

## Connecting for a Cause: 2018 Benefit Recap

*Written by: Jamie O'Conner, Outreach Coordinator*

Last Friday I attended the Connecting Hearts, Raising Voices Fundraising Benefit. This event is in its 7<sup>th</sup> year but this was my first time attending. I have been on staff with Family Voices of MN / CONNECTED for the past six months and the benefit connected a lot of dots for me. Not only did I get to connect with fellow staff (we are spread across the state of MN) I also met Family Voices of MN Board Members and learned more about their stories and personal missions. I connected with other parents, like myself, who have kids with complex needs. I was also pleased to connect with members from the medical community who are partnering with families to involve them in planning and decision-making.



7<sup>th</sup> annual Connecting Hearts,  
Raising Voices Fundraising Benefit.

While we all may have very different lives we unite for the cause of empowering families in order to improve outcomes. One of my challenges as new staff has been to learn to clearly articulate how we serve families at Family Voices of MN / CONNECTED. So, perhaps my favorite part of the benefit was hearing staff share stories of families we have served. It was so powerful to hear the range of needs we encounter in one day's phone calls. From a parent living 300 miles away from the facility where their child is receiving care for heart issues. Another parent facing a decision about limb amputation for their child. A single parent struggling with home care and financial support for their adult child with autism.

The benefit was so much fun to attend and was a huge success. It is humbling and grounding to understand the depth of caring that is the Family Voices Staff, Board, Volunteer Support Parents, Families and Community Partnerships. We raised funds to continue our efforts to provide support, information and connect with families so they do not feel alone.

Thank you to our wonderful sponsors and everyone who attended and donated. It's not too late to donate, every single dollar helps.

**Donate Now**



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