Why do you think it's important for families to advocate for their child with IDD?

I feel that families need to be the voice for their children with IDD whether verbal Or non-verbal to help them achieve their goals and be the best version of themselves.

What made you want to be more involved in your child's education?

From the moment Tyler was diagnosed, I knew I would always advocate on his behalf. I know and have seen over the years, with the right services and support that Tyler can and has accomplished so much.

What does being your child's advocate mean to you?

Being Tyler's advocate to me means being his Mom and along with his Dad, being his biggest supporters and cheerleaders in this world. We will always advocate for everything he is entitled to that will help him reach all of goals and support all of his needs so he can Accomplish great things in his life.

How do you support your child's goals as they prepare for adulthood?

Me and my husband support Tyler's goals to prepare him for adulthood, by working With his team of teachers, and therapists at his school. We also work with his case manger Who is a big help and support guiding us with where we can bring him for any additional Services and groups that will support him and his needs to prepare for adulthood.

What advice would you give to other families about advocating for their child who receives special education?

I would advise other families, to never give up advocating for their child's needs. There Are a lot of services and support out there, including many therapies that can make a big Difference in their child's lives. I know sometimes it can be daunting and tiring but at the End of the day, they are more than worth it. Also, take time for your own self-care. You cannot pour from an empty cup.

How can parents educate themselves about special education and related services?

Parents should always reach out to their child's school. A lot of times, the counselors And therapists at the school can really help to provide additional information on groups And services. The internet, of course can also be a really great tool for finding additional Information and services. Join some Facebook groups related to your child's diagnosis In your area as that can be a wonderful source of information from other parents.