



# Family-to-Family Communities (F2FC)

*Connecting Families of Individuals with Deaf-Blindness via Distance Technology*

**F2FC brings families together to connect, share information and resources, and offer support to one another in the journey of supporting their family member with deaf-blindness.**

*"I love knowing that there are others like me! It's wonderful to not to feel so isolated" (parent)*

**F2FC Registration is now open until August 20, 2021!**

<https://tinyurl.com/F2FC2021>

Questions?

Contact Carol Darrah [cdarrah@uga.edu](mailto:cdarrah@uga.edu) or your state deaf-blind project

Each F2FC is comprised of 8-10 family members; is guided by trained Facilitators; meets once per month for 90 minutes via video-conference or phone; topics are chosen by the group and include structured conversation and open sharing. Your regular participation is vital to the group!

***Facilitators will contact participants in August; monthly meetings will be Sept 2021 – May 2022***

**2021-2022 Family-to-Family Communities (adjust for time zones) descriptions include sample topics**

- Love, Laughter, & Mindfulness: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday/month at 8:30pm ET; boundaries, self-care, and ways to thrive in life while also caring for your children with deaf-blindness; Facilitators- Heather Joy Magdelano & Donia Shirley
- Families with Members who have Peroxisomal Disorders: 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday/month at 8:30pm ET; Communication, educational support, & life balance; Facilitators- Eddie Day, Jennifer Knox, Krista Olsen, & Katie Sacra
- Families with Members who have Usher syndrome: Dates/times to be determined by the group; Providing peer support, resources, and connections with community organizations; Facilitators- Pam Aasen & Carly Fredericks
- Families with Members who have CHARGE: 1<sup>st</sup> Monday/month at 8pm ET; unique needs and services, building a network of support, family dynamics, planning for the future; Facilitators- Jenn Henkle & Katrina Michel
- Adult Life (age 22+): Last Wednesday/month at 7pm ET; for family members of adults who are deaf-blind and also individuals who are deaf-blind; adult life systems and supports; Facilitators- Patti McGowan & Sheri Stanger
- Families with Children who have Complex Needs: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday/month at 7:30pm ET; health care, support providers, educational services, waivers, balancing family life; Facilitators- Jenny Stuhmer & Bridget Wildschuetz
- Advocacy: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday/month at 12:30pm ET; various aspects of advocacy that promote positive outcomes- family advocacy in the IEP, student self-advocacy, and more; Facilitators- Brandi Hitzelberger & Lane McKittrick
- Supporting Academic Rigor: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday/month at 8:30 ET (60 min.); supporting your student to achieve success in the general curriculum, best practices to attain IEP goals; Facilitators- Michele Baldeshwiler & Hollie St. Arnauld
- 258 Chat: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday/month at 8pm ET; "very interesting" chat, Deaf-Blind culture, community connections, communication, and advocacy; Facilitators- Valerie Nordstrom & Heather Withrow (meetings will be in ASL)
- Extended Family Members: Fourth Wednesday/month at 7:30ET; for grandparents and other extended family who want to support their loved ones who have a child with deaf-blindness; Facilitator- Jana Villemez
- Spanish-speaking Families: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday/month at 12pm ET; education, relationships, self-care, and leadership; Facilitators- Josefina Gonzales & Doris Tellado; registration for this group ONLY <https://tinyurl.com/F2FC2021sp>