



The Intellectual  
and Developmental  
Disabilities Council  
of Tarrant County

**Welcome!**

# **My Journey With Autism From Nonverbal To Raising A Family**

Presented by Daniel Durany,  
Autism Self-Advocate, Digital Creator, and Public Speaker

June 5, 2025

*To transform the region into an inclusive community where individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) thrive.*

# meet & greet



*Take this opportunity to introduce yourself in the chat box.*

- ❖ Who are you?
- ❖ How can you assist?
- ❖ What do you need assistance with?

# Welcome

## NEW/RENEWING MEMBERS

- ***Individual Members:***

- Joseph Barbarito
- Tammi Creed
- Stephanie Stone
- Rene Aguilar
- Deborah Norris
- Richard Garrett
- Audra Resell

- ***Premier Partners:***

- Cook Children's Medical Center
- Fort Worth ISD (Founding Partner)
- Tarrant County, the office of Judge Tim O'Hare (Founding Partner)

- ***Sponsor Member:***

- Green Oaks Education and Support

- ***Professional Member***

- Macy Davis, Equitable Advisors, LLC

***Your Name/Organization Belongs Here***

[www.IDDCouncil.org/join-us](http://www.IDDCouncil.org/join-us)



# Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Council of Tarrant County

All IDD Council members have access to monthly meetings, job fairs, transition fairs, and access to information and resources via our monthly newsletter, social media, and IDD Council website.

## ANNUAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO MEMBERS

<b>\$5000+ (ALL BENEFITS FROM \$2500 LEVEL, PLUS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING):</b>	<b>\$2500+ (ALL BENEFITS FROM \$1000 LEVEL, PLUS CHOOSE 1):</b>	<b>\$1000+ (ALL BENEFITS FROM \$500 LEVEL, PLUS CHOOSE 2):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logo with link on website, ability to put our logo on their website with prior approval</li> <li>• Keynote speaker at Celebrating YOU Employer Recognition luncheon OR another premier event</li> <li>• Access to the benefits of the individual membership level for all families/employees affiliated with your organization</li> <li>• Guest feature (e.g., ad, article, profile) in an issue of the IDD Council newsletter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organization's name on IDD Council website</li> <li>• Tailored 1-hour training for your organization's staff or stakeholders (CEUs may be offered for an additional fee)</li> <li>• Present at a Caregiver Education session</li> <li>• Recognition in all IDD Council publications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly social media posts (1 image of your choice)</li> <li>• Speaker spot at a monthly membership meeting</li> <li>• Request of a custom topic for a Caregiver Education session; priority selection over non-member and non-custom requests</li> <li>• Recognition in select IDD Council publications</li> </ul>
<b>\$500+ (ALL BENEFITS FROM \$250 LEVEL, PLUS CHOOSE 2):</b>	<b>\$250+ (ALL BENEFITS FROM \$25 LEVEL, PLUS CHOOSE 2):</b>	<b>\$25 INDIVIDUAL MEMBER</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Banner with logo at all 4 Making Connections Disability Resource Fairs OR at April Cool's Day</li> <li>• Organizational info table at Sensory Santa</li> <li>• Permission to distribute information at events (e.g., in bags, or at the doorway)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizational info table at one* of the following events: April Cool's Day, CapeAbilities Job Fair, a Caregiver Education session, OR a Making Connections event</li> <li>• Choose 1 topic for a monthly Caregiver Education session from a pre-set list of topics. Priority selection over non-member requests</li> </ul> <p>* May select two organizational table events as benefit option.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free training (non-CEU)</li> <li>• Collaboration and networking among agencies, caregivers, and other advocates</li> <li>• Recognition of membership on website and newsletter</li> <li>• Access to members-only portal with a resource directory and video/audio recordings of select presentations</li> </ul>

*...additional customized benefits available a-la-carte to meet your organization's needs!*

*CEUs may be offered for an additional fee at individual events.*

*Members at all levels will receive a discount on CEUs.*



[WWW.IDDCOUNCIL.ORG/JOIN-US](http://WWW.IDDCOUNCIL.ORG/JOIN-US)



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## *Call for Applications*

**for the  
IDD Council  
Board of  
Directors**

The IDD Council is accepting applications from outstanding leaders, self-advocates and caregivers to serve as Board members. Help us to grow and prosper in our work.

<https://www.iddcouncil.org/board-member-info>.



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# JOIN A COMMITTEE

- ❖ **COMMUNICATIONS & PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE:** Identifies and schedules topics of interest for Council events and helps create and distribute information important to members of the Council and community through written and electronic media. Meets hybrid as needed.
- ❖ **SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE:** Calling all party planners, entertainers and creative thinkers! Let's plan programs that add value to the community, advocates and creates awareness of IDD. The committee is looking for parents, providers, community leaders and event planners to join us in finding and creating new opportunities. Meets hybrid as needed.
- ❖ **TRANSITION COMMITTEE:** Provides educators the opportunity to collaborate and discover resources to share with families in the path to adulthood. The committee is looking for school counselors, transition specialists, parents and advocates interested in establishing or advancing opportunities for people with disabilities after high school. Help develop strategies that support families and students in schools and secondary education. Meets the 2nd Friday of the month from 9-10:30 a.m.



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# GRANT WRITER NEEDED

If you are an experienced grant writer, or if you know of one, please message us or email us.





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# SHOP, EAT AND SUPPORT THE IDD COUNCIL



Kroger Shopper Card Community Rewards: <https://bit.ly/2Sw9WX1>

Rosa's Cards \$20 value / \$20 each: Email request with Qty: [Rita@IDDCouncil.org](mailto:Rita@IDDCouncil.org)

More info and ways to support our mission: <https://www.iddcouncil.org/partners>

## PAYMENTS MADE EASY WITH ZELLE, PAYPAL, OR ON OUR WEBSITE!



zelle®



<https://paypal.me/IDDCouncil>



<https://myqrcode.mobi/d2648a48>  
([www.IDDCouncil.org/gift](http://www.IDDCouncil.org/gift))





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### **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

**1<sup>ST</sup> THURSDAY EACH MONTH 9-10:30 a.m.**

**3136 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Fort Worth**

**July 3: No MEETING IN JULY**

**Next meeting: August 7**

### **TRANSITION COMMITTEE SUMMER MEETINGS**

**Rosa's Café & Tortilla Factory Locations**

**June 12: 5000 Overton Ridge Blvd., Ft. Worth**

**July 10: 2200 Precinct Line Rd., Hurst**

# UPCOMING EVENTS





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# ABOUT OUR PRESENTER



**Daniel Durany**

# Childhood Pictures



# Initial signs

- When did you first suspect that Daniel was developmentally delayed for his age?
  - Were there signs when he was young that were not typical for his age?
    - Lack of verbal communication
    - Lack of social interaction with children of the same age





# Childhood Pictures



- As a child, what were his strengths? And what things were hard for him?

- STRENGTHS:

- Memory
- Knowing my ABC's before reaching two years old
- Putting together puzzles

- WEAKNESSES:

- Communication
- Overall verbalization



- Looking back, what was your greatest memory of Daniel's childhood?
  - Always a happy kid
  - Followed a routine well





# Verbalization

- Finally talking at the age of 4
  - Able to communicate likes & dislikes
    - SPORTS!! SPORTS!! SPORTS!!



# Struggles in School

- Lack of social skills with kids own age
- Communication was better online than face to face
- Academically challenged in Reading and Writing
- Overall friendships were difficult with peers

# How did I thrive K -12?

- Love to play tennis
- Having a good relationship with Christ
- Academic Success
  - National Honor Society
  - Graduating in the top quarter of my class
  - Overall resilience to graduate from a public high school, Crowley High in 2002

# Off to College.....

- Challenges:

- Rooming in the Dorm ( 4 different roommates in 1 year)
- Understanding social cues ( WOMEN!)
- Getting out of bed to go to class
- Knowing how to study

- Outcome of these Challenges:

- Severe depression; Lost my swagger
- Leaving Dallas Baptist University to TCC and onto TCU
- Graduating TCU in 2006 with a degree in Communication Studies







# Job World

- Challenges:

- Lost 6 jobs in 14 month (Sept. 2007-Nov. 2008)
- Let go in nearly 20 jobs since I was 18 years old
- Inability to work well with co-workers
- Struggled to find what I love in the job world

- Overcoming the Challenges:

- Less Is More when communicating (Work Related)
- Have a backup plan or work multiple jobs
- Able to support myself



# Soft Skills in the Job World

- Everybody has to answer to somebody
- You don't have to be friends but you do have to tolerate them
- Burning one bridge can mean burning multiple bridges
- Most jobs are lost due to social-emotional situations; not on a lack of skills and effort
- Less is More when communicating

# What employers are looking for on the job?

- Socially Savvy
- Quick Learner
- Can you bring profit and/or value to the company?





# Benjamin









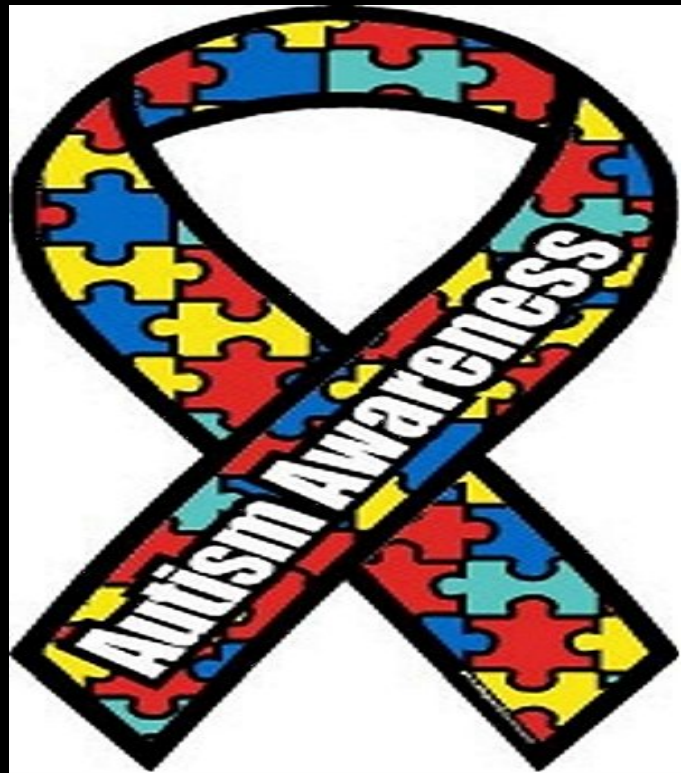












# Daniel Durany

“My Journey with Autism”

You can reach me through

Email: [dsdurany@yahoo.com](mailto:dsdurany@yahoo.com)

Twitter: @ddsportsology

Facebook



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**Thank you for joining us today!**

**Before you leave, take time to  
visit, network, share contact and  
program information.**

Rita Stevenson  
Executive Director  
[Rita@IDDCouncil.org](mailto:Rita@IDDCouncil.org)  
[www.IDDCouncil.org](http://www.IDDCouncil.org)