

INCLUSION FOR ALL: ADVANCES IN ACCESSIBILITY FOR NON-SPEAKING INDIVIDUALS



IN THIS ISSUE	Ρ
Introduction Featured Articles January Highlights Upcoming Projects New Board Members New Content Contributors	3

EMPOWERING THE SILENCED: THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCESSIBILITY FOR NON-SPEAKING INDIVIDUALS

<u>Accessibility for non-speaking individuals is a matter of human rights</u>. Imagine a world where you can't communicate, learn, work, or access health care, just because of the way you express yourself. This is reality for far too many non-speaking individuals. Everyone should be able to access these basic human rights. Yet for many non-speaking people, they are out of reach. Improving accessibility by providing accommodations such as understanding of sign language, assistive technology and communication supports that allow our non-speaking friends to communicate by making choices, enables them to communicate effectively.

Non-speaking people face ongoing discrimination and constant judgement. Too many people think that if you can't talk, you can't communicate. The judgement goes as far as to equate non-speaking with having little to no cognition which is FAR from the truth. Our non-speaking members of the community are insightful, capable, talented and have A LOT to say. So, let's try making this world accessible for our non-speaking friends.

It's time to embrace neurodiversity and fight for the place of non-speaking members of our society. Let's break down the barriers and challenge the stigma. Let's create a world that values and includes every unique, amazing person, no matter how they communicate and express themselves. It's time to celebrate the diversity of human communication and ensure that every person can live a full and happy life.

>> EXCERPTS FROM OUR FEATURED ARTICLES



~~~

To access full articles, please visit: https://www.kindtheory.org





INCLUSION FOR ALL: ADVANCES IN ACCESSIBILITY FOR NON-SPEAKING INDIVIDUALS

#### JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

From personal and professional life challenges, our sessions with Dr. Javed are insightful, to say the least. Gain valuable insights into promoting neurodiversity awareness and acceptance, and learn how vou can make a difference in the lives of those with neurodevelopmental disabilities by catching onto all 4 of our shared sessions with Dr. Tahleel Javed on our Youtube Channel. Visit Kind Theory's Youtube Channel now to learn about her inspiring journey! �≈•¥•∝≁ 

**Kind Theory** 

and

**Reach Every Voice** 

Reach

Every

OICF



HEART TO HEART CONVERSATION WIT THE CEO OF @STANDOFFICIAL

⋑ŧ⋇ŧ⋐≁⋗

DR. TAHLEEL JAVED

In support of non-speaking neurodivergent students, Five spots for the Reach Every Voice online course on Accessible Academics were kindly gifted by Kind Theory. The course models how to break apart rigorous, grade-level instruction for students who may only communicate by making choices.



## NEWSLETTER

INCLUSION FOR ALL: ADVANCES IN ACCESSIBILITY FOR NON-SPEAKING INDIVIDUALS

UPDATES ON THE UPCOMING PROJECTS

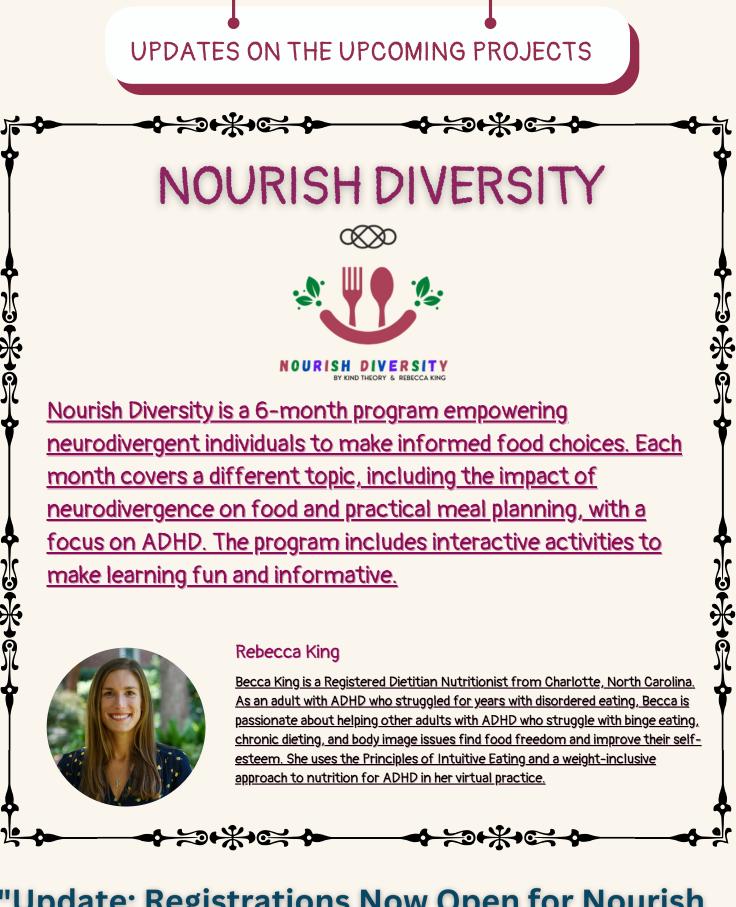
→ ﷺ・ ﷺ → ﷺ・ ﷺ → Building Safe And Supportive Communities (BSSC)



The BSSC program is a continuous effort to create safe and supportive communities for neurodivergent people. Through our three-track program, we make our environments, communities, systems and institutions not only supportive and inclusive but most importantly accessible for neurodivergent people.

<u>"Update: Registrations Now Open for BSSC!</u> Click now to learn more about the BSSC Program and to register yourself! 

INCLUSION FOR ALL: ADVANCES IN ACCESSIBILITY FOR NON-SPEAKING INDIVIDUALS



<u>"Update: Registrations Now Open for Nourish</u> <u>Diversity!</u> Click now to learn more about the Nourish Diversity Program and to register yourself!



INCLUSION FOR ALL: ADVANCES IN ACCESSIBILITY FOR NON-SPEAKING INDIVIDUALS

**GROWING THE KIND THEORY FAMILY:** 

ADDITIONS TO OUR BOARD

# Jeff Owens

Jeff Owens is Director of Technology at Semaphore Mobile, a neurodiversity advocate, and a parent of a neurodiverse child. He has a masters degree in piano performance and pedagogy from Baylor University where he also played on the men's varsity tennis team. Jeff runs the Autism-101.com resource website for newly diagnosed and selfidentified autistic people. He was diagnosed with both Autism and ADHD as an adult.

►≈•¥•≈

Hi! I am Jeni - I am what you may call, "extra neuro-spicy". As an Autistic ADD-er and a survivor of two Traumatic Brain Injuries, I have a unique lived experience of my neurodivergence. I've been in the education field for 14 years, most of which has been spent serving neurodivergent children and their families. Currently, I'm working on my Masters in Social Work with the goal of helping neurodivergent adults navigate life in their own unique way. I'm excited to join forces with Kind Theory to build a rockin' support squad for the neurodivergent community. Let's do this!

₩ N N



INCLUSION FOR ALL: ADVANCES IN ACCESSIBILITY FOR NON-SPEAKING INDIVIDUALS

#### GROWING OUR CONTENT FAMILY: NEW CONTRIBUTORS



Sherri Liska is a consultant and an advocate in the fields of autistic accessibility, education, and joy. As the owner of Freely Divergent Neurodiversity Consulting, she takes a gentle and welcoming approach to helping professionals and families improve their connections to their autistic clients, students, and loved ones.

When she's not monologuing about the importance of developing non-pathologizing diagnostic criteria for autism, you can find her proofreading social media copy, designing websites, voice acting, joyously tracking the relationships in her latest JRPG obsession, and fostering senior cats. Is the AuDHD THAT obvious?

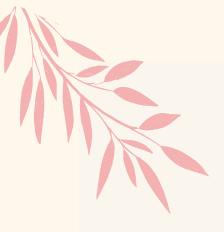
\$\\;\$\\;\$\\$\\$\\$\\$\\$\\$\\$\\$\\$\\$\\$

≹

13 × R

₩ R

₩ AN



Let's break down the communication barriers and truly make the world accessible for all.

