

RAISING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES WITH RESILIENCE AND DISABILITY PRIDE

A WEEKEND OF LEARNING AND CELEBRATION FOR PARENTS* OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

DISABILITY PRIDE

Where: Double JJ Resort,
Rothbury, Michigan

When: Evening of Friday, April 26
through Sunday, April 28th at
noon.

Registration Fee: This event costs
\$50. \$25 will be returned to you
after you participate in the whole
weekend. Meaning this event is
only \$25! Scholarships are
available

Registration Materials: Register
online

or email jileesa@mymdrc.org for
materials to be emailed or mailed
to you.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- All training and materials
- Lodging for 3 days
- Up to \$200 in reimbursement
for child care
- All meals for the participant
- A stipend for mileage may be
available

This event is made possible by
**VERY generous private donations
and from funds from the Michigan
Developmental Disability Council.**

Due to society's stereotypes, stigma, oppression, and discrimination, children with disabilities are encouraged to assimilate and "overcome" their disabilities. In this weekend retreat, parents* will come together to explore a **disability justice** model of disability and further their understanding of the concept of disability pride.

This weekend event will **celebrate** the lives of people with disabilities. Parents will dig deeper into disability history and culture while embracing disability as part of their child's identity. The celebration of disability identity leads to self-empowerment and a sense of belonging. Parents play an essential role in creating an environment where children with disabilities can explore disability history, culture, and **pride** and people are encouraged to accept all parts of their identities.

Attendees of this weekend will:

- Learn how to move through shame and gain pride
- Explore the important role that disability history, culture, and pride play in the lives of people with disabilities
- Discuss ways that family members can support the development of pride and power in the lives of their child with disabilities
- Learn how to become an ally to the disability community

This weekend will be facilitated by Leah Smith and Theresa Metzmaker.

Smith is one of the stars of the documentary 'Far from the Tree.' Smith has nearly a decade's worth of experience working in the disability rights movement, serving in a wide variety of roles including case management, marketing, and quality assurance. Currently, she manages #LiveOn, a web-based, anti-suicide campaign aimed specifically towards disabled people. She has also served two terms as the Director of Public Relations for Little People of America, the largest support and advocacy group for people with dwarfism in the world. Finally, she does all this while being a Mom to a toddler, Hazel, and an infant, Silas.

Metzmaker is the Assistant Executive Director of Michigan Disability Rights Coalition and Her Power Director. She started Her Power 10 years ago to celebrate teen girls with disabilities. Metzmaker loves being a mom of sorts to two amazing young women. Metzmaker's work centers ending violence against people with disabilities.

* When we use the term parent, we are also including guardians and are embracing all types of families (i.e. same-sex partnerships, grandparents raising grandchildren, co-parenting, kinship and foster parents etc.). We support families of choice which can include parents, step-parents, domestic partners, neighbors, communities, religious leaders, and any other person the individual with a disability defines as a parent.