

## Jodi Anderson Family

### “WHAT WDBTAP HAS MEANT TO MY CHILD:

Almost 16 years ago, my son had what everyone thought was the start of a typical cold. We were all so very wrong. Liam contracted bacterial meningitis and had a stroke. This illness left him with profound hearing loss, total blindness, and many other medical issues as a result. Connecting with the deafblind project has made such an impact on his life. We learned about the position of the intervener and with her assistance Liam has access to learn. Liam has thrived with the assistance of his intervener; learning Braille, being an active member in band, and making friends. The project has helped with resources for the shift into adulthood and adult services. He is working on being as independent as possible and experiencing work opportunities. WDBTAP has helped Liam to not just live his life but to succeed and thrive.

### WHAT WDBTAP HAS MEANT TO MY CHILD’S TEAM:

Most school staff are not trained or prepared to teach children with combined vision and hearing losses. They are not taught such things in school when studying to work in special education. WDBTAP has been a lifeline for Liam’s team. The project provides support, training, and hands-on strategies to assist in providing access to children who are deafblind. Our intervener received her training with the help of WDBTAP and continues to support her credentialing with training, resources and being available to troubleshoot. The project supports Liam’s entire team to provide what he needs to learn in a manner that is appropriate with his sensory losses. With their assistance, the team has been able to effectively provide the appropriate education for my child.

### WHAT WDBTAP HAS MEANT TO ME:

WDBTAP has had a large impact on my life. When Liam got sick, my husband and I felt so much guilt. Logically, we knew there was not anything we could have done to prevent this illness. Countless numbers of providers had told us we did everything right. It was hard. I felt that something good had to come out of this horrible situation, so I worked with the project to turn my guilt into action. I have been able to help other families who were experiencing many of the same things we went through. Networking of families is a vital part of WDBTAP. Meeting other families helps you feel not so alone. The project coordinated outings such as an accessible performance of The Lion King at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center. While every case is unique, I could share my knowledge of the school and state programs to assist other families and make the journey a little easier. Raising a child with combined vision and hearing losses is not easy. Through this position, I became a stronger advocate for not only my child but for other children in the state and nationwide. I have helped other families share their voices, stories, and become stronger advocates as well.”