# SOME Helpful LOCAL Resources on Autism Spectrum Disorders

*Compiled by Autism Society Western New York 2023*

***Due to the COVID pandemic, some of these resources may be currently dormant or may temporarily discontinue their operations. Contact them individually to confirm their current status. Updated February 15, 2023.***

Resources for Parents

**Autism Society Western New York (ASWNY)** 19 Limestone Drive, Suite 1, Williamsville, NY 14221 [www.autismwny.org](http://www.autismwny.org/) Email [info@autismwny.org](mailto:info@autismwny.org) or call 716-633-2275. **Sign up for our email list for notifications of upcoming events, informational meetings, and support groups at** [**www.autismwny.org**](http://www.autismwny.org)**. Click on “Join ASWNY e-mail list” and reply to the confirmation e-mail.** Check our website and EVENTS calendar for various WNY agencies’ workshops and events. Website contains information and links on a wide range of topics including safety options, local agencies, support groups, recreation and therapy options. There is also information on biomedical research and diet. Follow us on Facebook.

**APIC Access to Psychiatry through Intermediate Care** [www.apicout.org](http://www.apicout.org) for individuals across the lifespan with developmental disabilities with and without co-occurring mental illness. UB School of Medicine, Dept. of Psychiatry staffs the APIC model. Staff includes psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, psychologists, and cross systems navigators. Provides medication management, dually diagnosed wraparound services, and access to mobile psychiatric care. Goal is to provide access to appropriate services and reduce emergency room visits and hospitalizations. Eligible individuals must be at high risk for emergency room visits, hospitalization, polypharmacy, arrest, or loss of school/residential placement. Contact 716-406-7005.

**ATI (Alternatives to Incarceration)** is operated by Community Services for Every 1 (formerly Community Services for the DD). Supports those who have a developmental or learning disability. The program provides advocacy and assistance throughout the court process and monitors legal obligations while working with probation, parole, and courts to establish a plan for success. Program staff will conduct assessments and provide case management in order to determine risk related to recidivism. Services within Erie County only. [www.csevery1.com](http://www.csevery1.com) (Click on Adult Services) Call 716-883-8002 ext. 441.

**Complete Wellness Arts & Science Center** 1515 Kensington Ave., Buffalo, NY 14215. [www.completewellnesswny.com](http://www.completewellnesswny.com/)

The Wellness Center offers an exceptional and comprehensive collection of healing practices and inspiring, and educational wellness classes. Cultivate wellness with Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy, Hypnosis, Pain Management, Infrared Light Therapy, Physical Therapy, Reiki, Cooking Classes, workshops, and more. 716-253-6548

**DDAWNY (Developmental Disabilities Alliance of WNY)** [www.ddawny.org](http://www.ddawny.org) Great resource for advocacy for legislative change for adults with developmental disabilities. A link for the DDAWNY Guide to Services 2019 can be found under Resources.

**Parent Network of WNY** 1021 Broadway, Buffalo, NY14212 [www.parentnetworkwny.org](http://www.parentnetworkwny.org) [info@parentnetworkwny.org](mailto:info@parentnetworkwny.org)

English 716-332-4170 or Espanol 716-449-6394 or Toll Free 866-277-4762. Parent Network’s goal is to empower families to successfully advocate for their children with special needs to see that they receive proper care and education. Open to both families and professionals, they offer free workshops, conferences, information and referral services, and resources. Program/Services include 1-on-1 Family Support Specialist, Behavior Support and Advocacy, and an OPWDD Eligibility Navigator.

**Parent to Parent of NYS Western Region** Office connects families of individuals with special needs through a parent matching program, helps families locate resources, offers support, and a variety of free webinars. Sharon Linne [slinne@ptopnys.org](mailto:slinne@ptopnys.org) 585-424-7211 or Barbara Hoffman [bhoffman@ptopnys.org](mailto:bhoffman@ptopnys.org) [www.parenttoparentnys.org/offices/western/](http://www.parenttoparentnys.org/offices/western/)

**Tourette Association of Greater NY State** 20 Thomas Jefferson Lane, Buffalo, NY 14226 [www.tsa-gnys.org](http://www.tsa-gnys.org) 716-839-4430 Provides Tourette Syndrome literature, adult and child support groups, physician referral services, medical and counseling referral services, annual overnight camping program, school advocacy, speaker's bureau, biennial conference, and education for the general public about Tourette Syndrome through quarterly newsletter and general meetings.

Evaluations for Autism Spectrum Disorder

**The Children’s Guild Foundation Autism Spectrum Disorder Center at Oishei Children's Outpatient Center**

Oishei Children’s Outpatient Center (Conventus), 1001 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14203. 716-323-6560 Evaluations for ASD. First family-focused, multi-disciplinary Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Center of its kind in WNY offers monthly parent groups and quarterly newly diagnosed information sessions for parents and adult family members of children diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. They also have a Community ASD Calendar, Parent Support Group listing and Resource Page on their web site. [www.ochbuffalo.org/care-treatment/#Autism-Spectrum-Disorder-Center](http://www.ochbuffalo.org/care-treatment/#Autism-Spectrum-Disorder-Center)

Evaluations for Autism Spectrum Disorder (continued)

**Levine Autism Clinic, Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, Univ. of Rochester Medical Center, Golisano Children's Hospital**, 200 East River Rd, Third floor, Rochester, NY 14623 585-275-2986 Very extensive evaluation for ASD. They take insurance including Medicaid. See if your insurance requires referral, preapproval, and/or out of pocket costs. Provides comprehensive and coordinated care to children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Their team of experts monitor developmental progress, treats health problems associated with ASD, assesses and treats behavior problems, and ensures that families have needed resources and connections to community support. Facebook.com/DBPeds.GCH [www.urmc.rochester.edu/childrens-hospital/developmental-disabilities/services/levine.aspx](http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/childrens-hospital/developmental-disabilities/services/levine.aspx)

Support Groups

**Akron Parents of Children with Special Needs** hosts workshops and discusses and finds plans to help children with challenges within school, extracurricular activities or family situations with the overall goal of inclusiveness. Meets once a month virtually. Date and time listed on Facebook: Akron Parents of Children with Special Needs. Contact Nicole LaMonte-DeGolier 818-625-0486 or [Akronspecialneeds@gmail.com](mailto:Akronspecialneeds@gmail.com).

**Buffalo Autism Parent Group** A group for parents and caregivers of children with autism. Participate in-person at Buffalo State College, 103 Ketchum Hall, Room 211, 1300 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222 or via Zoom.Meets “Teenth” Wednesday of each month from 6:30 pm-7:30 pm. Go to <https://www.ochbuffalo.org/care-treatment/Autism-Spectrum-Disorder-Center/Community-Calendar> community calendar for upcoming meeting dates. For more info. email [jmertz@kaleidahealth.org](mailto:jmertz@kaleidahealth.org).

**Chautauqua County Family & Caregiver Support Group** meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 12:00 pm-1:00 pm via Zoom due to COVID. Go to [www.parentnetworkwny.org](http://www.parentnetworkwny.org) events calendar for upcoming meeting dates. For more info. 716-332-4170 or email info@parentnetwork.org.

**Child & Family Support Program (CFSP)** A peer run program within the **Mental Health Advocates of WNY** focuses on issues affecting families that have emotional, behavioral, or mental health challenges.  [www.mhawny.org](http://www.mhawny.org)

**Support Group for Caregivers of Children, Teen, and Young Adults ages 18-26** Family support groups are offered through MHA’s [Child and Family Support Program](http://mhawny.test/program/child-family-support-program/) and are open to parents, foster parents, grandparents or any caregiver/guardian to provide support and alleviate isolation. Meets 1st & 3rd Friday of each month in-person from 6:00pm-7:30pm at Pilgrim–St. Luke’s United Church of Christ, 335 Richmond Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222. To sign-up: RSVP to [trogers@mhawny.org](mailto:trogers@mhawny.org) or call 716-886-1242 x 346.

**Teen Peer Support Group for ages 13-18** Groups are peer-led and offer a safe place for youth to connect, receive support as well as celebrate accomplishments and practice self-care skills in this new era of social distancing. Meets 1st & 3rd Friday via Zoom and in-person from 6:00pm–7:30pm at Pilgrim–St. Luke’s United Church of Christ, 335 Richmond Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222. To sign-up: RSVP to [peersupport@mhawny.org](mailto:peersupport@mhawny.org) or call 716-886-1242 x 345, or text 716-245-5339.

**20-Something Support Group (ages 18-28)** Strength-based and recovery-centered group provides validation and support to emerging adults facing mental health and/or substance use struggles. Meets 2nd & 4th Friday of each month from 6:00pm-7:30pm via Zoom and in-person at Pilgrim–St. Luke’s United Church of Christ, 35 Richmond Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222. For more information or to sign-up: RSVP to [peersupport@mhawny.org](mailto:peersupport@mhawny.org) or call 716-886-1242 x 345, or text 716-245-5339.

**Writing & Well Being Group** is for adults (ages 18 and up) with a mental health diagnosis interested in using writing in their mental health recovery. Meets Mondays at 1:00 pm via Zoom and the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month at 10:00 am in-person. To sign-up: RSVP to [bmcnally@mhawny.org](mailto:bmcnally@mhawny.org) or 716-886-1242 x 347. You will receive a confirmation email with location information.

**Coping with Stress and Anxiety Group** meets online weekly to share stories, emotions, and skills to manage fear during these trying times. Mondays at 6:00 pmvia Zoom. To sign-up: RSVP to [bmcnally@mhawny.org](mailto:bmcnally@mhawny.org) or 716-886-1242 x 347. You will receive a confirmation email with log-in information.

**Mental Health Support Group** meets Tuesdays at 2:30 pm via Zoom and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm via phone conference. To sign-up: RSVP to [bmcnally@mhawny.org](mailto:bmcnally@mhawny.org) or 716-886-1242 x 347. You will receive a confirmation email with log-in information.

**The Link WNY's Family & Caregiver Group** meets first Monday of the month from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm via Zoom. Go to [www.parentnetworkwny.org](http://www.parentnetworkwny.org) events calendar for upcoming meeting dates. For more info. 716-332-4170 or email [info@parentnetwork.org](mailto:info@parentnetwork.org).

**Grand Island Autism Support Group** Facebook group only [www.facebook.com/GrandIslandNYSupportGroup](http://www.facebook.com/GrandIslandNYSupportGroup)

Other Groups

**Developmental Disabilities Alliance of WNY Family Committee** informs family members about their rights, protections, service, and the wide range of options available for their loved ones with developmental disabilities. Focus: Advocacy and living options for individuals with DD. Meets via Zoom on 3rd Tuesday each month at 7 pm Facebook: Developmental Disabilities Alliance of WNY Family Committee. [www.ddawny.org/committees/family-committee/](http://www.ddawny.org/committees/family-committee/)

**WNY/DDAWNY Transition Committee** plays an integral role with 14–21-year-old students with disabilities who are preparing to leave mandated educational services.  The Committee advocates, in compliance with New York State law, that our population receive appropriate transition planning. The Committee facilitates information, training, and a variety of resources to benefit students with disabilities. The committee invites school districts, community agencies, families, and any stakeholders who would like current information around transition. Meets the second Friday, most months Sept.-May, 9:00-11:00 a.m. All meetings will be held via Zoom with the exception of Nov. and April. [www.ddawny.org/committees/transition/](http://www.ddawny.org/committees/transition/) Need more information contact co-facilitators, Pam Cronyn [PCronyn@arceriecounty.org](mailto:PCronyn@arceriecounty.org)  or Tonia Weichmann [tlw@parentnetworkwny.org](mailto:tlw@parentnetworkwny.org).

**Local SEPTSA (Special Education Parent, Teacher, and Student Assoc.) and SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Committee) Groups** are not specifically for autism, but they are a source of support and a way to network with other parents.

* **Buffalo Public Schools SEPAC** (**Virtua**l)[www.buffaloschools.org/Page/83977](http://www.buffaloschools.org/Page/83977)Contact: Vanessa Guerra 716-816-4747 or [vguerra@buffaloschools.org](mailto:vguerra@buffaloschools.org) [www.facebook.com/SEPACBUFF](http://www.facebook.com/SEPACBUFF)
* **Foundation for Inclusive Catholic Education (FICE)** [www.fice-program.org](http://www.fice-program.org) Email: [ficeprogram@yahoo.com](mailto:ficeprogram@yahoo.com), 716-536-3887 Facebook: FICE: Foundation for Inclusive Catholic Education WNY
* **Hamburg Central PTSA** [www.facebook.com/groups/hcptsa](http://www.facebook.com/groups/hcptsa)
* **Ken-Ton SEPTO** [www.ktsepto.org](http://www.ktsepto.org)716-427-3719 Facebook: Ken-Ton SEPTO Special Education Parent Teacher Organization. No meetings scheduled at this time due to COVID.
* **Orchard Park Special Education PTSA** (**virtual & in-person**) Questions? [www.opseptsa.org](http://www.opseptsa.org) Email: [OPSEPTSA@gmail.com](mailto:OPSEPTSA@gmail.com)
* **West Seneca SEPTA (virtual)** Meets 3rd Thursday of every month Sept. – May (No meeting in Dec.) at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. [Westsenecasepta@yahoo.com](mailto:Westsenecasepta@yahoo.com) or 716-393-9674. [www.facebook.com/westsenecaSepta](http://www.facebook.com/westsenecaSepta)
* **Williamsville SEPTSA (Virtual)** [www.williamsvilleseptsa.org](http://www.williamsvilleseptsa.org) [williamsvilleseptsa@gmail.com](mailto:williamsvilleseptsa@gmail.com) www.facebook.com/WSEPTSA Dave Whalen, President 716-565-9338

Groups for Siblings

**Niagara Frontier Sibshops** Meets bi-monthly from 11 am-2pm on Saturdays and special events. Lunch is provided. Cost: $5/child; $10 maximum per/family. Scholarships available. Empower, 9812 Lockport Rd., Niagara Falls, NY 14304 Contact: Robin Stevens at 716-478-9528 or [rstevens@empower-wny.org](mailto:rstevens@empower-wny.org) for dates and to register. Follow on Facebook [www.facebook.com/EmpowerWNY/](http://www.facebook.com/EmpowerWNY/)

**WNY Sibshop at Canisius College** **Ages 6-12**Upcoming session September 17 from 1 pm – 5 pm at Canisius College Richard E. Winter '42 Student Center's Grupp Fireside Lounge, on Hughes St. in Buffalo, NY  14215. Future sessions are now scheduled for November 19 2022 and February 11 2023. This program provides support, guidance, and opportunities for peer interactions to siblings of children with special needs.  Sibshops are lively, action packed 4-hour workshops that celebrate the many contributions made by brothers and sisters of kids with special needs.  Cost per session: $20 to register the first child in the family, additional children $5 each.  They also have a library for parents and siblings. [www.sibshopwny.com](http://www.sibshopwny.com/). Contact Dr. Susan Putnam at 716-574-9217 [profputnam@gmail.com](mailto:profputnam@gmail.com).

**Teen Group for Sibs** Currently looking forward to forming a new teen group for **ages 13-17** centered around social activities. If interested, contact Dr. Susan Putnam at 716-574-9217 or [profputnam@gmail.com](mailto:profputnam@gmail.com).

Groups for Individuals on the Spectrum

**Online Support Group for Young Adults (18 – 30 years old) with Autism**

Online support group run by Patty McCalister, LMHC. This group will allow you to make connections with your peers via Zoom sessions (in-person session TBD). A variety of topics will be discussed relevant to group members and guest speakers will be invited to join a few of the groups. Contact: [patriciamccalisterlmhc@gmail.com](mailto:patriciamccalisterlmhc@gmail.com) for upcoming dates and times and to sign up or text 716-345-5450.

**Asperger’s Group** - Autism Services offers bi-monthly Asperger’s group social meetings, in which people can discuss struggles and successes in their lives, as well as play games and just enjoy each other’s company. Meets in Buffalo on the first Wednesday of the month from 5:00 pm – 6:15 pm Contact Veronica at 716-631-5777 ext. 318 or [vfedericoni@autism-services-inc.org](mailto:vfedericoni@autism-services-inc.org).

Training/Workshops

**Autism Society Western New York** 19 Limestone Drive, Suite 1, Williamsville, NY 14221[www.autismwny.org](http://www.autismwny.org)

716-633-2275 [info@autismwny.org](mailto:info@autismwny.org) Inexpensive half-day workshops/webinars held twice a year. Check our EVENTS page on our website for information on a wide range of WNY workshops and events.

**Autism Research Institute (ARI)** Offers free online webinars for parents and professionals. [www.autism.org](http://www.autism.org)

ARI is a non-profit organization focused on conducting and sponsoring research aimed at improving the quality of life for today’s generation of children and adults with autism spectrum disorders.

**CARD Albany: The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the University at Albany** Statewide agency that provides evidence-based training and support to families and professionals. Annual conference rotates locations and is in Buffalo every few years. www.albany.edu/autism [card@albany.edu](mailto:card@albany.edu) 518-442-2574 **Due to COVID, no new events are scheduled at this time.**

**Parent Network of WNY** 1021 Broadway, Buffalo, NY14212 [www.parentnetworkwny.org](http://www.parentnetworkwny.org) [info@parentnetworkwny.org](mailto:info@parentnetworkwny.org)

English 716-332-4170 or Espanol 716-449-6394 or Toll Free 866-277-4762 Many FREE workshops on a wide range of topics. Complete schedule on website. Semi-annual conferences with nationally known speakers (fee).

**Family Empowerment Series** develops your leadership skills to help you support families and individuals with disabilities, educate the community about the issues/struggles individuals with disabilities face, connect with a larger group of parent leaders with similar goals/ideas, and empower yourself and others to speak up. FREE.

**The Summit Center** Periodicworkshops and trainings for parents and professionals. [www.thesummitcenter.org](http://www.thesummitcenter.org) 716-629-3400

**WNY Regional Center for ASD (local CARD)** [www.thesummitcenter.org/wny-regional-center-for-asd/](http://www.thesummitcenter.org/wny-regional-center-for-asd/) 716-629-3417

The Summit Center, 150 Stahl Rd, Getzville, NY 14068 The WNY Regional Center for ASD provides support to families and professionals in seven counties (Niagara, Erie, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany, Genesee, and Orleans) including the 97 school districts in the region. Primarily addresses the needs of children and adults with ASD between the ages of 4 to 21 years.

Agencies/Services/Supports

**Accessible Academics** Advocates for and provides life, academic, and job skill support to teens and young adults with disabilities and/or academic challenges. [info@accessibleacademics.org](mailto:info@accessibleacademics.org) 716-492-8656 [www.accessibleacademics.org](http://www.accessibleacademics.org)

**Aspire of WNY** [www.aspirewny.org](https://us-east-2.protection.sophos.com/?d=aspirewny.org&u=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5hc3BpcmV3bnkub3JnLw==&i=NWFkNWVkZTQ0YzdiYTgxMmUzOWM2MWJh&t=OS95cEZOQWRYS3RPcGt6NHU3YzR1dHM0cnNnVkZqWk52NDZPYWJ5Tm01dz0=&h=7ff4c5707c6a45278b99f70fd07572e5)  General Information contact their Agency Outreach and Central Intake department at 716-838-0047 or email [info@aspirewny.org](mailto:info@aspirewny.org).

**Aspire Center for Learning**school is not autism specific. Offers preschool services and school age services up to age 21 along with the Children's Discovery Corner Day Care. 716-505-5700

**Aspire of WNY's Community and Independent Living Supports:**  Aspire provides Community Habilitation Services, along with In-Home Respite, After School Respite (housed at Aspire’s Center for Learning location), and Saturday Respite services.  Aspire also offers Self-Directed Services, Environmental Modifications (E-MOD), Assistive Technology (A-Tech), and employment services.

**Aspire Health Center** Offers Article 16 Clinic services such as physical therapy and speech therapy, along with mental health counseling. 716-505-5630. Located in Cheektowaga. Evergreen Health recently assumed oversight of our primary care and podiatry. The server people aged 18 and above. Podiatry is offered for people who are 14 years old and above. 716-847-2441. ​

**Residential Opportunities** Individual Residential Alternatives (IRA) offers opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities of varying capabilities to live in a setting consistent with the person's need for support.   Aspire operates 43 group homes around WNY.  Must be OPWDD eligible and apply through the Certified Residential Opportunities process through OPWDD.

**Aspires Outreach & Central Intake Dept.**offers Family Support Services (FSS) Counseling Program (Chautauqua County), Community Outreach, Aspire Helping Hands, and Home Services Programs.  716-838-0047.

**Aspire** can assist you with employment opportunities through personalized supports. Individual career services can include:

* + - * **ACCESS-VR Services** includes personalized vocational evaluations, work experience opportunities through internships, technology evaluations, and job coaching.
* **Community Based Pre-Vocational Services**assists with soft skill training, career exploration and assessments.
* **OPWDD Supported Employment** offers personalized job development and coaching.
* **Employment Training Program** through OPWDD funding supports, participants are offered paid internships at local businesses with the ultimate goal of paid employment.
* **Consolidated Supports and Services (CSS)** through OPWDD Front Door and CSS programs, participants can contract personalized employment support services.

Agencies/Services/Supports (continued)

Aspire of WNY (continued)

Traditional Day Habilitation and Non-Traditional Day Habilitation includes site-based day hab, Supported Volunteering and Lifestyle Enrichment (SVLE), Technology Today, The Co-Op, Student Transition Services, and iXpress Art Program.

School to Adult Life Transitions Aspire of WNY's transition plans are designed to adhere to NYS graduation guidelines and can include:

* **Vocational Profiles** an in-depth profile of the individual's skills, interests, learning abilities, and opportunities for success in the community. This person-centered approach is designed to empower the supported individual to achieve their highest potential for activities and employment.  716-836-7235
* **World of Work (WOW) Program**  Individualized Career & Transition Services of Aspire of WNY teaches students ages 14-21 transferrable skills; helping to lay a rudimentary occupational foundation which they can build upon throughout high school. WOW is for school districts in Erie County.  Contact Paula Kerber 716-505 5262 or [Paula.Kerber@aspirewny.org](mailto:Paula.Kerber@aspirewny.org).
* **Educational Coaching/College Support Plans** are designed to prepare the student for a seamless transition from high school into college life.  716-836-7235
* **Western New York Project SEARCH Collaborative** is a business-led partnership which offers a school-to-work program alternative for students with disabilities who are in their last year of high school. The program is provided by Beechwood Continuing Care in conjunction with Erie 1 BOCES, Aspire of WNY and The Summit Center. Placement in Project SEARCH is determined by your local school district's Committee on Special Education. Upon successful completion of the program, a student will earn the Skills & Achievement Commencement Credential. For an application and enrollment information, please contact John Pope, Erie 1 BOCES at 716-821-7017 or [jpope@e1b.org](mailto:jpope@e1b.org).

**Autism Learning Partners** Amherst, NY[www.autismlearningpartners.com](http://www.pacificchild.com) Provides Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) in home and in school in the WNY area. Accepts Insurance. No Medicaid. Call 888-805-0759 for more information.

**Autism Services, Inc*.***40 Hazelwood Drive, Amherst, NY   716-631-5777 [www.autism-services-inc.org](http://www.autism-services-inc.org/) Provides a broad range of services to individuals with ASD and their families including Adult Day Services, Employment Services, Residential Services and Family Support Services including after school, vacation camp, and Saturday respite. Must have an ASD diagnosis and be OPWDD qualified. Various locations.

**Educational Program (ages 5-21)** in Amherst and Buffalo. Must have an ASD diagnosis.

**Autism Resource Library** includes books and sensory items that parents or professionals can borrow at the Amherst location.

**In Home Clinical Support** APositive Behavior Support Professional will assess your child and provide consult support services designed to give you ideas on how to better manage your child's behavioral issues.

**Social Skills Groups** **for Children with Autism/ASD** meets evenings in Amherst to develop social skills to help children learn to better "fit in" at school, work and home.

**Supplemental Day Hab** Enrichment program held twice a month in the evening at 6pm in Williamsville includes art, music and movement.  Must be OPWDD qualified, with ASD diagnosis and living at home.

**Autism Center for Learning** co-sponsors two workshops a year with ASWNY.

**BestSelf Behavioral Health** offers a wide range of programs and services to meet the community’s needs including but not limited to education and vocational supports, mobile mental health and substance use disorder services, homeless outreach and housing, community and school-based programs. [www.bestselfwny.org](http://www.bestselfwny.org) 716-884-0888 [info@bestselfwny.org](mailto:info@bestselfwny.org)  
**Building Brighter Futures (BBF)** High quality school-based social-emotional supports and expanded learning programs for students and their families in grades K-12 at over 25 school and community based sites. [www.bestselfwny.org/programs-and-services/school-based-programs/](http://www.bestselfwny.org/programs-and-services/school-based-programs/)

**Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)** is a highly effective, evidence-based therapy approach designed for young children (ages 2-7) with disruptive and challenging behaviors. In PCIT, the therapist works together with the child and their parent(s) or other caregivers, helping children learn to regulate their emotions and behavior in an age-appropriate way.

**Parent-Child Interaction Therapy with Toddlers (PCIT-T)** is an evidence-based program for addressing and preventing behavior problems affecting a young toddler’s development. [www.bestselfwny.org/programs-and-services/parent-child-interaction-therapy-pcit/](http://www.bestselfwny.org/programs-and-services/parent-child-interaction-therapy-pcit/)

**Bornhava** is an early intervention and preschool program, nurturing and educating children with developmental disabilities.

25 Chateau Terrace, Buffalo, NY 14226 [www.bornhava.org](http://www.bornhava.org) 716-839-1655 [info@bornhava.org](mailto:info@bornhava.org)

Agencies/Services/Supports (continued)

**Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center (BHSC)** 716-885-8318 [www.askbhsc.org](http://www.askbhsc.org/) 50 E. North Street, Buffalo, NY 14203

**Social Communication Program** (ages 5 yrs.-18 yrs.) and **Language to Literacy** (ages 6 yrs.-18 yrs.). Most major insurances and Medicaid accepted. Programs will be housed at 50 E. North Street, Buffalo location.

**Supplemental Learning Programs:  Learning Literacy Program** (ages 6-18) and **Social Skills** (ages 5-18) Private Pay. In-person programs will be housed at 5225 Sheridan Dr., Williamsville location.

**BHSC's 2023 Program**

**Winter 2023:** Jan.18 – March 30, 2023, 90 minute sessions, 2 evenings per week: either Mon./Wed. or Tues./Thurs.

**Summer 2023:** July 5 – Aug. 17, 2023, 90 minute sessions, 3 days per week, Tues./Wed./Thurs.

**Fall 2023:** Oct. 10 – Dec. 21, 2023, 90 minute sessions, 2 evenings per week: either Mon. /Wed. or Tues./Thurs.

Contact Vivian Logan at 885-8871 ext. 2300 or Steve Miller at 885-8871 ext. 2289.

**Beyond Support Network (formerly known as Cantalician Center)** 2049 George Urban Blvd, Depew NY. 716-901-8700

[www.cantaliciancenter.org](http://www.cantaliciancenter.org) [info@cantalician.org](mailto:info@cantalician.org) Academic Campus and Early Childhood Center at Depew location has sensory therapy and calming rooms, adaptive physical education program, library center, music with adaptive instruments, speech, OT, PT clinic areas, vocational training area for Life Skills Program and more. The agency provides a broad range of services to individuals with disabilities to include daycare, preschool, and school age programs (ages 5-21), vocational and day services, family-centered evaluations (birth-5 years), Supported Employment Services, and Contract Services. Community & Day Services: 716-901-8900

**Chautauqua Opportunities** Jamestown 716-611-9430 and Dunkirk 716-366-8176. Offers services to help individuals in Chautauqua County move from crisis to self-sufficiency. Addresses housing and other issues. [www.chautauquaopportunities.com](http://www.chautauquaopportunities.com)

**The Children’s League** 393 North Street, Springville, NY [www.tclny.org](http://www.tclny.org) 716-592-9331 Provides center-based preschool and school-aged program for ages 0-6 and home and community-based early intervention and preschool services. Instructional methods utilize Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) with a special focus on [Verbal Behavior Training](http://www.preschoollearningcenter.org/index.php?What%20is%20Verbal%20Behavior%20Training%3F). Program emphasizes the development of functional communication skills as well as appropriate social, play, self-help, and academic skills. [info@tclny.org](mailto:info@tclny.org)

**Directions in Independent Living, Inc.** 512 West State St., Olean, NY (main office) serves individuals with cognitive, mental health, physical, visual impairment, sensory disability, or multiple disabilities and their families residing in Cattaraugus and Allegany counties and beyond, regardless of age or economic standing. They have an OPWDD eligibility specialist. Learn more about the numerous programs and services at [www.directions-olean.com](http://www.directions-olean.com). 716-373-4602 [info@oleanilc.org](mailto:info@oleanilc.org)

**Empower** 9812 Lockport Road, Niagara Falls, NY Offers job training, day programs, community housing, community health, and children's preschool - special classes and integrated classes. [www.empower-wny.org](http://www.empower-wny.org) 716-297-0798 [info@empower-wny.org](mailto:info@empower-wny.org)

**The Institute for Autism Research (iar) at Canisius College** offers the empirically validated summerMAX program for 7-12 year old children with autism spectrum disorder without intellectual disability.  The focus of summerMAX is to teach social skills and provide multiple opportunities to practice the skills.  summerMAX works on social skills, interest expansion, interpretation of non-literal language (idioms), and face and affect recognition.  The 2023 summerMAX program is scheduled to be conducted Mon. – Fri from 8:50 a.m.-4:10 p.m., June 26-July 28, 2023.  Families interested in summerMAX 2023 or other programs in development should contact the iar at 716-888-2800 or [iar@canisius.edu](mailto:iar@canisius.edu) or visit [www.canisius.edu/iar](http://www.canisius.edu/iar/)

**INTANDEM** [www.intandem.org](http://www.intandem.org) Niagara and Cattaraugus counties Provides a wide range of services to include Day Program, a wide range of person-centered employment services for eligible youth and adults, Community Habilitation, Niagara Floral Center and Greenhouse/ Horticulture therapy, Fine Arts Program, residential, vocational, recreational, and clinical services. Intake: Cattaragus County 716-701-1135 and Niagara County 716-504-2625 ext. 2407.

**Liberty POST** [www.liberty-post.com](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.liberty-post.com&c=E,1,JsoNYjvrGoBjbyfZF2tvG5_2jvCVpbnVDaWFa3JwNV6-D7uwQcsyHtmuc2HxywNEXeFbFHxF6YZhZtr_bVFRtdPsD8qM_OMMu8GMzuwji1KZHlw,&typo=1) 87 Mead Street, North Tonawanda, NY 14120  716-204-5925 or [kgerace@liberty-resources.org](mailto:kgerace@liberty-resources.org) Their Autism Team includes special education teachers, speech therapists, school psychologists, OT/PTs, and music therapists. Individualized approach using DIRFloortime®, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), and traditional teaching and therapy approaches to support children and their families during their early intervention (EI) and preschool years. Currently offering services through teletherapy, the Liberty POST office, home, daycares, preschools, libraries and outside for EI and PreK.  Provided in the home, day care or preschool settings. Evaluations for EI or preschool services.  Both, Early Intervention (EI) and Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) services are provided at no cost to the family of eligible children ages 0-5.  Offers private pay and school-aged services for children 5 and above.

Agencies/Services/Supports (continued)

**Mental Health Advocates of WNY** 1021 Broadway St., Buffalo, NY 14212 [www.mhawny.org](http://www.mhawny.org) 716-886-1242

**Pro Bono Legal Services** in civil legal services and advocacy for mental health consumers and their families,

**Peer Support Groups** for youth, parents, 20-somethings and adults

**Information & Referral Service** to link individuals to treatment and other services

**Child and Family Support** to help families navigate the mental healthcare system and provide peer support

**Emotional Skills Training, Prevention & Early Intervention** in-school and virtual programs for students pre-k through 12

**Workplace Mental Well-being** helping employees and employers achieve work-life balance

**OLV Human Services** provides a variety of services to include early childhood and school age programs, Adult Behavioral Health Home and Community Based Services, Children Home and Community Based Services, Care Management, Preventive Service, and The Work Appreciation for Youth (WAY) Program (ages 14-21). 716-828-9500 [www.olvhs.org](http://www.olvhs.org)

**People Inc.** 716-880-3700 [www.people-inc.org](http://www.people-inc.org) Through a variety of services, including residential, employment, community outreach, health care, environmental modifications, and recreation programs, they help families and people with disabilities, as well as seniors, live more healthy, independent, and productive lives. Bilingual services are available.

**The Resource Center** 200 Dunham Avenue, Jamestown, NY 14701 [www.resourcecenter.org](http://www.resourcecenter.org) Supports individuals with disabilities and other challenges in achieving maximum independence. Offers self-advocacy, self-directed services, community habilitation, day services, respite, living options, and clinical services. 716-483-2344

**SASi (Suburban Adult Services Inc.)** 960 West Maple Court, Elma, NY 14059 [www.sasinc.org](http://www.sasinc.org) 716-805-1555 Serving individuals of all ages with developmental disabilities in WNY. SASi programs and services include [Employment Support](http://www.sasinc.org/ProgramsServices/EmploymentSupportServices.aspx), [Day Program](http://www.sasinc.org/ProgramsServices/DayProgramServices.aspx), [Information and Referral](http://www.sasinc.org/ProgramsServices/InformationandReferral.aspx), [Residential](http://www.sasinc.org/ProgramsServices/ResidentialServices.aspx), [Articl](http://www.sasinc.org/ProgramsServices/ClinicServices.aspx)e 16 Clinic, [Community Services](http://www.sasinc.org/ProgramsServices/CommunityServices.aspx), Self-Directed Services, [Individualized Support Services](http://www.sasinc.org/ProgramsServices/FamilySupportServices.aspx), High Hurdles Therapeutic Riding Program, and [Moving Miracles Dance Program](http://www.movingmiracles.com/).

**The Summit Center** 150 Stahl Rd., Getzville, NY 14068 [www.thesummitcenter.org](http://www.thesummitcenter.org) 716-629-3400Provides services for children and adults with ASD in itsAdult, Behavioral Health, Community, and Early Intervention, and Educational programs.

**Behavioral Pediatrics Clinic** offers individual, family, and group therapy. Accepts insurance and private pay.      
**Community Connections** is a five-week program for children entering grade 1- age 16 with HFASD or other disabilities and social communication difficulties. **\*Check back in January 2023 for more information.**

**Summer Treatment Program** is a five-week program for children ages 7-13 with ADHD, learning problems, and related behavior problems to help them build self-esteem and behavioral, academic, and social competencies.  **\*Check back in January 2023 for more information.**  
**BFFs (Building Friendship Fridays)** Ages 16-25. Friday evening respite and recreation for individuals with developmental disabilities. Must be OPWDD qualified.

**WNY Independent Living, Inc.**is a family of agencies that provides services and programs which assist individuals with disabilities to remain independently living, working and thriving in the communities of their choice. Five Core Services: Peer mentoring, Independent Living skills, Transition services, Advocacy, and Information & Referral. 3108 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14214 [www.wnyil.org](http://www.wnyil.org) 716-836-0822

Safety

**Project Lifesaver WNY** is the only law enforcement based tracking program for individuals prone to wandering. A $300 onetime cost for transmitter and $120 annual cost for 12 batteries, 12 wristbands and 12 snaps (enough for a year). May be reimbursable through family reimbursement. 716-374-0090 [www.projectlifesaverwny.org/home.htm](http://www.projectlifesaverwny.org/home.htm) [admin@projectlifesaverwny.org](mailto:admin@projectlifesaverwny.org)

Recreation Resources

**The Access Pass** permits residents of New York State with disabilities, as defined in the application, free or discounted use of state parks, historic sites, and recreational facilities operated by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. For more information, contact 518-474-2324 during normal business hours or email [accesspass@parks.ny.gov](mailto:accesspass@parks.ny.gov). [www.parks.ny.gov/admission/access-pass](http://www.parks.ny.gov/admission/access-pass)

Recreation Resources continued

**Adapted Recreation Programs** is aTown of Hamburg Recreation program**.** The goal of all of their programs is to provide the participants with opportunities to socialize, follow directions, meet new people, and have fun and feel comfortable in this setting. They will strive to provide a safe, nurturing, yet challenging environment to help individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other Neurobiological/Behavioral challenges. You do not need to be a resident to participate. Ages 7-30 yrs. Call 716-646-5145 or go online to [www.hamburg-youth-rec-seniors.com/adaptive-programs.html](http://www.hamburg-youth-rec-seniors.com/adaptive-programs.html) to register or sign up for mailing list.

**The Arts Access Pass Program** is designed to give eligible members increased opportunities to participate in the arts in their communities. In order to be eligible for the program, you must be currently be on income based Public Assistance (SNAP, Medicaid, TANF) and present an active benefit card when signing up for the Arts Access pass. Registration forms are available at sites throughout Western New York. After you register, a welcome packet will be sent to your home address. The welcome packet will include your Arts Access Pass, more information about the program, and a list of participating organizations that offer Arts Access tickets. The pass is only good for one year. After that year you must register again by filling out a new application. The Arts Access season runs from 9/1-8/31. [www.arts-access.org](http://www.arts-access.org)

**Au-Some Evenings at Explore & More** 130 Main St, Buffalo, NY 14202 716-655-5131 The second Friday each month 5:30pm-7:30pm. Once a month, their special Au-Some Evenings give children with autism spectrum disorder and sensory processing disorder, their friends and family an opportunity to play and learn together in an understanding and supportive environment. Families will have access to the museum space and play zones. Featured activities include a music center, therapy dogs, art projects, and gross motor activities. Explore & More will also have a social narrative about the new museum and its play zones, quiet kits, as well as calming sensory friendly spaces in the museum. **Space is limited so reservation are essential. To register for the next Au-Some Evening please email accessibility@exploreandmore.org or call (716)655-5131 ext. 3.** <https://exploreandmore.org/programs/au-some-evenings/>

**The Autism Nature Trail at Letchworth State Park** Activities along the trail will support and encourage sensory perception while also providing enjoyable activities for visitors of all ages and abilities. The trail loop features eight stations offering a range of experiences, from quite engagement to active exploration and adventure. More info: [www.autismnaturetrail.com](http://www.autismnaturetrail.com). The trail is free and park admission is also free from November through April. From May-October a $10 per car Letchworth State Park entrance fee is charged.

**Bowling League for Special Needs** Sat. 11a.m.-12:30 p.m. September-April Join any time. Contact G 716-430-5118

Location: Mallwitz’s Island Lanes, 1887 Whitehaven Rd., Grand Island, NY 14072. A league for any age special needs individual. Registration fee is $10. Cost is $7 per individual for 2 games and shoe rental. Call for more information.

**BPO Kids for Exceptional Kids** working towards greater accessibility for families at the BPO Kids Family Series. One hour concerts begin at 2:30 pm at Kleinhans Music Hall, 3 Symphony Circle, Buffalo, NY 14201 [www.bpo.org/accessibility-for-exceptional-people/#](http://www.bpo.org/accessibility-for-exceptional-people/) More information or tickets call 716-242-7808 or email [education@bpo.org](mailto:education@bpo.org).

**Buffalo Sabres Thunder Ice Hockey** A coed team for individuals with special needs who have some ice skating experience. Practices are Sundays 9:00 a.m. October - April at North Buffalo Ice Rink, 156 Tacoma Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216. [www.wnyspecialhockey.com](http://www.wnyspecialhockey.com) Contact 716-691-4530 or email bsthockey2008@gmail.com

**C-HOPE** [www.c-hopewny.org](http://www.c-hopewny.org) 716-912-5111 [info@c-hopewny.org](mailto:info@c-hopewny.org) All C-HOPE programs are component parts of our STRIVE for Social Inclusion initiative. Our programs are varied, but all include elements of socialization and recreation, wellness, and adaptive and social skill development.

**CAUSE-Center for Allied and Unified Sport and Exercise at Daemen University** provides sports sampling for people with disabilities, incorporating student and student-athletes for a unified sport atmosphere of inclusion and integration. The core program of CAUSE are the sport sampling sessions. During sessions, CAUSE provides a supported venue for caregivers to access athletic-based care, participate in health and wellness programs, or simply experience the joy of watching a loved one compete. Individuals sign up for sessions on a weekly basis in order to ensure sessions are filled to capacity. Pre-registration is required. To register go to www.daemenwildcats.com/sports/cause or contact Brooke Densing, CAUSE Director, at 716-566-7894 or email bdensing@daemen.edu. **Location: Daemen's Academic and Wellness Center Gym, 4433 Main St., Amherst, NY 14226.**

**Cheektowaga Adapted Recreation Program** is a recreation program for youth with developmental and other disabilities, ages 5-21. Exceptions are made at the discretion of the Program Coordinator. The major goals of the program are to provide recreational activities and sports training which will help improve motor control, boost self-esteem and increase social skills. Activities include: Friday Night Social Club and Saturday Mini-Camp. They also train in basketball, swimming, bowling, track & field and softball for recreation and Western Region Special Olympics. Dates, times, and cost vary. Rates for OPWDD eligible are available. They also participate in the Western Region Special Olympics Program. Runs October – May. Registration is on-going, call 716-897-7205 or email [cheekarp@gmail.com](mailto:cheekarp@gmail.com).

Recreation Resources (continued)

**Clarence Learn to Swim Adaptive Program** located at Clarence Middle School is for children with a classified disability or significant medical condition. Adaptive Level 1 (typical age of swimmers is 4-10) for swimmers who are just becoming comfortable with the water. These children are NOT able to swim independently and require 1:1 adult support in the water. Adaptive Level 2 (typical age of swimmers is 12-25) is for swimmers who are able to float, tread water, and maintain balance in the water independently. Swimmers may have an interest in competing in the Special Olympics Aquatic Division. Cost and online registration at [www.clarencelearntoswim.com](http://www.clarencelearntoswim.com) [CLTSdirector@gmail.com](mailto:CLTSdirector@gmail.com)

**The Collaborative Community Mission (CCM)** is a non-profit organization that aims to provide access to free (or low cost) therapeutic programming and resources in a fully-inclusive environment that will support development and growth for children of all ages and abilities. They offer music therapy, speech/language enrichment classes, functional life skills and social skills training, yoga, sensory and fine motor instruction, virtual family support group and community trainings. Follow on Facebook and Instagram @collcomm.mission.  [collabcomm.mission@gmail.com](mailto:collabcomm.mission@gmail.com) [www.collaborativecommunitymission.org](http://www.collaborativecommunitymission.org)

**Danceability** 2365 George Urban Blvd., Depew, NY 14043 [www.danceabilityinc.com](http://www.danceabilityinc.com) 716-651-0094 [danceabilitywny@gmail.com](mailto:danceabilitywny@gmail.com) Danceability welcomes all ages and abilities from age 3 to senior adults. They offer many styles of dance including tap, jazz, ballet, creative movement, and more! In-studio and virtual classes. Check their website for registration information and cost.

**Fantastic Friends of WNY** 1284 French Rd., Depew, NY [www.fantasticfriendswny.org](http://www.fantasticfriendswny.org) A non-profit social organization for special needs children and adults. A variety of events held at their center and at various handicapped accessible locations throughout WNY. Attendees are usually paired with a 1:1 volunteer. More information at 716-608-6234 or [fantasticfriendswny@gmail.com](mailto:fantasticfriendswny@gmail.com) or Facebook at Fantastic Friends of Western New York.

**Flix Stadium 10 Sensory Friendly Family Film Series** 4901 Transit Rd., Lancaster, NY 14043 The first Saturday of every month at 10am. The films will be presented with the theatre lights on and the sound lowered. Admission is $8.75 per person for both children and adults. <https://flix10.dipsontheatres.com/> 716-668-1888

**Get Air-Buffalo** 3637 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, NY 14225 716-205-3794 [www.getairsports.com/buffalo/events/special-needs/](http://www.getairsports.com/buffalo/events/special-needs/) A Special Time for You is a dedicated time just for jumpers with special needs and their families. Music is played at a lower volume and the park’s atmosphere is calmer. One parent or guardian can support jumpers on the trampoline for free. Siblings of jumpers are welcome to jump for the same price, but should be more careful during this time. First Saturday of the month, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Cost: Big Air – $16.99, Little Air (under 46”) – $10.99

**Gliding Stars of WNY** provides individuals with and without disabilities the opportunity to learn, have fun, improve physical fitness, and develop lasting relationships. Gliding Stars supplies skating equipment (including specialized adaptive ice skates and safety gear), volunteer training and direct on-ice volunteer support. End-of-season on-ice choreographed performance. Cost. Eligible for reimbursement under classes in the self-directed waiver program for those with funding through OPWDD. Sept. to early April. Weekly skate at Hyde Park’s Ice Pavilion in Niagara Falls or the Nike Base in Hamburg. [www.glidingstars.org/gliding-stars-of-wny/](http://www.glidingstars.org/gliding-stars-of-wny/)

**Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo Ausome Swimmer Group** [www.jccbuffalo.org](http://www.jccbuffalo.org/) Au-Some Swimmers group class teaches swim and water safety skills to children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. Ages 5-18 yrs.  Contact 716-204-2085 at Benderson Family Building, 2640 N. Forest Rd., Amherst, NY 14068 or 716-886-3172 ext. 411 at Holland Family Building, 787 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209.

**Josh and Friends** Fitness Ability, Inc., 1940 Kenmore Ave., Kenmore, NY 14216.  A social structured exercise program for ambulatory teens and adults with developmental/intellectual disabilities that is designed to be fun and effective, in a supportive environment.  Mon. & Wed. 6 pm (1 hr.) and Wed. at 12:00 pm (30 minutes) $10 per class or $40 a month for all 44 classes monthly, in-person or via Zoom. [www.FitnessAbility.org](http://www.fitnessability.org/) 716-249-2010 [FitnessAbilityinc@gmail.com](mailto:FitnessAbilityinc@gmail.com)

**Kaleidoscope of WNY Inc.** 555 Como Park Blvd., Cheektowaga, NY 14227 [www.kscopewny.org](http://www.kscopewny.org) 716-868-9718 Provides interesting diverse classes geared towards all abilities for all adults 18+. Classes include art, cooking, crafts, fitness, and science. Facebook: KaleidoscopeofWNYInc [kaleidoscopeofwny@gmail.com](mailto:kaleidoscopeofwny@gmail.com)

**Lothlorien Therapeutic Riding Center (an affiliate of People Inc.)** 15 Reiter Rd., East Aurora, NY 14052 [www.lothlorientrc.org](http://www.lothlorientrc.org) 716-655-1335 Provides horsemanship and horseback riding opportunities for individuals ages 3 and up with cognitive, physical, emotional and learning disabilities. Programs range from therapeutic riding lessons, natural horsemanship workshops, groundwork clinics to reading programs, school and day program field trips, and Make a Wish visits.

Recreation Resources (continued)

**Moving Miracles (a division of SASi)** 954 Union Rd., Suite 1, West Seneca, NY 14224 [www.movingmiracles.org](http://www.movingmiracles.org) 716-656-1321

A dance and personal program ages 3+ with special needs serving Western New York. September through May. Summer program offered June-August. Cost.

**NYSW TOPSoccer Program** [www.nyswysa.org/TOPSoccer/](http://www.nyswysa.org/TOPSoccer/) Players with special needs ages 5 to 21. For more information about TOPSoccer, or to start a TopSoccer Program in your area, contact NYSWYSA at topsoccer@nyswysa.org or 607-962-9923 ext.3.

**SABAH Inc.** works with special needs athletes of all ages through a number of community programs throughout the Buffalo-Niagara and WNY area. Programs include Adaptive Ice Hockey, Evening and Weekend Skating, Fit and Fun for Adults with Disabilities, Summer Skates, Outdoor Series (recreational program), and Special Needs Summer Recreational Fitness Programs. 716-362-9600 [www.sabahinc.org](http://www.sabahinc.org)

**Sensational Fun, Inc.** is an Inclusive play place. Located at [2881 Southwestern Blvd., Orchard Park, NY](https://www.google.com/maps/search/2881+Southwestern+Blvd.,+Orchard+Park,+NY?entry=gmail&source=g), they provide Free open play, an array of sports, clubs, camps, programs, respite, and family events which are adapted to meet the needs of children and adults with different abilities.  Information and costs, go to [www.sensationalfun.org](http://www.sensationalfun.org) or Facebook:  Sensational Fun, Inc.

**Sensory Sensitive Sundays at Chuck E. Cheese’s** First Sunday of the month from 9 am-11 am, includes reduced lighting and noise, food and games offered, and trained and caring staff. Located at 4408 Milestrip Rd., Buffalo, NY 14219. 716-822-2221

**Squeaky Wheel Film & Media Art Center** 617 Main Street, Buffalo NY 716-884-7172 Squeaky Wheel’s Media Art Workshops provide an array of media based classes for any and all skill levels. DATA is a media arts and technology program designed for neurodivergent individuals (such as individuals with Autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia etc.) ages 13-26. A series of year-round workshops will build up different creative and social skills. Students will learn a large range of media-based practices to suit all interests in technology and art. Space is limited. [www.squeaky.org](http://www.squeaky.org)

**Sweet Charlottes** is a place for kids with and without disabilities to explore, be inspired, and learn through laughter, love, and fun. Offers inclusive half-day preschool and full day kindergarten readiness program. [www.sweetcharlottes.org](http://www.sweetcharlottes.org) 716-320-5848 [sweetcharlottes@yahoo.com](mailto:sweetcharlottes@yahoo.com) Located at 10255 Main Street, Clarence, NY.

**Unique Theatre Company** is an extraordinary company of artists that aspire to promote community integration through the arts.  They provide a venue where persons of all levels of ability can learn and express themselves through art, playwriting, acting and more. 99 Hartwell Rd., Buffalo, NY 14216 [www.uniquetheatre.org](http://www.uniquetheatre.org) 716-243-8889 [uniquetheatrecompany@gmail.com](mailto:uniquetheatrecompany@gmail.com)

**WNY Challenger Sports League, Inc.** is a safe and happy place for individuals of all ages, with disabilities, to experience the joy of athletic participation at a level within each individual’s capabilities. Program includes bowling, volleyball, golf, soccer, football, hockey and swimming experiences. [www.wnychallengersports.com](http://www.wnychallengersports.com)

**Greater Buffalo Adaptive Sports** [www.greaterbuffaloadaptivesports.org](http://www.greaterbuffaloadaptivesports.org) Providing an opportunity for individuals with disabilities to participate in adaptive sports and, through this participation, develop the social, emotional, and physical confidence necessary to become leaders in the community. Adaptive Sports Programs: hockey, football, curling, tennis, and lacrosse.

Summer Camps, Respite, and Retreats

**Cradle Beach** 8038 Lakeshore Rd., Angola, NY14006[www.cradlebeach.org](http://www.cradlebeach.org/) 716-549-6307

**Summer Camp** is a fully integrated residential program for children ages 8-16 with and without disabilities where everyone plays, eats, and attends activities. They provide a healthy environment and organized activities to promote socialization, self-worth, and decision making in an atmosphere of love and acceptance. Fees are assessed by family income and ability to pay. They do offer financial assistance. Please complete the financial aid form for consideration.

**Weekend Respite** -ages 8 & up living at home enrolled into the NYS Home & Community Based Waiver System, live in one of the seven counties of Western New York (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, or Orleans County), and have a documented developmental disability.

**David’s Refuge** 315-682-4204 [www.davidsrefuge.org](http://www.davidsrefuge.org) Their mission is to provide respite, resources and support to parents and guardians of children with special needs or life threatening medical conditions where they will be refreshed, restored and renewed in their role as caregivers. Services for parents include Weekend Respite, Caregiver Night Out, Host Mentors, special events, Wellness Webinars and online/social media.

Summer Camps, Respite, and Retreats (continued)

**Wellness GIFTS Retreat Weekend** [www.wellnessgifts.org](http://www.wellnessgifts.org) 607-937-4502 Wellness GIFTS, a program by Pathways, Inc., offers camping retreats to families who have a family member with developmental disabilities, living at home with their parents or other family members, and have established eligibility for OPWDD services. Families enjoy a weekend camping resort experience with a focus on the entire family to take a holistic approach to strengthen families by offering education, respite, and networking opportunities. Retreats are held at Hammondsport-Bath KOA in a family-friendly location to develop lasting relationships and support. Volunteer Assistants buddy with children to allow caregivers the opportunity to participate fully in activities.

Applying for Services through OPWDD

**New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)** is responsible for coordinating services for New Yorkers with developmental disabilities. The Front Door process will guide you through the steps involved in finding out if you are eligible for services offered by OPWDD, identify your service needs, and help you work on a plan for getting those services. Front Door staff will guide you through the steps. <https://opwdd.ny.gov/get-started>

**The Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)** provides People First Care Coordination.Health Home Care Management provides service coordination and coordination of other services, such as health care and behavioral health supports. <https://opwdd.ny.gov/>

**Care Coordination Organizations** coordinate all the services a person receives for their developmental disability, as well as the coordination of health, wellness, and mental health services through one individualized Life Plan. **Two who serve WNY are**

* **Person Centered Services**  [www.personcenteredservices.com](http://www.personcenteredservices.com) Enrollment or eligibility call (855) 208-3533. For general information or to locate a care coordinator call 888-977-7030 [customerservice@personcenteredservices.com](mailto:customerservice@personcenteredservices.com)
* **Prime Care Coordination** [www.primecareny.org](http://www.primecareny.org) Enrollment, eligibility or more information call 844-347-3168 [info@primecareny.org](mailto:info@primecareny.org).

**\*Parent Network of WNY’s Eligibility Navigator** can assist families in Erie and Niagara Counties with completing the necessary paperwork to get the eligibility process for Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) services started.

Contact: 716-332-4170 or [info@parentnetworkwny.org](mailto:info@parentnetworkwny.org)

**Receiving OPWDD support and services:** The **self**-**directed** **service** delivery model is an alternative to traditionally delivered and managed **services**, such as an **agency** delivery model. **Self**-**direction** of **services** allows participants to have the responsibility for managing all aspects of service delivery in a person-centered planning process. <https://opwdd.ny.gov/types-services/self-direction>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**APIC: Access to Psychiatry through Intermediate Care** Mobile psychiatric care, cross systems navigation, medication management (review and adjust meds in conjunction with current providers) and case management for children, adolescents and adults with developmental or intellectual disabilities whose needs are not being met by the current system of care. APIC does not replace current care. They assist, augment, and coordinate treatment to help create a sustainable plan for families, providers, and individuals in crisis. APIC is grant funded and provides medical and social resources to families at **no charge.** Four key areas are addressed: medical needs, alternative behavioral health therapies, improving the home environment and providing breaks for caregivers thru non-traditional respite. [www.apicout.org](http://www.apicout.org) Contact: 716-406-7005 or [info@apicout.org](mailto:info@apic.org).

**New York Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment Resources and Treatment (NYSTART)/ Crisis Services for Individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (CSIDD)** offers crisis prevention and response services to people who have both developmental disabilities and complex behavioral needs, as well as to their families and those who provide supports. Services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to OPWDD eligible individuals age 6 and over who meet NYSTART/CSIDD eligibility. The goal of NYSTART/CSIDD is to build relationships and supports across service systems to help people remain in their homes and communities and enhance the ability of the community to support them. [www.opwdd.ny.gov/crisis-services](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/crisis-services) Western NY  
Lindsay Caulfield- Regional Office Contact [716-608-](tel:+7166082702)[2670](https://opwdd.ny.gov/contact-us/tel+716-608-2670) or [lindsay.a.caulfield@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:lindsay.a.caulfield@opwdd.ny.gov)

Counties served: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, and Orleans

IMPORTANT INFORMATION (continued)

**Adult Career and Continuing Education Services- Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR)** assists individuals with disabilities to achieve and maintain employment and to support independent living through training, education, rehabilitation, and career development. ACCES-VR services may only be provided if your goal is employment. To apply or be referred for ACCES-VR services you should be at least 14 years old and must be available to participate in the vocational rehabilitation process. Also serves adults with disabilities. You do NOT have to be OPWDD eligible. More information for Buffalo District ACCES-VR (serving Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming counties) 888-652-7062 or [www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/buffalo-district-office](http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/buffalo-district-office).

**\*Check out our website** [**www.autismwny.org**](http://www.autismwny.org) **for upcoming workshops, support group meetings, and events!!!**