



## **When is it a perfect time to donate?**

**By: Laura S. Nata**

I think always, always, always. We tend to invest money on items whether it's a vehicle needing maintenance, appliance upkeep, to changing air condition filters, and more. We know the importance of investing on preservation. Most of us enjoy a stress free life and not having to deal with a crisis that can bring hardship or discomfort to your family.

This is why I say it is always a perfect time to donate, meaning investing in a service that may be needed at any given moment. For example, if you become disabled or give birth to a child with a disability you want to connect with an organization that provides support and services at that given time. When I think back on my own personal experience, I needed to connect with a place that could possibly meet my current needs. How:

**Thru Peer to Peer Support** – Not a surprise, this is the #1 reason families call us, like me sixteen years ago. We all need someone to talk to when facing many trials in our lives thru many unique challenges. My first experience with a call to FHF was **“wow, you get it”** and not get long winded trying to explain it all. The other **“wow”** factor is that this is the place to call for any age (**babies to seniors**) and best of all, **any disability**. It is phenomenal to invest in a place that offers all that and much more wherever you are in your journey.

**Thru Information and Referral** - You soon find out you don't have enough hours in the day to search for needed information. We have done most of this work, as we know what questions to ask you to make sure you're well connected with all local, state and federal services. We know firsthand how complex it is to navigate systems and know where the barriers of services exist. We remain with you **as long as you need us**, your road ahead is well guided thru experience, knowledgeable staff who make sure you end up where you need to be. We also have an extensive lending library on most disability topics in English and Spanish and a powerhouse monthly newsletter with an amazing amount of great information. Another place where you can be kept updated on important topics is to find us and like us on Facebook. Just go to [www.facebook.com/FHFJefferson](http://www.facebook.com/FHFJefferson).

**Thru Education and Training** - I live by this motto; a well-informed parent will **never experience** their child left behind. I can say that because I lived it and experienced it thru many successes with my son, whether big or small, I mastered the **“woohoo”** dance. We truly believe the best thing any parent or individual with a disability can do is empower themselves through education and training to effectively advocate their needs. The more you learn the more you can guide and direct your child's future to adulthood. You are never too young or too old to participate in these 3 programs. We also offer a series of trainings on many educational rights related topics; transitioning from high school, employment, post-secondary school, Section 504, bullying, gifted and talented and much, much more. Trainings are offered in person, thru live webinar and online self-guided (at any time). We even encourage you to suggest any topics to train on.

So back to the question **“When is it a perfect time to donate and invest in a parent driven organization?”** There are so many ways to invest, join our board of directors, become a part of the fundraising team, donation big or small. Whatever your investment is, just know the return will always be there for you any time of your life and that of your loved ones. For more information, please contact us at 504-888-9111.