



Fighting Covid, "Heck Yeah!"

By Mike Rosen

I love comics, to say the least. I've been an avid reader and collector for decades. I am a board member of NWDSA/ABI, so, when the team suggested a Covid prevention comic as a project, I said, "Heck yeah!" Or, at least, that's what I was thinking. Staff and the [youth group](#) were looking at resources, and saw a need to create a more accessible resource about fighting Covid with a person with a disability as a powerful character.

In addition to being fun, comics possess super-powers of their own. It's known that they can turn reluctant readers into ravenous ones, they give struggling readers confidence, they expand vocabulary, they can be a valuable accompaniment for other learning disciplines, and there are many different genres to suit a variety of tastes. Plus, they bring people together! When I first met Daniel Jarvis-Holland, another comics fan, we immediately had something to talk about.

Portland is "Comics Town USA," with its many publishers, artists and writers. When we decided to move ahead with this project, after securing OHA funding, I reached out to my comics artist and writer friend, [Shannon Wheeler](#). He is best known for his satirical character, Too Much Coffee Man and his New Yorker magazine cartoons. Shannon was eager to jump on board. As he said recently, "Every now and again a project comes along that's both something you believe in and is really fun to do to. This is now and I hope again. It was great."

The youth and Shannon are also looking forward to two interactive virtual sessions, where they will learn more about making comics and creating their own art. Contact Kate at kwilliamspaul@nwdsa.org for more information.

For me, it has been great working with Shannon and the NW Disability Support team, reviewing and commenting on Shannon's great work, and watching it unfold. And, very soon, you'll have the comic, "Fighting Covid," in your hands, available in both English and Spanish. The youth and families did a photoshoot with our friend Jeff at [Jeff Day Photography](#), capturing ways to be superheroes and be safe.

**LOOK FOR MORE INFO ABOUT "FIGHTING COVID"
AND AN UPCOMING PPE EVENT COMING SOON!**

