

Dear Sir and Madam

Anna Maria Jarvis (born 1864), was a defenseless service to life."

12-year-old girl when she heard her mother say: "I hope and memorial day for mothers who will honour her for her humanity on every field of

Anna's mother, Ann, was a formidable woman and a health activist who established clubs to help particularly poor mothers prevent childhood illnesses and infant deaths. The same clubs were also involved in the care of wounded soldiers on both sides of the U.S.

Citizen War, and after the war she arranged a Mother's Friendship Day parade to help bring about unity and reconciliation.

Mother's Day was introduced by Anna Maria Jarvis when her Mother passed away, but after President Woodrow Wilson officially declared the second Sunday of May to Mother's Day in 1914, the day was exploited more and more commercially, and Anna declared, among other things: "A printed card means nothing but that you are too lazy to write to the woman who did more for you than anyone else in the world."

Thank you so much, Jo-Dolphin staff, for helping our learners to make this first-class key holder cards for their moms "who have done more for them than anyone else in the world"!

**But what does it entail being the mother of a child with a serious disability?**

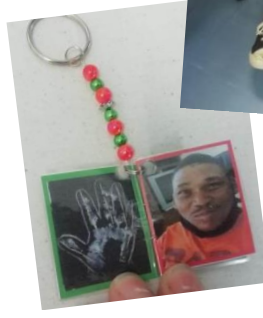
No parent wants his/her child to be sick or disabled. It is not an experience that any parent envisions. Yet most families gain the strength to adapt and deal with the stress and challenges that the child's disability brings about.

*I have learned, and grown, more since Dylan's birth than any other time in my life. You learn patience, and you get to witness miracles that you otherwise would have been too busy to have noticed... You learn acceptance, you realize you have been wrong to judge, and you learn that there is a thing called unconditional love. <https://www.parentcenterhub.org>*

Miriam Gwynne refers to herself as a parent of two children with special needs, a caregiver, a blogger, and a person who believes in the impossible. She is a mother to twins who are both autistic.

*Firstly, I want to stress that I am blessed. But secondly I also want to say that I still struggle. Miriam Gwynne*

She underlines the impact a disabled child has on the family and says: There are places you can't go. Many places are already wheelchair-friendly, but not autism friendly, a sick child or a child who tends to get convulsions and emotional outbursts.



She describes having to plan a visit to the local supermarket with military precision and then pray that a trolley, suitable for a disabled child, is available, that the music is not too loud, the products are still packed on the shelves in the same places and that the rows at the cashiers are not too long.

Parents worry about test results, surgeries, fever, infections, next therapy sessions, the struggle to obtain appropriate services for special needs and then the bigger unsettling reality: the future.

Often there are other children who also demand attention and support, which brings the mother to the reality that she needs to act in relieving that feeling of the disabled child. She sees the disabled child breaking the other children's toys and valuables, without making a fuss, and they have to accept and deal with them.

She's afraid her children are hiding problems because they don't want to place extra burdens on their parents, or that they don't see a chance to ask for money if a school task or outing because they know that money is scarce. She realises that her children should not bear such responsibility when these are the realities of their lives.

**The balance is often impossible for parents of disabled children to get right. Whilst one child might be registered disabled, emotionally everyone in the family is disabled too. Miriam Gwynne**

If a child wakes screaming in the middle of the night, the whole family gets little to no sleep. When a child is nauseous at the dining table, no one enjoys eating. If a child is dispatched to go to daycare, it causes the whole family to arrive late at their destinations. It's a ripple effect.

**We need to support disabled children. We need to continue to spread awareness of disability in all its forms and continue to invest in services, therapies, and medical equipment. But we also need to remember the parents and brothers and sisters who live with disability on a daily basis. They might look fine, but remember a disabled child is in fact a disabled family. And they ALL need our prayers and support. Miriam Gwynne**

**We honour, in this newsletter, the mothers of children with special needs for defenceless service and dedication to their families. May the Lord supply your needs and give you strength never to be discouraged.**

The objectives set by management are:

Two goals have finished: The learner numbers have been increased to 30 learners and the website has been implemented.

Support services to four satellite towns:

In collaboration with the SPID team of experts, the plan for outreach is drawn up to the first satellite.

Fundraising projects:

Food sales were held and well supported on Fridays.

The Covid-19 lockdowns prevent us from launching major projects that include contact and many people.

Hearty greetings,



(Mrs.) Hanlie van Wyk  
On behalf of the Board

Jo-Dolphin Swartland APD • NPO Registrastion No: 058-696 NPO • PBO Registrastion No: 930034212 • Weekdays 07h00-16h00  
5 Albanie street - P. O Box 321 - Malmesbury - 7299 • Telephone 022 - 487 1156 • Email: [jodolphinmbury@telkomsa.net](mailto:jodolphinmbury@telkomsa.net)

Website: <https://www.jodolphinswartlandapd.org>