



# Fall 2024 Newsletter



## From the Executive Director

Dear Tavon Community,

What an incredible summer it has been at Tavon! We've shared so many wonderful moments together, and I'm excited to highlight some of our favorite memories.

Our June Community Picnic was a true celebration of all our amazing supporters—families, donors, and community friends alike. It was such a joy to have Flame Catering back, treating us to delicious Persian food. Some of you may remember Flame from our early auction days, and it felt like a heartwarming reunion! Our Fall Festival was equally spectacular, with nearly 120 attendees enjoying music from Tim Scallon, a fun digital scavenger hunt by Unique Minds, exciting games, prizes, and delicious Mexican food, all under perfect weather. Up next is our annual Craft Fair on November 23rd, right here at Tavon. It's the perfect spot to find unique holiday gifts—don't miss it!

We're so grateful for our wonderful TIPS interns, OT interns, and summer staff who have returned to school. Their energy and creativity enriched our programs immensely. We're thrilled to have been asked to host Masters Level OT interns again next year! As we transition into fall, we're welcoming new staff members—enthusiastic, compassionate individuals who are eager to connect with our members and families.

On a broader level, I've been actively working with DDA to enhance services for our community. I've been honored to participate in the DDA Legislative Report Community Collaborators, helping to explore ways to streamline waivers and improve accessibility. I also contributed to the Day Habilitation workgroup, and both groups will be presenting their reports to legislators this fall. I'm also excited to share that I'm working on building a statewide coalition of community respite providers to amplify our voices in advocating for important changes. This year, we have two key legislative priorities: implementing tiered respite rates and adding respite as an aggregate service. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks!

As we look ahead to 2025, we're setting ambitious goals to expand our programs, strengthen our partnerships, and create even more opportunities for our members and families. It's an exciting time for all of us at Tavon.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who completed the parent survey. Your feedback is invaluable! A couple of interesting insights: nearly 85% of our members live with family, and about 58% are employed, averaging less than 4 hours of work per week. Families would love for their loved ones to access community-based programs like Tavon for at least 24 hours per week, but many face challenges due to limited DDA hours or a shortage of providers. Best of all, 100% of families who responded said they would recommend Tavon to others! Thank you for your unwavering support.

Wishing you all a joyful and festive holiday season ahead!

Warmly, Therese



## Tavon Craft Fair 11/23 10am - 2pm

Join us for Tavon's Annual Craft Fair on Saturday, November 23rd from 10am - 2pm at the Black Nugget Site!

Browse an array of handcrafted items, enjoy a bake sale, and stock up on Tavon's garden-made goodies like lip balm and bath salts—all while supporting our community. Don't miss this perfect opportunity to get your holiday gifts and spread some local love!



Tavon's Fall Festival was a huge success, thanks to the over 100 guests who joined us to enjoy the beautiful gardens, live music, delicious food, and fun crafts and carnival games!

We're grateful for the community's support in advancing Tavon's mission and are excited to make this an annual tradition—see you next year!

### Fall Festival Recap



## Member Highlight



Kyle is a long time Tavon member who can always bring a smile to those around him.

Kyle enjoys Tavon outings, playing Apples to Apples, and enthusiastically representing Washington sports teams with his clothing.

Kyle is a natural jokester and always makes others feel included.

What a guy!



# Program Updates



“The remainder of the year at Black Nugget site will include a wide range of activities to keep members engaged and connected with nature and each other. Along with our fall events, we’ll celebrate Thanksgiving with gratitude-focused activities, and during December, we’ll bring the holiday spirit to life with Christmas-themed events, crafts, and seasonal outdoor projects.

As winter settles in, we’ll continue our focus on wildlife care, indoor gardening, and educational based lessons to ensure a fulfilling experience for everyone. We look forward to a festive, meaningful end to the year together!” –Weezie



## The end of the year is right around the corner!

As the year comes to a close, we invite you to make a meaningful difference in the lives of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities by supporting Tavon Learning Center’s End of Year Campaign.

Your donation helps fund essential programs that foster independence, social engagement, and personal growth for individuals in our community. With your generosity, we can continue to provide opportunities that empower adults with disabilities to lead fulfilling, enriched lives. Every contribution, big or small, makes a lasting impact—join us in creating a more inclusive, supportive future!

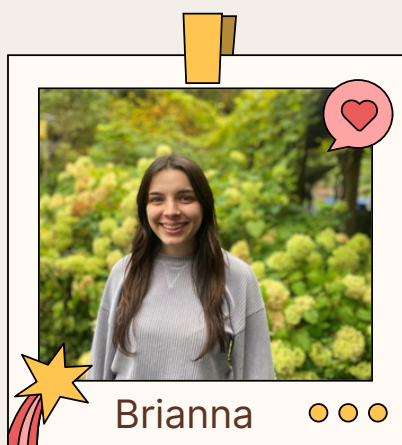
<https://www.betterunite.com/tavonlearningcenter-endofyear2024>

Tavon Learning Center  
Empower Abilities, Enrich Lives—Support Tavon Learning Center Today!



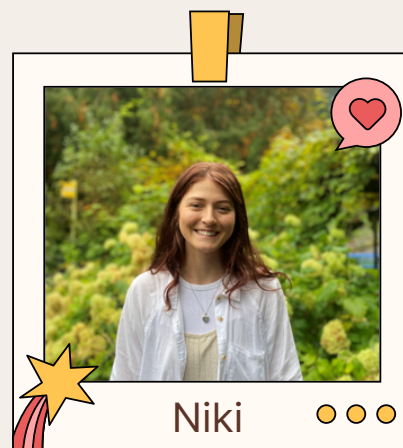
# Welcome New Staff!

Hi, I'm **Kelli**. I'm a former teacher, and I recently moved here from Spokane. I'm so excited to be here! I love music, dancing, and making costumes for Comic Con. I'm really enjoying getting to know all the members at Tavon!



Hi, I'm **Brianna**. I love to do arts and crafts so my main goal at Tavon is to bring fun activities to the group to help bring out their crafty side! I also enjoy nature so there will be no shortage of hikes, park visits, and engaging the members in whatever sports they want to do. I have a big heart, treat everyone with love and patience, and make sure every member is heard and respected.

Hello! My name is **Niki** Kissinger I am a new staff member at Tavon. My favorite things to do in my free time are painting and hiking. I feel very blessed to have the opportunity to be apart of the Tavon community and am excited to see what the future holds.



Hi all! My name is **Payton** and I was born and raised here in Sammamish. I went to college at Arizona State University where I studied special education before moving back home to Washington. I have two kitties and a partner named Zac at home. We love to hike, exercise, watch movies, and enjoy the great outdoors. I am so happy to be at Tavon, and I can't wait to get to know all of the members and their families over the coming months!

Follow us on social media!