probably had that coming!" In some subtle way, albeit sometimes messy, it's a reminder for me to not be angry or too serious and just enjoy life. I'm so grateful that God chose me to be Emily's dad, and I'll take whatever days God gives me!

W A N G S N E S S F A M I L Y

We are an active family of four, if you include

our family dog! We like to get outside, and we enjoy doing things together. We have a lot of love in our house! We say "I love you" a lot, which is so important to us.

Leksi received her diagnosis when she was seven years old, but our journey began when she was about twelve months old. Leksi wasn't crawling, walking, or hitting her other milestones. We visited several of the top medical centers in search of answers, but test after test left us feeling uncertain and without clarity. Finally, through a series of DNA tests performed by our geneticist, we received the answers we had been searching for and learned that Leksi has an STXBP1 Disorder. Although we were relieved to finally learn of Leksi's diagnosis, there had only been about 350 diagnosed cases worldwide. We love our girl, love that God has given her to us, and are so very grateful to be on this journey with her!

We found out about Jill's House around the time we received Leksi's diagnosis, when she was seven years old.

Leksi is very social, and she craves being around other kids. She doesn't have as many options for social interaction outside of school, though. That's where Jill's House shines! While Leksi is at Jill's House, she gets to hang out with her friends and enjoy time away from us.

"...when she goes to Jill's House, she is all smiles as she walks back to the POD by herself. We can see that she is happy!"



Leksi can't communicate what her favorite things are about Jill's House, so we are immensely grateful for the written recap after her weekend stays. Leksi loves music and friends, and we are always happy when we read that she enjoyed the music room, singing in the chapel service, and being with her peers.

When we first started taking her to Jill's House, she would cry. But now, when she goes to Jill's House, she is all smiles as she walks back to the POD by herself. We can see that she is happy!

We also can't imagine what our marriage relationship would be like without Jill's House. We know she is safe and happy, and we are 100 percent comfortable, which means we can truly rest and enjoy our time together.

There is beauty in the blessing of having Leksi in our lives! Although caregiving has become more challenging as Leksi has gotten older, Jill's House staff also see her as a blessing. We also hear from Jill's House staff that they are honored to be with our kids. It is incredibly beautiful to know that Jill's House loves our sweet Leksi and sees her as we do.

Y A O F A M I L Y

Mimi was born healthy, but when she turned one

year old, we noticed some developmental delays. After a series of tests, we found out that she had a chromosomal abnormality. We learned that there could be a wide range of functional behavioral capabilities with this disorder, so we weren't sure how her development would be. We started early intervention and tried different therapies. We even traveled out of state to see different specialists. We learned that there were different strategies we could try, and we were given lists of things to work on with Mimi, but nothing seemed to work. It was such a hard time for our family. We were exhausted, and so was Mimi!



Then, during Mimi's annual visit with her pediatrician, we were advised to treat Mimi as a typical child. We kept thinking, "Are we doing enough for Mimi? Are we pursuing all the answers? If we do more, will she be more functioning?" We needed to hear his advice. It was almost as if he had given us the freedom to simply love our daughter as God had given her to us.

Mimi started attending Jill's House Weekend Program, then Summer Day Camp. We truly appreciate how Jill's House's team works together to support



"The level of trust we have in Jill's House allows us to truly rest!"

her! The amount of care and coordination is amazing. From the intake and program teams to the office staff—everyone works together to attend to and care for Mimi.

We are relaxed when Mimi is at Jill's House. We are comfortable with the high level of care she is given and grateful for how Jill's House has impacted our whole family, not just Mimi.



Our older son was in middle school when Mimi started going to Jill's House, so he can recall how exhausted and down we were before Jill's House. Like us, he internalized the struggles that Mimi had gone through as a young child. He recognizes the difference Jill's House has

made in Mimi's life and the impact it has had on our family's journey. He has volunteered at Jill's House and has even made his own financial contribution! Jill's House helped Mimi as well as the rest of us to find love, purpose, and peace of mind, we are very grateful for that.

We enjoy such peace of mind when Mimi is at Jill's House. That time is precious, and we appreciate it. We play games together or just play with our dog, Willow. We brought Willow home during the COVID-19 pandemic, he has been very kind to Mimi, and is such a great addition to our family.

Mimi expresses herself emotionally with smiles and cuddles. She can be very charming! While she is at Jill's House, we believe she is at her best because she feels loved and very comfortable. The level of trust we have in Jill's House allows us to truly rest! We have a long family journey. I believe there is a purpose in everything, and Jill's House has been such an important part of our journey and our family.

Z W I E B E L F A M I L Y



Jack...is...awesome! He is such a good-humored, curious, and good-natured kid. Jill's House Weekend Adventure Camp is a place where Jack can be Jack, and we are so grateful that he has a place where he is welcomed and loved!

When I was pregnant with Jack, I remember thinking there was something different. When Jack was born, he was unable to pass the infant hearing test while in the hospital. He also had feeding and nervous system issues. We knew that early intervention was very important for Jack, so by the time he was four months old, he was undergoing PT, OT, and speech therapy. He also had strabismus and underwent two surgeries to correct his vision. We were hopeful that these interventions would correct his balance and motor issues, but he was still unable to hit some of his milestones.

After a few years of genetic testing and no findings, we were introduced to a new genetic test that ultimately provided us with the answers we had been searching for. We learned that Jack had a change on the FOXP1 gene. Although there was not a lot known about the FOXP1 gene, we were told that the only physician in the world studying it was located near us, at Seattle Children's Hospital!! Talk about God's provision for our family.

We were so encouraged and relieved to finally have some answers! We are both athletes, so when we received Jack's diagnosis, we kept saying he was going to "Varsity FOXP1." Soon after, we became involved with The

University of Washington's Haring Center for Inclusive Education and early childhood intervention for children with and without disabilities— ultimately, a community of like-minded families and teachers we have grown to love. This is the community that led us to Jill's House.

Jill's House has allowed us to further explore the extension of a community we were already a part of, while offering safe independence for Jack through overnight camp experiences. We were pleased to know that Jack would probably attend camp with friends that he had already made through our involvement with Haring Center, but also be able to make new friends. Additionally, the religious core and mission of Jill's House were also very important to us.

"Over time, we have realized how valuable and important respite really is, to spend time with our other children and with each other."

Jack has been consistently going to camp for three years. He loves hanging out with Jill's House staff for the weekend, and he talks about being able to stay in his own room! At the end of a weekend at camp, he comes home tired, which means he's also engaging in all the activities!

There are so many dimensions to camp! From archery and horseback riding to paintball and all kinds of games, there are so many great activities for the kids that are, quite frankly, hard to replicate at home. Camp provides Jack with a ton of experiences that help build his confidence and his skills.

The first time Jack went to camp, we didn't know what to expect or how to prepare for our weekend without him. Over time, we have realized how valuable and important respite really is, to spend time with our other children and with each other. We all look forward to those weekends now!

**"Life can get messy, full, and tough,
but at Jill's House, we can rest assured
our special kids are treated with
dignity, respect, and love. This
blesses our whole family."**

Butler Family Story



Rest, renewal, and relationships
for children with intellectual
disabilities and their families

**Scan to read Jill's House
family stories**



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