



*Supported Life Institute  
presents our:*

## **39th Annual Conference** **SUPPORTED LIFE 2025**



## **Navigating Safe Passage through Changing Times**

*Empowering All People  
with Developmental Disabilities  
to be Fully Included in the Community*

**Oct. 9 – 10, 2025**

**Wyndham Sacramento Hotel  
Sacramento, Calif.**

**“A Place to Train Your Staff  
-- in an Inclusive Environment”**

## **Supported Life 2025 Navigating Safe Passage through Changing Times Keynote Speakers**



**Dr. Katie Pedgrift** - licensed clinical psychologist and creator of “Relationships Decoded” - has worked with people who have autism & other developmental differences in a variety of contexts incl. in-patient, out-patient, & forensic settings; schools; & diagnostic clinics. Dr. Pedgrift has authored numerous curricula designed to increase knowledge, self-protection, self-advocacy, & healthy relationships.

**Peter Leidy** ([www.peterleidy.com](http://www.peterleidy.com)) - support and inclusion consultant, speaker, teacher, and singer/songwriter - joins us from Madison, Wisconsin. He works with families and organizations throughout the US and abroad and frequently speaks at conferences, using meaningful Humor and Music. Peter, our most frequently invited Keynote Speaker, says his first invitation to keynote at a conference was for supported Life 2002 !



**Brandon Gruber** says: “Down Syndrome doesn’t define me!” From a target of high school bullying to being voted homecoming king 3 years later - prompting his empathetic efforts to help the voiceless on campus – Brandon has been recognized by national groups for living an inclusive life, plus received prestigious Princess Diana Award for philanthropic efforts, to help under-resourced youth.

**Jayne Chase** of Florence, Alabama, mother of 6 children (now granny to 4). When her youngest son received the diagnosis of autism, she very reluctantly began educating herself ... as there were rough waters ahead ... smooth passage was not going to be easy ... she had no GPS! Speaking out for over 30 years, she shares what she’s learned for creating welcoming, inclusive communities.



## **39th Annual Conference**



## **Early Sponsors**

**Include:**



Trust Management Services



Email Andy:  
[afaletti@supportedlife.org](mailto:afaletti@supportedlife.org)  
for Sponsorship or Exhibitor  
Opportunities!



**Supported Life Conference:**  
*Professionals, Families, and Self-Advocates  
coming Together to  
Learn about Supports for people to be  
Fully Included in the community...*



## Conference Registration Oct. 9 - 10, 2025

### Register Online ([supportedlife.org](http://supportedlife.org)) OR Use This Form

Complete form. Mail w/ payment to Supported Life Institute. Copy & send separate reg. form for each applicant. (PRINT CLEARLY : - )

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation/Agency

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Address

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

5. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

6. \_\_\_\_\_  
Email

7. Are you a: ☐ Professional ☐ Family Member  
☐ Person w/ a Disability ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

8. ☐ Both Days ☐ Thurs Only ☐ Friday Only

9. Registration fees enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

10. Accommodations requested:  
☐ Medically-recommended diet ☐ Vegetarian  
☐ Sign language ☐ Alternative format (Braille, large print, pdf)  
*Please Specify Request (all requests for accommodations must be received at Supported Life Institute by 9/18/25):*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Circle **choices** of sessions to attend (1 choice per session time).  
On conference days, you still may attend alternative sessions.

<b>T</b>	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	1F	<b>F</b>	4A	4B	4C	4D	4E	4F
<b>H</b>	2A	2B	2C	2D	2E	2F	<b>R</b>	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	5F
<b>U</b>							<b>I</b>	6A	6B	6C	6D	6E	
<b>R</b>	3A	3B	3C	3D	3E	3F							

12. Mail this form, plus check or money order payable to: (sorry, credit cards only online)

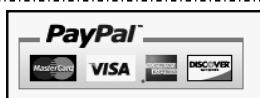
**“Supported Life Institute”** (Conf. reg. address)  
c/o 1209 Caricia Dr. **916-465-8560**  
Davis, CA 95618 [info@supportedlife.org](mailto:info@supportedlife.org)

## Registration Information

The generous support of Supported Life 2025 co-sponsors allows us to offer reduced registration fees to people w/disabilities & family members attending the conference not funded through a State Agency, Regional Center or Service Provider Agency.

We want to ensure all individuals and family members who are solely reliant on their personal funds can receive the subsidy to help them attend.

Conference Registration includes: – Lunch Thursday – Lunch Friday		EARLY Registration  By Sept 12th	LATE Registration On-Site or After Sept 12th
Conference Fee Incl. self-advocates & families funded thru an agency	2 days	\$295	\$320
	1 day only	\$235	\$265
Discount: People w/ Dev. Disabilities & Family members <b>NOT</b> funded through a State Agency, Regional Center or Service Agency	2 days	\$220	\$250
	1 day only	\$160	\$185



Want to Use Your  
Credit Card?

Register Online:  
[www.supportedlife.org](http://www.supportedlife.org)

### Refund Policy

- Cancellations must be in writing & received by 9/12/25
- Cancellations after 9/12/25 (Including “No Shows”) Cannot be refunded
- With advance notice, substitutions are welcome.

### Regional Center Vendor Codes

P63905 (svc code 102) =  
Supported Life Inst.  
CONFERENCE Reg. Fee  
  
ZA6390 (svc code 022) =  
Wyndham Sacramento  
HOTEL Lodging

### Agency Volume Discount !

Register 5 at professional  
rate & receive a 6th  
registrant **FREE.**  
All Group Registrations  
Must Be Received Together

**Hotel Accommodations**  
**Wyndham Sacramento Hotel**  
**5321 Date Ave.**  
**Sacramento, CA 95841**  
**916-338-5800**



BE in the  
MIDDLE  
of Things

**Hotel Sleeping Rooms:**  
**916-338-5800**

ask about current Conference Rate  
for the “Supported Life Conference”  
**by Sept. 15, 2025**

- There is plenty of **Free Parking** at the hotel

**Wi-Fi** is offered for **free** by Wyndham Hotel  
in both sleeping and meeting rooms



### Housekeeping?

Ask Hotel about their  
current Housekeeping Policy



## Thursday October 9, 2025

7:45 – 9:10 Registration

7:45 – 9:10 Exhibit Hall Preview

9:10 – 10:10 Welcome / Keynote Address

**Dr. Katie Pedgrift, Santa Rosa, CA**  
licensed clinical psychologist  
*Relationships Decoded*

10:20 – 11:25 Concurrent Sessions 1A - 1F



**1A Relationships Decoded for Transitioned Aged Adults.** Dr. Katie Pedgrift, Santa Rosa



**1B Understanding Special Education.** Linda Hernandez, Warmline Family Resource Center, Sacramento



**1C Rate Reform in California.** Barry Jardini, California Disability Services Association - Executive Director, Sacramento



**1D I Get to Choose: Navigating the Self-Determination Program.** Tina Ewing-Wilson, Disability Voices United, Yucaipa, CA



**1E California's Assistive Technology Pilot.** John Decker, Alta Calif. Reg Ctr - Director of Community Services, Sacramento



**1F Systems and Services.** Pam Haney Slinkard, Progr. Employmt Concepts, Citrus Heights



11:35 – 1:25 Luncheon / Keynote Address

**Peter Leidy, Madison, Wisconsin**  
*Songs from Human Serviceland:*  
*Are We Having Fun Yet?*

1:25 - 2:10 Exhibit Hall Spotlight  
(Plus Buy Raffle Tickets, Choose Prizes)

2:10 – 3:15 Concurrent Sessions 2A - 2F



**2A Relationships Decoded for Adolescents.** Dr. Katie Pedgrift, Santa Rosa



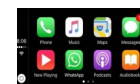
**2B Transitioning from School to the Adult World.** Pam Haney Slinkard, Progressive Employmt Concepts, Citrus Heights



**2C Person-Centered Thinking & Self-Care.** Jessica Noble, Compass SLS, CFS & ILS, Redding



**2D Self-Determination Program Basics and Questions.** Areta Guthrey, The Dis. Information Network, Citrus Heights



**2E Deaf & Hard of Hearing Experiences & Advocacy.** Jeremy Murphy, SCLARC, Los Angeles



**2F The 2025 Legislative Story: The National and State Budget and Bill Outcomes.** Tony Anderson, ARCA, Sacramento



3:25 – 4:30 Concurrent Sessions 3A - 3F

**Thursday Exhibit Hall:**  
7:45 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

4:30 – 4:45 Raffle **THURSDAY Only**

**Buy Raffle Tickets Early!**

4:45 Conference Day 1 Concludes



**3A Five Ways to Increase Employee Retention in Challenging Times.** Peter Leidy, Madison, Wisconsin



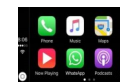
**3B Choice and Control: Supported Decision-Making in Your Life.** Miguel Lugo, Disability Voices United, Whittier



**3C Still Disabled: Survival at the Margins.** René López, Dis Rights Advocate/Educator, San Anselmo Services, Sacramento



**3D The Best Kept Secret: Self-Determination = Future of Disability Services.** Kristianna Moralls, Self-Det. Inst., Glendale



**3E A Day in the Life.** Kristine O'Keefe, AAC Mentor, Supported Life Institute / CTEC, Sacramento



**3F Legislative Advocacy: Organize, Communicate, and Show Up.** Tony Anderson, Association of Regional Center Agencies, Sacramento





## Friday October 10, 2025

8:00 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 10:00 Welcome / Keynote Address

Brandon Gruber, Self-Advocate; Artist,  
TASH Board Member, Brentwood, CA

*Live. Life...Intentionally!*

10:10 – 11:20 Concurrent Sessions 4A - 4F



**4A Re-thinking Challenging Behavior.** Peter Leidy, Madison, Wisconsin



**4B What We've Seen: 3 Years of HCBS Implementation.** Jacqueline Lawton, Alo Consultation, Benicia



**4C How To Build Financial Stability Using CalABLE.** Thomas Martin, CalABLE Executive Director, Sacramento



**4D Navigating SDP as a Traditionally Vended Service Provider.** Sandra Van Scotter, DSP for SDP participants, Ridgecrest



**4E Affordable Housing: We Need More!** Tracey Mensch, ARCA - Association of Regional Center Agencies, Sacramento



**4F Politics, Disability & Accessible Healthcare.** Areta Guthrey. Dis. Info. Network, Citrus Heights

Register For the Conference Now ...



11:30 – 1:20 Luncheon / Keynote Address

Jayne Chase, Florence, Alabama

*Smooth Sailing  
Through  
Changing Times*

Friday Exhibit Hall:  
8:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

1:20 – 1:45 Friday Free Prize Drawings

1:45 – 2:55 Concurrent Sessions 5A - 5F



**5A Rough Seas Ahead, Proceed with Caution!** Jayne Chase, Florence, Alabama



**5B Sexual Health Rights and Complex Needs.** Shanya Luther, Among Friends, McMinnville, OR



**5C Access = Power: Dismantling Ableism, Fostering Belonging at Work.** Riana Hardin, State Council on Dev. Dis., Sacramento



**5D FMS (Financial Management Services) Facts and Fiction.** Tanya Hernandez, PPL, Highland, CA



**5E Social / Recreation.** Renard Stanford, Advocates Advisory Committee, Los Angeles



**5F Beyond Warm Bodies: Building a Mission-Aligned Workforce.** Melanie Bazile, Compass, El Dorado Hills

... [www.supportedlife.org](http://www.supportedlife.org) ...



3:05 – 4:15 Concurrent Sessions 6A - 6E

4:15 Conference Concludes

We really appreciate your participation in our  
39th Annual

Supported Life Conference:  
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**6A Express Yourself At Your Next IPP Meeting** Kaitlin Olson, Alo Consultation, Benicia



**6B Recognizing Sexually Maladaptive Behaviors.** Shanya Luther, Among Friends, LLC, McMinnville, Oregon



**6C Voices of the Community In Home and At Work.** Harrison Lane, Meristem & Transformative Autism Program, Fair Oaks



**6D The Nuts and Bolts of Advocacy and Self-Determination.** Daniel Meadows, Supported Life Institute, Sacramento



**6E Tried, True, Transformational: Tools to Listen, Learn and Thrive.** Melanie Bazile, Compass, El Dorado Hills



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