

**THE 8TH ANNUAL CONNECTING HEARTS,
RAISING VOICES BENEFIT**

FEATURING KEVIN KLING



November 15, 2019 | 5:00 to 8:00 PM | Minnesota Humanities Center

Kevin Kling, playwright and storyteller, has performed all over the world and his commentaries can be heard on NPR's All things Considered. Kevin has a special appreciation for the work of Family Voices of Minnesota as a person who has personal experience with living with a disability.

Our benefit is raising money to provide support, individual assistance, and information for families of children with disabilities and special health care needs through our CONNECTED Parent-to-Parent program. We are so excited for Kevin's special performance at our benefit this year that will include appetizers, cash bar, silent auction and great music by the duo Quinn and Mayer.

We asked Kevin a few questions in anticipation of his performance:

How did you get started as a storyteller/performer?: "I've always been a storyteller and loved language and stories. It also became clear that once you can tell a story about something it doesn't control you any longer. So, stories became a method of coping and thriving in an able-bodied world. I also loved making people laugh as a kid and that has continued into my adulthood."

What drew you to the work that Family Voices of Minnesota does?: "I think it's important and vital that people that have children and work with children that have disabilities find support and networking for the unique challenges of their everyday lives. I know as a person with a disability I am just part of a much larger story that helps me navigate a world that was not built for me. I feel so blessed with the people in my life that were there and continue to be there for me. I think Family Voices is amazing."

What can people expect from your performance at the benefit?: "Laughter. I think a lot of healing comes from laughing. Also, family stories and stories about working in a community of people with disabilities."

Please join us for this special evening on November 15th for appetizers, drinks, music and the wonderfully woven stories of Kevin Kling.

Family Voices CONNECTED program is a free state-wide program where parents can call, text or web-chat with our staff who are all parents of children with disabilities. When a parent contacts us, they will be able to receive information and assistance to help get needed services and supports including financial, healthcare, educational and community support. Parents also receive emotional support, so they do not feel so alone as well as encouragement and education to speak up for their child and get needed services.

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