Families that have children with special needs have their own special need: the need for time. That means time for mom to enjoy a workout. Time for couples to enjoy a date night. Or for families to catch a movie, go bowling, play Scrabble or settle into a nice, quiet storytelling session. Those are the kinds of pleasures and pastimes that go a long way toward giving you peace, power and the ability to connect with yourself and others who are occasionally lost in the process of focusing on a child with special challenges.

In the meantime, while you’re enjoying your own moment of reprieve, your child with special needs is likely enjoying his or her own form of respite and discovery as well.

Creating these healthy moments of escape is what RAVE is all about, little “time outs” with tremendously positive outcomes.

“Before RAVE, my days were full of stress, anxiety, and other emotions. Having a child with disabilities is tough. So to be able to get a break is so helpful. RAVE truly saved my relationship with my daughters and has brought us closer.” ~ Niechale S., Reno

“ My daughter loves her time at RAVE; she learns something new every time. The staff is unsurpassed in kindness and communication. They go above and beyond!” ~ Alexis G., Reno

Families and Volunteer Experiences
Providing respite to families caring for children with special needs while training high school volunteers to work with these very special children.

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Peace. It’s What We Do Best.
In a community blessed with many caregiving options, we stand alone in our mission to offer you something as simple as respite. Creating those moments of peace, however, takes tremendous effort, dedication and skill. We help make your “time out” a lot less stressful by thoroughly training local high school students in basic child development, child guidance and CPR. These are volunteers who’ve made a choice to make a difference and who are matched to meet the needs of your child.

Defining “Special Needs.”
Children with special needs include those with Cerebral Palsy, Hearing Impairments, Down Syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Developmental Delays, children in foster care and many more.

The Family of RAVE.
There are several different aspects of RAVE designed to give families a break from the daily routines of caregiving:

1. RAVE Family Center Provides center-based respite care to families with children with special needs and their siblings aged 3 months - 6 years.

2. Respite Voucher Program Families across Nevada (excluding Clark County) can use vouchers to choose respite care options based on their unique needs for children and adults with disabilities diagnosed before age 22.

3. Teen RAVE and Jr. RAVE While families receive respite care, their youth with special needs are encouraged to engage in social skills with peers in such activities as bowling, cooking classes and rock climbing, among others.

“Respite care has been a godsend. The entire family benefits, and I’m even going back to school to further my education and make us more self-sufficient.” — Jacque and Jon M., Fallon