Family TIES of Nevada is a statewide nonprofit organization established in 2001 and directed by family members with loved ones with special healthcare needs or disabilities. Families TIES has been the home of the NV F2F since 2005. The F2F offers no-cost family-centered services that include training, information and assistance, community outreach, emotional support and advocacy to families of CSHCN. Family TIES is committed to ensuring that all families of CSHCN participate in making informed choices about health care in order to promote good treatment decisions, cost-effectiveness, and improved health outcomes for such children.

2016 FAMILY STORY
Darian began with Early Intervention at age 3 in Nebraska because although he was hitting other milestones, he was not speaking. When Darian was five, he was diagnosed with autism. Although Darian was placed in Special Needs Services, he was always frustrated and acting out in school, but he slowly began to speak with the help of pictures. When the family moved to Las Vegas, they had limited resources until they were connected with Family TIES, and the Families for Effective Autism Treatment (FEAT) program. Now Darian and his whole family are flourishing thanks to Family TIES guidance, support, and information, and his mother is a proud Resource Coordinator in the Family TIES Las Vegas office.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS
Prenatal and Opioids: As part of their role on the Community Action Team (CAT), Northern Nevada Maternal Child health Coalition, and the Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR), Family TIES actively participated in mortality reviews, Public Service Announcements planning, and trainings. Specifically, as part of the CAT, Family TIES worked to encourage early prenatal care implementing the nationally recognized “Go Before You Show” public awareness campaign. Additionally, in collaboration with Join Together Northern Nevada (JTNN), staff focused on outreach and education about substance use and abuse during pregnancy. Staff conducted presentations related to these efforts at various locations such as the University of Nevada, Reno, Project Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) and the Saint Mary’s Regional Medical Center.

Mental Health: The Nevada Division of Child and Family Services was awarded a nearly $11Million grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to support the development of comprehensive mental health services and wraparound support for children with serious emotional disturbances and their families. The F2F joined the Washoe County Children’s Mental Health Consortium to be a part of this effort. Additionally, the State of NV received a planning grant to develop new Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics. Family TIES was invited to participate as a member on the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics Planning Grant Committee to support efforts for the development of a state wide integrated behavioral health and primary care delivery model.

2016 Assistance to congressional offices: Senator Heller’s office contacted Family Ties for assistance after the NV Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) requested help for a 49 year old constituent with developmental disabilities who was struggling with homelessness. ADSD had been unable to coordinate all of the right services to secure housing and stability. Family TIES and the ADSD collaborated to secure the right resources for the constituent.