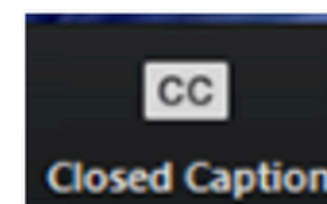




Adult Ally Project

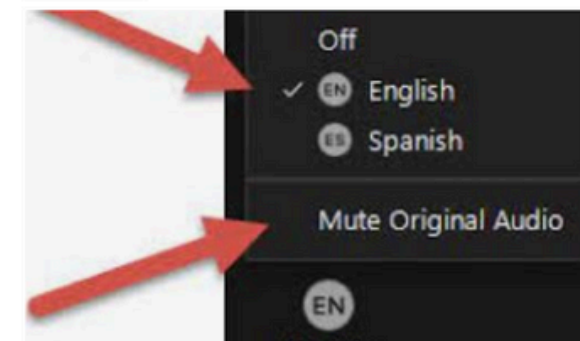
Using Closed Captioning

- To start using CC, click the caption button



Uso de la interpretación de idiomas

- Hagan clic en el icono de interpretación
- Seleccionen "Spanish"
- Después de seleccionar "español", hagan clic "Mute Original Audio"



Using ASL

To pin the interpreter, hover over the video of the participant you want to pin and click ...From the menu, click Pin.



Michael Scanlon

Michael Scanlon is an advocate, project coordinator and consultant with a passion to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Michael's lived expertise within the mental health system and as a brain injury survivor, along with his professional experiences, gives him the unique insight and ability to create positive change.

Michael serves as a mentor and member on numerous state and federal advisory boards and projects, and is enthusiastic about ensuring young adults have the opportunity and support needed to thrive. Off the clock, Michael can be found either whipping up something in his kitchen, drawing, or reading from his vast amount of books taking over his apartment.

Erin Black

Erin Black is a 24-year-old self-advocate living with Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, a progressive neuromuscular disorder that has shaped her passion for disability advocacy.

Drawing from her lived experience, she is committed to transforming systems for young advocates and serves as a public speaker, youth engagement consultant, and media producer. In her freetime, Erin loves to walk on the beach & eat ice cream with her friends and family. She loves empowering young people to live their best lives!



Hi we're Erin & Michael!

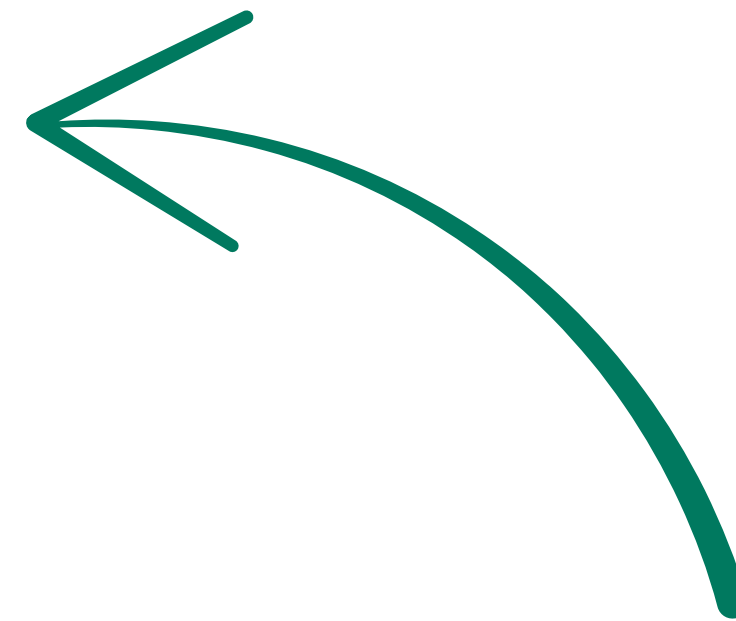
Michael has served as Erin's adult ally for the past several years.

We both are a part of YETI & the YEN Project.

We both have travelled all over the country sharing their stories & expertise in youth engagement.

We both are self advocates using our lived disability experience to better the lives of young people with disabilities!





**Click on the
toolkit to view!**



Click below to view!!



A SPAN Project*

**ADULT ALLY
GUIDE**



The Data!!!

Adults - Key Themes

Adults want to listen more and create space for youth voices.

"Listen first", "center youth", "step back"

Awareness of adultism; desire to shift power and avoid tokenism.

Emphasis on trust-building and showing up consistently.

Need for tools, frameworks, and community to be better allies.

Youth Respondents – Key Themes

Youth want to be heard, respected, and taken seriously by adults.

Value in consistent, caring, and non-judgmental adult support.

Desire for meaningful leadership and decision-making opportunities.

Want adults to act on feedback and be held accountable for harmful behaviors.

Both groups emphasize deep, active listening as essential to adult-youth relationships.

Youth want to lead; adults acknowledge the need to shift control and avoid tokenism.

Emphasis on building trust, consistency, and showing up authentically.

RAISE Center - Adult Ally Survey

We are partnering with the [RAISE Center](#) to develop a meaningful and interactive Adult Ally Toolkit—a resource that helps adults show up as stronger, more supportive allies for young people.

We'd love for you to take a few minutes to complete this short survey. Your insights will make sure the toolkit reflects real experiences of adults and supportive mentors, and highlights what truly matters most.

Feel free to leave questions blank if you feel it isn't applicable to you & your story. Thanks for being part of this!

[Sign in to Google](#) to save your progress. [Learn more](#)

* Indicates required question

Email *

Are you an adult ally or someone who has supported youth? Click here to to share your experiences !

Your Voice Matters: Helping Build Strong Adult Allies!

Hey there!

I'm partnering with the [RAISE Center](#) to develop a meaningful and interactive Adult Ally Toolkit—a resource that helps adults show up as stronger, more supportive allies for young people. And we can't do it without you - the experts!

We'd love for you to take a few minutes to complete this short survey. Your insights will make sure the toolkit reflects real youth experiences and highlights what truly matters most.

Feel free to leave questions blank if you feel it isn't applicable to you & your story. Thanks for being part of this!

[Sign in to Google](#) to save your progress. [Learn more](#)

If you are a youth or young adult, click here to share your experiences!

RAISE

A SPAN Project*

Adult Ally Project

This project is all about exploring relationships and support! We hope this toolkit can empower young adults, families and professionals with stories, resources and ideas to make sure everyone can get the support they need to thrive.

Any questions or want time limited technical assistance on a project? Click here!



Erin & Michael

FROM INTENTION TO IMPACT: AN ADULT ALLY TOOLKIT

2025

Draft toolkit link

While you view:

- Is there anything you would find helpful to add?
- Is there an ally in your life you would like to be featured?

Media, Podcast and Story Submission Link for the toolkit - Click here!

Click here to download release form

Get involved!
Use this link to submit content for this toolkit!*

*Final submissions end of September 2025

Thank you and Q&A!

Our special thanks to all the young adults, allies and colleagues who have contributed to this toolkit - we couldn't have done it without you!

