



Parents in Familias en Conexión Reconnect in Virtual Event

iPads Purchased with Grant from Oregon Community Foundation Help Make Event Possible

Parents in Familias en Conexión, part of The Arc Lane County's family network, were thrilled to reconnect virtually on May 13 after a year of not meeting in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thanks to a \$10K grant from the Oregon Community Foundation, The Arc Lane County purchased iPads with Internet access help connect parents in the Latinx community who are raising a child with an intellectual and/or developmental disability.

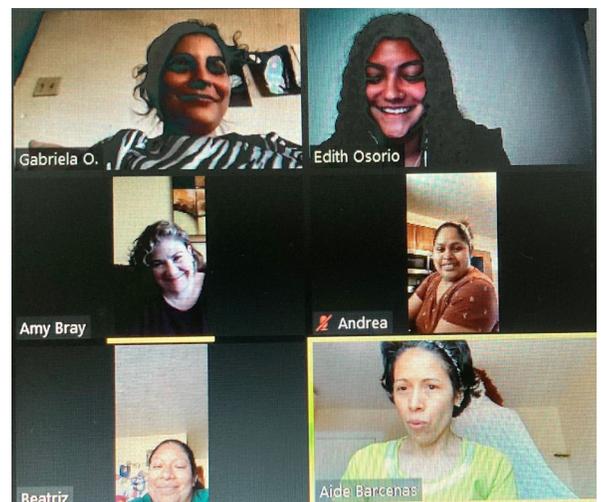
Familias en Conexión provides peer support to more than 40 families who are Spanish-speaking in Lane County. Before COVID, the group met regularly once a month to share resources and receive parent trainings and support.

When the pandemic required families to shelter in place, many parents felt isolated because they did not have access to technology or Internet connectivity to help them communicate with others outside their home.

In March, The Arc purchased and delivered 16 iPads wired with Internet access to help provide equitable access to technology to parents within the Latinx community. Since the iPads were given out, parents have shared how much the devices have helped them feel more connected. Parents have used the iPads for telemedicine visits and Individualized Education Program meetings with their child's education team.

"Thank you so much for the iPad," says Aide Barcenás. "Having access to this technology has relieved so much stress for me."

In the Familias en Conexión virtual gathering on May 13, there were many happy faces. Parents shared how much they missed the camaraderie and support from other parents. With more people getting vaccinated, the group is hopeful they can meet in person one day soon, but until it is safe to do so, they are happy to have the opportunity to meet virtually.



Parents who a part of the Familias en Conexión Family network connect virtually on May 13.