



Jennifer Irwin (in memoriam), Lucknow South West

Category: Caring and Sharing

Submitted by care coordinator Michelle Fear from our South West geography, who felt Jennifer's story and her inspiring dedication as a caregiver deserved to be memorialized through the Above and Beyond Caregiver Recognition Program.

Jennifer's oldest son, William, has lifelong medical, cognitive, and physical needs that require intensive 24-hour support and care.

Jennifer always had a positive attitude and outlook on life. Due to limited staffing and health human resources, she and her husband Matt would take turns doing an extraordinary job caring for William, day and night. In addition to caregiving, Jennifer was very involved in her community and her children's sports teams, ensuring William could attend their games as well.



Jennifer was an incredible advocate for her son. Both she and William shared a love for music. Jennifer worked with the organizers of Lucknow's 'Music in the Fields' to make the event accessible so that William could attend, allowing them to enjoy the event together a few times, even camping overnight in the family's trailer.

Jennifer helped many others navigate the special needs world. She was an inspiration and a shoulder to cry on for other parents in similar circumstances and would provide support when their children were in the hospital or going through difficult periods. She taught, encouraged,

and helped other parents to persevere and thrive, particularly through her involvement with a NICU online support group.

Most of all, Jennifer showed the world how to be an amazing, selfless, caring, involved, and fierce mom, advocate, friend, and community member. **There are not enough words to describe this exceptional caregiver.**

Thank you to Matt and the Irwin family for allowing us to recognize and remember Jennifer in this way.