

Families Testimony

#1

I was introduced to EESNC through my son's primary care provider, who connected me with a program member and then introduced me to Azeb. From the beginning, I appreciated the supportive environment where parents can openly share ideas and information on how best to support our children.

When I first joined, I was unsure about pursuing a diagnosis for my son. With Azeb's encouragement and guidance, I made the decision to move forward so I could better support him. After my son entered special education, particularly during the IEP and placement process, EESNC provided consistent and meaningful support.

Through EESNC, I have connected with other parents to exchange ideas, uplift one another, and learn together. The program has made it easier for me to advocate for my son at school and has better equipped me to support him at home.

#2

I first learned about the Ethiopian Eritrean Special Needs Community (EESNC) through a friend, and it has truly changed my family's life. For the first time, I received clear, reliable information and answers to questions I had been struggling with for years. Through EESNC, I learned how to understand my child's IEP, know my legal rights, and advocate effectively—things I could not have done on my own.

What has meant the most to me is the sense of community. EESNC provides a safe, judgment-free space where families share similar experiences. It helped me release stress, overcome stigma, and feel less alone. Today, I feel supported, empowered, and connected, and I am deeply grateful for the impact EESNC has had on my family.

#3

I became involved with EESNC in 2020 after being introduced by family members, at a time when my son had just been diagnosed and everything felt overwhelming. I did not know where to turn for social or educational support, and I felt lost.

What has helped me most is the wide range of support EESNC provides—systemic guidance, emotional support, and genuine friendships. Through attending meetings, my child has had opportunities to connect with other children, and I was reminded that I was not alone in this journey. I have built meaningful friendships, and the group has supported us with school-related issues, emotional wellbeing, and so much more.

EESNC is a special and unique resource for Ethiopian families. I participate in student care activities and parent nights, and while it was difficult at first to step out and engage, connecting with the community has been incredibly rewarding for both me and my family.

#4

I became involved with EESNC when my son was six, after learning about the group from other parents. I wanted to give back to a community that is so supportive and generous. Connecting with families who have gone through similar experiences—especially parents who are further along in the journey—has been incredibly valuable, particularly at the beginning.

This community is empowering because we truly understand one another. I have made meaningful friendships, gained confidence in handling everyday tasks, and felt a strong sense of acceptance. Our children are also building friendships and learning to connect with one another. The support we receive through EESNC has helped us navigate the school system through advocacy, shared knowledge, and strong social connections.