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I was introduced to FHF of GNO at my son's speech therapy appointment by a principal in the Jefferson Parish school system. I was telling my son's therapist about my nephew's situation as a special education student and was seeking any information I could find on how I could help him. She introduced me to the principal, and the principal told me about FHF and that I should contact them for guidance. I did some research on FHF to see what information they provided. I thought to myself, no way this is free help; there must be a cost or a long waitlist to get assistance. I called FHF and was linked with Ms. Nicole Desroche much quicker than I expected. Ms. Nicole was so attentive, knowledgeable, passionate, and patient. She listened to my concerns and questions but also took the time to understand the nuances of our situation, offering invaluable insights and unwavering support every step of the way. She returned all of my calls and never rushed me off a call.

Before I met Ms. Desroche, my confidence and knowledge level of understanding IEPs, 504 accommodations, and any special needs information was weak, to say the least. After working with Ms. Desroche, my level is a solid 8-1/2 on a 1-10 scale. I cannot express my love and gratitude to her for helping a little ole family like the Boldenes. I believe God created FHF and then led special people like Ms. Desroche to help fight and advocate for his little children when the world is so cold, hard-hearted, and evil. She has helped get my nephew and my son the necessary tools they need to succeed.

True story: When I went to the school with my concerns and requests, I would get some attitude, or I would hear, "We can't," or something else. We were not getting to a resolution, so I ended my meeting with, "Okay, before I sign anything, I'd like to set up another meeting, and I will have my advocate from Families Helping Families, Ms. Nicole Desroche, with me!" At the next meeting, Ms. Nicole had prepared me and said, "Always remember, you know your nephew and your child better than they do, and you know what their needs are." At the end of the meeting, with Ms. Desroche as my biggest cheerleader and supporter, the meeting was a success!

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The hope that FHF and Ms. Desroche give is unconditional and unmeasured. It takes a special kind of people built with the armor shields of God to go out in the world to advocate for people they never met before. I pray the shields continue to protect FHF staff who work tirelessly and never waver with the biggest blessings of health, strength, resilience, and resources.

Thank you for all the free training, time, patience, and support.

With gratitude and grace,



Tishia Boldene