

# Independent Facilitator Biography

## **Contact Information**

**Name:** Chris Kelley

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## **About the Facilitator**

### **What qualities do you bring to your role as an Independent Facilitator?**

I have spent years working with people of all abilities in many different settings—homeschooling, public schools, and private schools. As both a teacher and a parent, I've helped students with a wide range of needs, including my own son with Down syndrome, as we navigated his educational journey. These experiences have given me a deep understanding of the challenges families face when trying to get the right support.

In addition to my background in education, I have experience in human resources, where I have focused on helping people find jobs within our company that are the right fit for their skills and strengths. I believe that meaningful work can be life-changing, and I love helping individuals discover opportunities that allow them to succeed.

I also love the diversity of people and enjoy learning about their unique strengths and stories. I'm naturally curious, always learning, and passionate about helping others find solutions that work for them. My approach is patient, thoughtful, and focused on making complicated processes easier for families. I believe that with the right support, everyone can build a meaningful life that reflects their values and abilities.

### **Why do you want to serve as an Independent Facilitator?**

The challenges we have faced with our son compel me to help other families navigate the resources available to them. An Independent Facilitator was essential in helping us understand the system and secure the supports that allow him to thrive. Now, I want to offer that same guidance to others, making the process easier and more accessible for families.

### **What are some skills or expertise that you have as an Independent Facilitator?**

- Genuinely love people and enjoy learning about their stories, cultures, and perspective.
- Lived experience as a parent, navigating disability services and finding the right supports.



- Organized and detail-oriented, with skill in creating plans and keeping track of important details.
- Experience matching people with meaningful jobs that fit their skills and strengths.
- Able to connect and communicate effectively with individuals of diverse abilities and backgrounds.

**Are you a member of any professional organizations or groups?**

Down syndrome Association of West Michigan

**Scheduling Details**

**Do you need any accommodations in your role as a facilitator?** No

**Times of day you are available to facilitate:** Flexible with a wide range of availability

**Days of the week you are available to facilitate:** Flexible with a wide range of availability

**Geographic locations you are available to facilitate:** Oceana and Mason Counties

**Do you have a computer, tablet, or smartphone with internet access for virtual facilitations?**

Yes

**Independent Facilitator Level of Competency**

**Level of Competency: I (Trained)**

Level 1: Independent Facilitator has completed the Independent Facilitator training provided by the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Institute at Wayne State University.