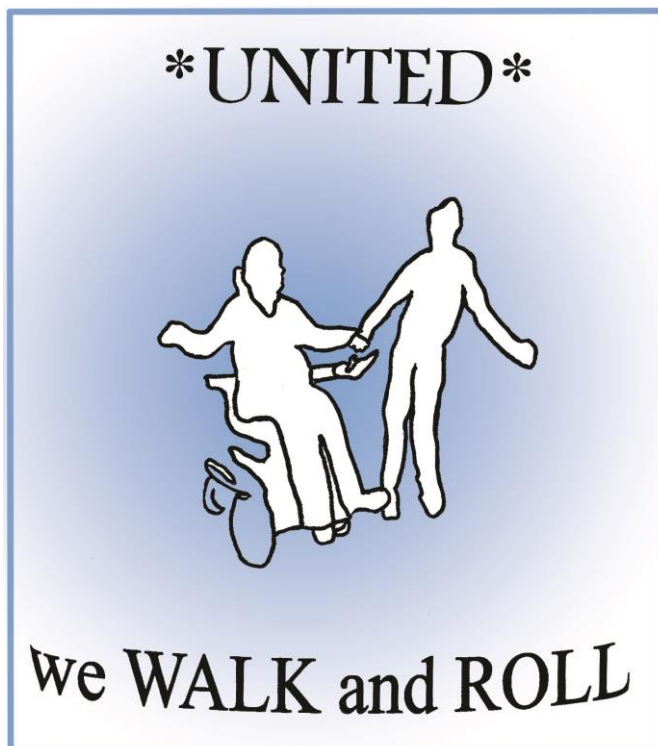




**Twenty-Eighth Annual  
Developmental Disabilities Day  
Registration & Workshop Information**



**Thursday, May 26th, 2016**

**Doors open at 8:00 am**

**The Conference Center Niagara Falls**

**101 Old Falls Street - Niagara Falls NY 14303**

Visit [www.ddday.org](http://www.ddday.org) to register online

**2016 Features**

**Innovative Workshops - Concession Service - Agency and Vendor Fair  
Art Gallery - Live Performance/Interactive Area - Parents Corner  
Awards Luncheon - Open Reception**

## 2016 Schedule

8:00 am – 9:15 am	Registration
9:15 am – 10:15 am	Welcome and Opening Event
10:15 am – 10:30 am	Break and Fair
10:30 am -12:00 pm	Morning Workshops
12:00 pm – 12:15 pm	Break and Fair
12:15 pm – 1:30 pm	Awards Luncheon
1:30 pm – 1:45 pm	Break and Fair
1:45 pm – 3:15 pm	Afternoon Workshops
3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Reception (Music by “Universal Mind”)

### OPENING PRESENTATION

9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

#### Megan Bomgaars: “Don’t limit Me.”

##### Megan Bomgaars, Star of A&E’s “Born This Way”

Megan has taken a lifetime of creative experiences and turned them into a full-time passion. Whether it is painting, journaling, singing or working with color, she has done it all with her own unmistakable style! As a surface design artist she creates original, one-of-a-kind textiles and fabrics by incorporating unusual techniques such as dyeing with ice, manipulating fiber reactive dyes and the use of colorants. Megan is an ardent observer of her surroundings and is always ready for the unexpected color or element to catch her eye and influence her next project.

##### BIOGRAPHY

**Megan Bomgaars** has had a busy year that included delivering a Keynote Presentation at the National Down Syndrome Congress Convention in Phoenix, AZ, being honored at The White House and costarring on the critically acclaimed **Born This Way** on A&E. 2016 promises to be another break out year for Megan as she is already booked for dozens of domestic speaking events and her first international engagement. “My goal is to inspire people with my work.”

Megan is a woman on a mission. Driven and ambitious, she has a self-imposed mandate to “save lives”.

Megan gained widespread notice after creating a video entitled, “Don’t Limit Me”, and now speaks at events around the country, spreading her message of inclusion and inspiration. She certainly doesn’t limit herself as along with attending the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, she manages an ice dying clothing company called “Megology”. Her mother, Kris, is known as her “Dream Maker”, and the two are an inseparable pair.



# Event Features

## Art Gallery

Displayed throughout the building, agencies from around WNY showcase the many talents of their art programs. As always, the art exhibit will feature this year's winning DD Day logo design, along with the runners-up. The winning logo design can also be found on merchandise that is available for purchase at the DD Day Souvenir Shop, throughout the conference.

## Parent Corner

Please stop by to speak with professionals who will help you navigate the multiple and often times confusing systems. It will be located in the vendor fair area.

## Agency and Vendor Fair

A wide variety of agencies and vendors who serve people with developmental disabilities will be on hand to provide information and linkage for everyone in attendance.

## New This Year: Roommate Connection Event

Participate in a social opportunity for people who are differently abled to connect with potential future roommates. Be prepared to share contact information and participate in casual conversation. Light refreshments will be provided. (1:45 PM – 3:15 PM).

**NEW THIS YEAR!**

**A Healthy You  
Mind, Body & Soul**

**This year we will be offering  
a custom-made area for those  
attendees who want to experience  
something a little more interactive.**

A row of five colorful icons: a black silhouette of a person in a yoga pose, a yellow smiley face with a musical note, the word 'ZUMBA' in pink with 'fitness' in yellow below it, a red heart with a dumbbell, and a colorful paint palette with brushes.

**Yoga, Zumba, Healthy Snacks,  
Interactive Demos and Self-expression!**

**Located in the Cataract Room**

## Performances

Various performers including music, poetry and dance will entertain throughout the day. The performances will take place in the Cataract Room.

## 2016 DD Day Performance Schedule

Time	Name of Performer/Group	Performance Type
8:45-8:55	Jason Ferringer	Singing
8:55-9:05	Philip Bose	Guitar and Vocal
<b>WELCOME</b>		
10:40-10:50	<b>Beat Down Drummers:</b> Cedric Johnson, Mike Kartalis, Nick Benedict, Chris Czech, Charee Brown-Williams, Trammell Dallas, Latasha Dickinson, Bill Heary, Bill Newkirk, Jessie Weaver	Drum group
10:50-11:00	<b>SASi Ringers:</b> Mary Bracikowski, James Balistrieri, Lucy Benn, Lettii Cartonina, Patricia Klein, Roger Prince, Ron Smith, Lisa Becker, Julie Taber, Fran Maislin, Jenny Parent	Bell Choir
11:20-11:30	<b>FACES Bell Choir:</b> Patricia Beck, David Bones, John Buridge, Mark Covial, Leroy Crittenden, Frank Gallow, Connie Greer, Ann Marie Repetski, Joseph Rizzuto, Debbie Snyder, Dawn Stenzel, Letitia Stephens, Tiara Stover, William Wall	Bell choir
11:30-11:40	Glenn Griffin	Singing
11:40-11:50	Mike Hughes	Keyboard
11:50-11:55	Angela Castillo	Singing
11:55-12:05	<b>People Inc.'s Arts Experience</b> Jessica Levesque, Melissa McDougall, Hope Griffey, Cammie Stamp, Mary Hunt, Susanna Fried, Avery Gill, Nancy Wiertel, Chris Frushone, Kyle Henderson, Sarah Schmidt, Colleen Galloway	Vocal, Rap and Dance
12:05 -12:15	People Inc.'s Arts Experience	Puppet Demo Dance
<b>AWARDS LUNCHEON</b>		
1:30-1:40	Datra Hairston	Song and Dance
1:40-1:50	Xavier Chestnut	Electric Guitar and vocal
1:50-2:00	Mitchell Law	String Bass
2:00-2:10	Ryan Young	Tae Kwon Do

## DD Awareness Day Merchandise

A variety of items will be available for purchase to commemorate this event:

T-shirts \$10.00

Tote Bags \$10.00

Water Bottle \$7.50

Additional merchandise will be available on the day of the event.

## Reception – 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Please join us for a reception featuring the hip sounds of **Universal Mind**.

There will be free pop and appetizers, along with a basket raffle and cash bar.

You must be present to win the basket raffle.



MAJOR CORPORATE SPONSORS



Brought to you by



## **VENDORS**

**United Healthcare  
Surehands Lift and Care**

## **2016 GOLD SPONSORS**

**People Inc  
Niagara County DOH Children with Special Needs  
Harris Beach PLLC  
St Mary's School for the Deaf  
The Summit Center  
Baker Victory Services  
Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled  
OPWDD  
The Resource Center  
Empower**

## **2016 SILVER SPONSORS**

**UB Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention  
Genesee ARC  
Parent Network of WNY  
Therap Services LLC  
The Down Syndrome Parents Group of WNY  
University Pediatric Dentistry  
Autism Services Inc  
Suburban Adult Services, Inc  
Cantalician Center for Learning, Inc.  
New York State Rehabilitation Association (NYSRA)**

## **2016 BRONZE SPONSORS**

**Excalibur Leisure Skills Center Inc.  
Aspire of WNY  
NFTA  
WNY Adaptive Water Sports  
Pathfinder Village  
Children's Mental Health Outreach NDYFS  
Cradle Beach  
DDAWNY Family Committee**

2016 Bronze Sponsors (continued)

**Early Childhood Direction Center**  
**Epilepsy Association of WNY**  
**Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled or Disadvantaged of WNY**  
**Niagara University First Responder Disability Awareness Training**  
**Olmsted Center for Sight**  
**Parent to Parent of NYS**  
**People and Places**  
**Robert Warner,MD Center**  
**SABAH**  
**Self Advocacy Association of NYS**  
**Southtowns Coalition of Community Services**  
**Aktion Club of East Aurora**  
**The Autism Center –Women & Children’s Hospital of Buffalo**  
**Touching Bases Softball**  
**Williamsville SEPSTA**  
**WNY Employment Consortium**  
**Center for Self-Advocacy Inc**  
**Mel Ott Challenger Baseball**  
**ACCES-VR Buffalo District Office**  
**Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara**  
**WNY Independent Living**  
**Full ACCESS Travel**  
**People Inc: Pens for People**  
**Central Amherst Little League & Challenger Baseball**  
**Disability Awareness Training**  
**Autism Learning Partners**  
**Cattaraugus Community Center**  
**Guildcare Adult Day Health Program**  
**Heritage Centers**  
**Learning Disabilities Association of WNY**  
**Lightnings Native Crafts**  
**Mental Health Association**  
**Southeast Works**

*Thank you  
to all the sponsors for your support!*



## **2016 PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

### **Alyson Przybyl**

Alyson Przybyl is a young lady determined to succeed in life. Leaving behind a difficult start, she moved into an apartment managed by Heritage Christian Services. Alyson, through reflection and gradual discovery, realized she had to start with self-improvement. She joined a church, which changed her life and helped her to prioritize her goals and needs. She realized the importance of education and took on the challenge of obtaining her GED. It was through hard work and diligence that she overcame failure, frustration and at times a broken heart. She passed the GED test in 2015 and is now considering college to pursue a business degree or to become a medical assistant. Life can present challenges and it is people like Alyson that prove anything is possible.

## **2016 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

### **Speech Department at the Catalician Center for Learning**

Over the last 30 years the speech department at the Catalician Center has embarked on a journey to complete a study on the use of IPADS for students with speech delays. When the project was first proposed there were several concerns, traditional works and asking therapists to incorporate something new was not universally embraced. The outcome of this study proved that students that use IPADS on a consistent basis are able to communicate their thoughts accurately and consistently. This has been a critical part in the development of communication for many students and has allowed them to have the means to speak without using words. For the first time these students are able to say "I love you". We thank the Catalician Center for their diligence in taking on this journey and enhancing the lives of so many. We proudly present this award to Sue Ruska, the Speech Department Head, on behalf of her entire department.

## **2016 PARTNERSHIP AWARD**

### **Parent Network of Western New York**

The winner of the 2016 Partnership Award is Parent Network of Western New York. As an agency that develops trainings for families, professionals and people served they know the importance of getting the perspective of those that the trainings will benefit. In their words: "We ALWAYS include people served in most activities and projects because we know the importance of having the voice of people served in everything we do."

Since the inception of the agency they have included people with developmental disabilities in many different capacities: on their Board of Directors, in trainings, as employees and interns and in other endeavors. They currently have two Board Members with developmental disabilities who have been actively involved in the conversations and decision-making capacity of the Board for more than eight years.

Parent Network supports and hires people with developmental disabilities in meaningful work: doing research, seeking resources, and helping with assistive technology. They also provide volunteer opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. They contract with the Self Advocacy Association to provide input into the development of trainings. Self-Advocacy provides feedback on course content in areas of understandability, relevance and perspective. One interesting thing to note is that CEO Sue Barlow is actively mentoring a CEO from another agency who has a developmental disability.

In 2013, Parent Network was a principal partner in hosting a day-long conference featuring agencies' best practices. The conference showcased 16 different best practices that agencies could replicate in their own agency. At the conference work/day activities were highlighted at tables, where participants could talk to agencies/people served about how they began and operated small businesses, farms and other meaningful activities.

Parent Network has a contract with all area nursing colleges (ECC, NCC, D'Youville, Daemen, etc.) to provide trainings on how to interact with people with developmental disabilities. Through this, people with disabilities are helping to teach the nursing students that people come first before the disability. There is also a person on the Advisory Board guiding this training that has a developmental disability.

The Award Selection committee congratulates Parent Network for all the good owkr they do and their best practices in supporting inclusion of people with developmental disabilities.



## **2016 ARTWORK WINNER**

**Meghan Bowen**

***Congratulations!***

## **2016 FAMILY/CAREGIVER/ADVOCATE AWARD**

**Lashawn Johnson**

Lashawn Johnson is a committed and inspiring mother of two girls with autism. Lashawn has a disability that prevents her from working so her days are spent tending to the needs of her daughters. Both girls have allergies so their environment has to be clean and tidy and she has to be careful with the food they are served. She works tirelessly to find services and funds that will improve her daughter's lives. She is a strong advocate for her girls, is involved with everything that goes on with them and does all she can to ensure they have the best they can have. She is willing to get the word out to other parents that there are funds available for their children's special needs. She is an outstanding role model to her daughters and other caregivers.

## **2016 SERVICE PROVIDER AWARD**

**Kathy Doody and Jana Mertz**

Kathy Doody and Jana Mertz work together and consistently go the extra mile to enrich the lives of people with disabilities. Kathy is a professor (Ph.D.) of Exceptional Education at SUNY- Buff State. Jana is the program coordinator for the Autism Center. There are numerous projects that they have either actively created or conceptualized for families and individuals with autism. Sensory Sundays at SkyZone and BPO Kids-Exceptional Kids are two of these projects. They attend meetings; provide support, information and resources to families. They facilitate brainstorming sessions; engage community stakeholders and devote a great deal of time to their projects. Neither Kathy nor Jana know the meaning of the word "No". Thanks to this dynamic duo many individuals with autism and their families are connected to a wide network of information, social opportunities and support in our community.

## **2016 LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**Senator Robert Ortt**

Senator Robert G. Ortt was sworn into office as a New York State Senator for the 62nd District in January of 2015. Senator Ortt has been a tireless champion seeking to improve the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He has served on the OPWDD Transformation Panel seeking to address many of the significant issues facing our field, such as transportation, housing, employment and service delivery. He has sought to require more transparency from OPWDD and has criticized many of the burdensome and unnecessary regulations the agency has implemented. He was the sponsor of a new law which ensures non-profit agencies will continue to be responsible for providing supports and services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities as the state moves into a managed care delivery system for these services.

Senator Ortt has held many titles including City Treasurer, Clerk-Treasurer, Mayor of North Tonawanda, and Veteran. In October 2001, Rob enlisted in NY Army National Guard in direct response to the attacks on September 11th. He is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, where he served from March 2008 until December of the same year and is the recipient of the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, the Afghan Campaign Medal and the Combat Infantryman's Badge in recognition of his service.

Rob currently chairs the Committee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. He also serves on committees on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs; Local Government; Higher Education; Environmental Conservation; Corporations, Authorities and Commissions; Civil Service and Pensions; and Cities. Rob lives in North Tonawanda with his wife Meghan.

The Developmental Disabilities Alliance of Western New York and the DD Day Planning Committee are pleased to present the Legislator of the Year Award to Senator Robert G. Ort.

## **2016 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

### **Max Donatelli**

South Buffalo native, Max Donatelli, enlisted in the US Air Force after high school and served as an aircraft mechanic and did a tour in Vietnam. While working on his undergraduate degree at Canisius College, he started as a night attendant at then Baker Hall ("Father Baker's") in 1973. He gained an interest in working with youth with troubled families and emotional problems. The early days were marked with turbulence as there was infighting between the management and staff, over whether the agency should provide custodial care or actual treatment for the youth. When Mr. Donatelli graduated with his BA, he started as a Child Care Worker in the residential program and helped the new administration and staff develop a plan for providing treatment opportunities for youth in the residential programs and was a part of the agency growth and response to society's changing needs until his retirement after 42 years this March.

After receiving his MS degree from Canisius College in 1980, Mr. Donatelli has worked with high-risk youth and families in many leadership positions at Baker Victory Services in the Office of Children Families Services Residential Care, Preventive Services, Managed Care, Intake, Family Outreach and Engagement, and most recently as department head of the Bridges to Health, Health Care Integration. In 1995, he helped initiate the Family Advisory Board which continues its mission to the present. For over 12 years he also chaired the Erie County Safety Net for Youth Committee. He is graduate Fellow of the Health Foundation of Western and Central NY and is currently a member of the Fellows Action Network, and a graduate of Leadership Buffalo.

From September 2001 and until December 2007, in addition to working ½ time at Baker Victory as director of Care Management, he helped to restart the Parent Network of WNY serving as ½ time executive director. Parent Network continues to provide exceptional training, information, support, and referral services to parents/caregivers of individuals with special needs.

He has received awards for advocacy from Child and Family Services, National Conference of Community and Justice, Niagara University, NYS Association of School Boards, Families Together in NYS, Leadership Buffalo, Chapel of the Four Chaplains, Parent Network of WNY, and UB School of Psychiatry.

In addition to his role with BVS, for 10 years, Mr. Donatelli served as a parent member on the New York State Education Department Commissioner's Advisory Panel for Special Education. He helped start and chaired the Family Committee and served as member of the DDAWNY Board. As a parent advocate, he served as Frontier SEPTA president, NYS PTA Special Education Chair, and member of the Erie County Youth Board. He is currently on the Erie County Mental Hygiene Community Services Board and is on the DDAWNY Family Committee Core Team.

Max is proudest of being able to work in collaboration with many parents, professionals, self-advocates, and community members to help make systems changes for the betterment of high risk children and individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, which has helped their son, Craig move into a shared living situation through self-determination where he lives today. As family advocate, he is thankful to his wife Joyce, a fellow family advocate, for her support and encouragement; as well as their son Craig, and daughter, Connie, who he continues to learn from. Professionally, he is thankful to former BVS CEO and mentor, Jim Casion, for his guidance and support.

The Developmental Disabilities Alliance of Western New York and the DD Day Planning Committee are very pleased to present a Lifetime Achievement Award to Mr. Max Donatelli.

## **2016 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

### **Christine Lewis**

Christine Lewis, a Special Education Teacher by training, has devoted 45 years to the betterment of the lives of individuals with disabilities. She has served as a teacher, Program Coordinator and Executive Director of The Children's League in Springville, NY. Under her direction The Children's League has grown from a single classroom that was housed in the basement of a church to a program that now serves over 135 children in a state of the art facility specifically designed to meet the needs of preschool children. Its multidisciplinary staff numbers over 100 professionals and paraprofessionals. It

has been a challenge to keep abreast of the regulatory and compliance issues and with NY State's advocacy for integration with full understanding of the mutual benefits of blending children with disabilities and their non-disabled peers. Christine worked diligently to develop a partnership with Head Start which has resulted in the successful collaboration affording integrated education at The Children's League. Christine is tireless when it comes to helping others and her good works are far too many to mention but she will lend a hand, a hug, an ear whenever needed. Her attention to detail is always present in all she does. It is our pleasure to present the Lifetime Achievement Award to the very deserving Christine Lewis.

## 2016 DD DAY AWARDS LUNCHEON EMCEE

Al Vaughters is the consumer affairs reporter for WIVB-TV, Channel 4 news. He joined the News 4 Team in 1994. He had previously worked in Fort Wayne, Indiana; Dayton, Ohio; Providence, Rhode Island and Chicago where he won Emmys for Spot News Coverage. His hobbies are softball and ice skating for SABAH. He's married and has two children. You may have seen him hosting events benefitting Heritage Centers and other community events. He is a founding member of the Buffalo Association of Black Journalists. He likes Buffalo because "It's a family town".



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSONS

On behalf of the 2015/2016 DD Awareness Day Committee we would like to welcome you to the 28th annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day. We come together to celebrate, educate, and advocate! Every year we collectively discover all of the wonderful best practices that are happening in our very own backyard and this event gives us an opportunity to share, network, and build new friendships. An event such as this only can happen when presenters, performers, artists, volunteers, vendors, agencies, family, representatives, legislators and sponsors give their time, talent, and resources. A special thanks to the 2015/2016 DD Awareness Day Committee Members who lend their gifts and talents to create this memorable event. After being on the committee for several years and serving in different capacities we realize that with hard work and fun, it truly takes the energy of our entire DDAWNY community to make an event like this happen.

**Rick Banner and Becky Popiel**, DD Day Co-chairmen

The DD day Committee would like to thank the **Developmental Disabilities Planning Council** for their generous donation of scholarships.

We would also like to thank the **Niagara Falls Conference Center** for all your help in making today's event a success.

Thanks to **Service Bridges, Inc. of Niagara Falls** for providing sign language interpretation services for today's event.

## DD DAY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Co-Chairmen	Rick Banner Becky Popiel	People Inc Retired from WNY DDSO
Registration Chairman	Karen Keyes Eileen Nosek	Aspire ECMC
Sponsors/Vendors Co-Chairmen	Bradford Watts Aimee Levesque Ruth Malinowski Lee Hartlib Elaine Valvo	People Inc Buffalo State College ECDC Exceptional Entrepreneurs WNY DDSO
Legislative Chairman	Wendy McCarthy	DDAWNY
Entertainment Chairman	Monica Centner Scott Page	Aspire Empower
Finance	Shawn Cunningham Barb Moltrup	SASi, Inc. SASi, Inc.
Art Logo/ /Art Gallery Chairmen	Amy Holdnack Jennifer Machucki	Aspire Self-Advocate
Media/Website Chairman	Diana Hills Bob Cunningham	CSDD People Inc
Parent Corner	Ruth Malinowski	ECDC
Awards Chairman	Connie Schmidt Mary Moebius	Heritage Christian Services Retired from WNY DDSO
Program Chairman	Sue Kueker	Aspire
Transportation Liaison	Patricia Wiseman	NFTA
Academic Contact	John Keesler	University of Buffalo
Volunteers	Linda Szmanda Izetta Williams	CSDD CSDD
Reception	Stacey Gura Susan Hoff	Claddagh Claddagh
Social Media	Aimee Levesque	Parent



**#1. "Don't Limit Me"****BALLROOM 1****Megan Bomgaars**, Actress and Artist.

Megan Bomgaars is a sought after public speaker, fashion model, entrepreneur, television actress who currently appears on A&E's Born this Way, and is the star of a viral video - Don't Limit Me! – a video that has helped spread the message of inclusion to hundreds of thousands of people.

In this presentation, Megan will discuss her experiences as well as her video. She will also share a powerful message; one in which she encourages educators to be inclusive and to not lower their expectations because of the challenges that she, or anyone else, may face.

**#2. My Own Story of Becoming a Filmmaker : Autism Didn't Stop Me****RED JACKET****Adrian Esposito**, Filmmaker.

Adrian Esposito is a young, prolific filmmaker. At 27 years old, he has already made seven films, many of which have won awards. In this presentation, Adrian will talk about his development as a film maker and will include clips from all of his films. Adrian's films tend to focus on social issues and subjects that have been significant challenges in his life. His life experiences bring a unique perspective to his films and resonate with many people facing similar challenges. His history includes dealing with many educational and social barriers but he remains positive; focusing on his talents and strengths rather than on limitations. Adrian is an advocate for people with disabilities. Winner of the 2015 NYSARC Self Advocate of the Year award as well as the 2015 Western Region Conference Self Advocate of the Year, Adrian is a frequent presenter at Self Advocacy events. He has been the keynote speaker for several of these events. Adrian is part of the Self-Determination Program with OPWDD.

**#3. Therapy Dogs****BALLROOM 2****Lori Brodsky**, Associate Vice President and **Beth Duncan**, Senior Day Supervisor, People, Inc.

This presentation will explore the differences of a therapy dog versus a service dog. What does a therapy dog look like? They come in all shapes, sizes, breeds and ages. Presenters will also discuss the tests and the certification process the dogs need to achieve in order to become a therapy dog. At the presentation, there will be therapy dogs and their owners discussing what they have experienced and their perspective as it relates to their increased independence and quality of life.

**#4. Aspire of WNY World of Work Program****PORTER****Leslie Baragona** and **Kim Volk**, Employment Specialists

Aspire's World of Work (WOW) presentation explores the success achieved through the linkage of students with local businesses in preparation for community involvement and employment. The WOW program is trademarked and recognized as a best practice vocational model in NYS. Presenters will highlight WOW's unique program features, student work experiences, and the transferable skills acquired when students are integrated into their vocational community. Also included in the presentation are amazing success stories highlighting students who have achieved employment through their WOW experiences.

**#5. You are the Chosen One: Going Over and Beyond the Call of Duty****ADAMS****Simply Denise**, MS Motivational Speaker and Training Consultant

This inspiring and motivating interactive presentation is designed to reengage the minds of Direct Support Professionals so as to recommit to their agencies' visions and missions of being a helping hand to persons with developmental disabilities. DSP's will examine their personal values, purpose, and passion in order to create their own personal DSP mission statement for 2016 and beyond.

## **#6. Transform your Life – Home Edition**

## **GOVERNOR'S ROOM**

**Tanja Peters**, Regional Coordinator P2P of NYS, Co-Chair HIAC (Housing Independence Action Coalition) and **Linda Rinaldo**, AVP, People, Inc.

Members of the Housing Independence Action Coalition (HIAC) and the I/DD sub-committee of the Erie County Fair Housing Partnership, will present on renting, home-buying, and housing developments for people with developmental disabilities. Attendees will receive a wealth of housing-related resources including a Home Buying and Renting Guide, a Moving-Out Guide, and many relevant local, state and federal resources to make attendees' housing searches simpler and more successful. Includes highlights showcasing what presenters learned in a housing navigator course.

## **#7. Moving from Our Family Home to Our Own Home**

## **OLMSTED**

**Max Donatelli, Joyce Donatelli, Craig Donatelli, Valerie Rosenhoch, David Rosenhoch, Howard Rosenhoch**, and **Helen Hanes**, Vice President of Community Living at Aspire of WNY

Moving from the family home can be challenging especially for individuals with developmental disabilities. Seven families began a housing transition journey seven years ago that culminated in a wonderful living situation for seven young men. The parents, young men, and an agency representative will speak about the incredible voyage that these families took so as to create a successful move. It is hoped that their journey can be a model for others, even in the current changing environment.

## **#8. Voter Education Initiative**

## **TUBMAN**

**Michael Rembis**, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of History/Director, Center for Disabilities Study University of Buffalo and **Frank Cammarata**, Executive Director of Erie County Office of Disabled.

This forum will showcase dominant topics such as transportation, education, housing, employment, and health care which affect the daily lives of people with a disability, family members, and allies and also how the candidates will focus on them. Discussion will focus on the history of people with disabilities, their right to vote, and the electoral process. Voter registration applications will be provided. This will not be a practical voter "how to" training session. Rather, this session is meant to raise awareness of issues among voters and potential voters.

## **#9. Full Access Travel**

## **HENNEPIN**

**Nicholas Heilig**

Full Access Travel provides reviews of restaurants, venues stadiums/arenas, and other points of interest based on accessibility. This presentation will describe what Full Access Travel is, along with the company's vision, the future of the company website, as well as the possibility of going nationwide. The Full Access Travel website rates things such as parking, seating, and restroom facilities as well as additional information so as to assist others who may be interested in visiting these places.

## **#10. Estate Planning for Individuals with Disabilities and their Families**

## **TESLA**

**Judy N. Cuzzacrea Wagner**, Esq. from Harris Beach PLLC

This presentation will define "Estate Planning" and address important considerations for planning when you have a family member with a disability. The presentation will also provide important information on different forms of Supplemental Needs Trust for the protection of assets and excess income of the disabled individual, while maintaining eligibility for government benefits. Information on special challenges when planning with retirement benefits, review asset protection and Medicaid Planning considerations if long term care is needed by a parent and review Guardianships will also be explored.

**#11. Occupations of Young Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities :From their Perspective** **SCHOELLKOPF**

**Kim Persons**, DHS, OTR/L Clinical Assistant Professor Department of Rehabilitation Science at University of Buffalo and UB Graduate Students **Rachel Schrader, Brittany Moretta, Emma McAndrew, Melanie Luker, Alyssa Reeb, and Lee Aldrich**

There is limited research on self-report of young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) regarding their participation in desired occupations after secondary education. This presentation will examine survey research findings of the current and desired occupations and community based resources following secondary education in young adults (ages 18-25) with IDD. Findings will assist session participants to gain a better understanding of individuals with IDD's wants and needs which may lead to providing more person-centered care. This research can lead to further studies on exploring the perspective of young adults with IDD.

**PM WORKSHOP SESSIONS**

**1:45 PM – 3:15 PM**

**#12. Crossing Borders Trip**

**BALLROOM 1**

**Nick Cacciotti, Eric Johnson, Nick Feeterman, Aaron Hanson, Jon Caldwell, and Chris Zienski**

Last summer, four guys from People, Inc.'s Guys Group embarked upon their journey of traveling 6,000 miles; an experience that changed them for a lifetime. Crossing Borders may seem like just an ordinary cross-country road trip, but it couldn't have been further from ordinary. The trip consisted of visits to other agencies that served people with disabilities, visits to National Parks, and opportunities for personal growth. Attendees will be the first to check out clips from their documentary and to see pictures and hear stories from their travels.

**#13. Self-Advocacy Works! Use Your Voice!**

**BALLROOM 2**

**Shameka Andrews**, State Coordinator of the MS Wheelchair NY Program

Self-Advocacy Works! People with disabilities have the power to affect change and educate decision/policymakers about issues of importance. Attendees of this workshop will learn about policymaking, the basic rights and responsibilities of being a self-advocate, the ways to effectively communicate ideas, hopes, and needs to decision makers, and how to build advocacy, communication, and teamwork skills!

**#14. Beyond Recruitment: Understanding Factors Associated with DSP Job Satisfaction and Burnout**

**John M. Keesler**, LMSW, Doctoral Candidate, School of Social Work UB

**SCHOELLKOPF**

As agencies serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities struggle to sustain a viable work force amid changing resources and competing employment opportunities, recruitment and retention are critical factors to consider. This presentation will discuss the findings of an online survey of direct support professionals (DSPs). The study focused on DSPs' emotional intelligence (i.e. awareness of one's own emotions, the emotions of others, optimism and social skills), professional quality of life (i.e. compassion satisfaction, burnout, and secondary traumatic stress), exposure to individuals' challenging behavior, and, perception of organizational culture (i.e. safety, choice, collaboration, trust, and empowerment). Findings indicate that DSPs' emotional intelligence, exposure to challenging behavior, and perception of the organizational culture are significantly related to their professional quality of life. Study results may support the development of an intervention and/or additional training during the first year of employment for DSPs, as well as direction for internal strategies for organizations to foster cultures which support satisfaction and reduce burnout.



### **#15. You Can Run Your Own ISP**

**PORTER**

**Russel Bennethum, SANYS**

In this workshop, a self-advocate will show you how to run your own ISP based on his experiences. Learn how to prepare your agenda, contact the people you want to invite to the ISP, how to pick a location, run the meeting, and how to work with an MSC.

### **#16. Employment & ACCESS-VR : Trending Initiatives to Help Individuals with Disabilities Achieve their Employment Goals**

**RED JACKET**

**Sarah Wolf, Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor State Wide Transition and Youth Services and Mary Trzcinski, Business Relations Representative**

This workshop will explore the description of assessments, training, and employment programs for individuals who want to explore employment options and begin the path towards competitive employment. The workshop will also focus on the specialized services for youths-including linkages with the high schools and how/when to apply for our services. Employer incentives which can be used in conjunction with Employment Services. Benefits advisement services will also be discussed.

### **#17. Inclusion through Advocacy - Initiatives that Work**

**OLMSTED**

**David Whalen, Founder-Disability Awareness Training, Project Director-Niagara University First Responders Disability Awareness Training**

As noted by the National Organization of Disabilities, INCLUSION is the leading domain in addressing equality for individuals with disabilities; however, it 'just doesn't happen'. Individuals with disabilities and disability advocates must take the lead in ensuring equality occurs. Disability Awareness Training, based at Niagara University, will introduce the audience to proven initiatives most recognized at the state and federal level, which move INCLUSION forward through advocacy and empowerment. Guidance, tools, and resources will be provided.

### **#18. WNY Partnership: Most Innovative Agency**

**DEVAUX**

**Parent Netwok, This Year's Partnership Award Winner**

This presentation will focus on the winner of this year's Partnership Award. Learn about their award winning Best Practice including people with developmental disabilities in Agency operations.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please include your name for the Basket Raffle (you need to be present to win)!

<b>OVERALL OPINION OF DD Day! 2016</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Poor</b>

**Please respond to the following:**

I was treated with respect during this event.	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
The conference offered me information and choices.	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
The conference provided me with information about opportunities in my community.	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
The conference provided information that benefited me.	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>

**Comments:**

**What topics would you like to see presenters cover next year?**

**Overall opinion of Niagara Falls Conference & Event Center:**

# CONFERENCE CENTER MAP



Old Falls Street

Rainbow Blvd.