



## Wishing You a Magical Holiday Season

### Giving Back Can Be Personal – or Not

“I understand so well the struggles that families face,” Elevations board member Brad Messerschmidt said when asked why he gives his time and resources to support this cause.

Brad has three children who have been diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder caused by variants in the TANGO2 gene. Danny is five, McKenna is three, and Jackson passed away at the age of three in 2015.

Danny and McKenna both have multiple therapies a week – speech, physical, and occupational.

Brad’s wife, Lindsey, is a licensed speech therapist but she currently does not work outside of the home because of the full-time demands of treatment schedules and caring for two children with special needs.



At some point, she may go back to work and Brad will adjust his work schedule to accommodate the kids’ schedule. There is not an easy way to get outside help due to the complex needs of both children.

“Raising children is a horrible investment,” Brad jokes. As a financial advisor with Thrivent Financial, Brad knows all about the return on investments. Raising a child costs a lot of money. Even without college, the price tag, according to the US Department of Agriculture, is \$233,610 (2015 dollars) for a middle-income family. When you add in special needs, those costs can go up exponentially.



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As soon as Brad heard about Elevations, he knew he wanted to be involved. In May of next year, it will be three years that Brad has served on the board. "Elevations is doing something that no one else is doing. There are so many costs to [raising a child with special needs]: time, money, stress. Physically feeding or getting therapy for your child should not be a choice.

Money should never be a [barrier for children to get what they need.] Luckily, I am in a position to help. Anything we can do as a board to ease the [costs for families], is so important." You don't need to be a parent of a child with special needs to help. Once you understand that the need exists, "It is just the right thing to do."

Elevations provides funding so that parents can get their child the therapy or home therapy equipment they need. Therapy makes such a difference to help children thrive and have the opportunity to live up to their fullest potential. Home equipment can be so important for children with complicated needs. Parents can work with their child between therapy visits and provide safe alternative activities at home. This can reduce the overall stress in the family.

If you would like more information about how to be involved with Elevations, please visit our website at [www.elevationsspokane.org](http://www.elevationsspokane.org) or contact us at [info@elevationsspokane.org](mailto:info@elevationsspokane.org)



**Annual Appeal is Still Going Strong** ~ We are so grateful for everyone who donated during our Annual Appeal that has a matching gift for donations made through the end of the year. Thank you!

**We are just \$2500.00 away from hitting our matching funds challenge of \$10,000.00. Will you help us meet our goal?**

Any amount, no matter how small, makes a difference.

**DONATE**



We're excited to participate with the [Spokane Chiefs](#) for a Hockey Fundraising Night on **January 3, 2020.**

Tickets are 30% off and \$5 from every ticket sale made from our designated link (below) goes directly to Elevations to benefit children with special needs in our community.

**[Tickets Available Here](#)**

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Are you a state employee?  
Please choose Elevations for  
your workplace giving!  
**(#1138300)**



Are you a federal employee?  
**#ShowSomeLoveCFC** by  
choosing Elevations for your  
workplace giving!  
**(#36449)**

Does your workplace partner with the **United Way Campaign?**

Write in **Elevations: A Children's Therapy Resource Foundation** and help us create change for children  
in our community.

**Happy Holidays from all of us at Elevations.**

**May your day be filled with love and laughter surrounded by family and friends.**

**If that is not possible this year, may your day be filled with the light of hope for better  
things to come.**