

Are you a parent/caregiver of a child with  
special needs?

Then look inside and check out...

# **What's happening in WNY...**

Upcoming and Ongoing Events  
in the Community

# News from the Community...



- What:** **Special Education Parents Advisory Committee**  
**Where:** Professional Culinary Academy, 2253 Main St. Buffalo NY 14214  
**When:** February 8, 2012 9:30 a.m.  
**Why:** All meetings are open to parents of children receiving special education services in the Buffalo Public School District.  
**Who:** 716-831-7801
- What:** **Ken-Ton SEPTSA**  
**Where:** Hoover Middle School-Cafeteria, 249 Thorncliff Rd, Kenmore 14223  
**When:** February 10, 2012 6:30 p.m.
- What:** **Starpoint Special Education Group**  
**Where:** Starpoint Middle School, Special Programs Conference Room  
**When:** February 14, 2012 7:00 p.m.  
**Who:** Sara Siracuse, 625-8922, siracuse@juno.com
- What:** **Williamsville SEPTSA**  
**Where:** 105 Casey Rd., East Amherst, 14051  
**When:** January 26 7:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.  
**Why:** “Understanding Transition”
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- What:** **Power of a Positive Attitude**  
**Where:** The Lutheran Service Society, 6680 Main St, Williamsville NY  
**When:** February 1 6:30 -8:00 p.m.  
**Why:** Designed for families caring for a relative with a developmental disability, you will explore why we sometimes have a negative attitude, and discuss the often untapped, great power of having a positive one. The topic discussion will also include identifying ways to develop a more positive attitude.
- What:** **Healthy Relationships and “Love Languages”**  
**Where:** The Lutheran Service Society, 6680 Main St, Williamsville NY  
**When:** February 22 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
**Why:** This seminar helps people understand that not everyone left their families with a good working knowledge of what a healthy relationship is or how to go about having one. There will be a discussion of healthy relationship characteristics, “red flags”, and also helping participants identify their “love languages” in an effort to get their emotional needs met more effectively.  
**Who:** The Lutheran Service Society, 631-9212 to register. Seating is limited.
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- What:** **The Parent Child Connection**  
**Why:** The purpose of this group is to provide parenting enrichment opportunities by offering educational programs for the families of Hamburg and surrounding communities.  
**Who:** The Family Support Center of Hamburg, (716) 646-9593
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- What:** **ADDRESS Adult Support Group**  
**Where:** Ascension Lutheran Church, 4640 Main Street, Snyder, NY  
**When:** 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month  
**Why:** These meetings are for adults with ADHD or those living with an adult with ADHD.  
**Who:** (716) 829-2244, ext. 135 for more information
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- What:** **WNY Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Family Support Group**  
**Where:** 1625 Hertel Avenue, Buffalo, NY  
**When:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
**Why:** Meet with other families, share experiences, ideas and information.  
**Who:** Helen Weinstein at 831-2298, ext. 19
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**1000 Main Street, Buffalo NY 14202 Fax: (716) 332-4171 Toll free (866) 277-4762 www.parentnetworkwny.org**



# News from the Community...

<b>What:</b>	<b>Erie County Adoption Resource Ctr. Support Group</b>
<b>Where:</b>	131 Orchard Park Rd., West Seneca
<b>When:</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of month 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
<b>Who:</b>	Karen Kelley (716) 848-6419
<b>What:</b>	<b>Support Groups for Adoptive Parents – Erie County</b>
<b>Where:</b>	Hillside Children's Center, 131 Orchard Park Road, West Seneca, NY
<b>When:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
<b>Why:</b>	Meet others who share the daily challenges and rewards of parenting adopted children and teens. Pre- and post-adoptive parents welcome.
<b>Who:</b>	(716) 848-6419 to register or for more information
<b>What:</b>	<b>Adoptive Parents &amp; Kids Support Groups</b>
<b>Where:</b>	New Directions Youth & Family Services, 1445 Kensington Ave., Buffalo, NY
<b>When:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
<b>Why:</b>	Adoptive parents come together and share common stories while supporting one another; while their adoptive children meet with other adoptive kids to help promote their social skills.
<b>Who:</b>	Sylvia Inman at (716) 834-9413 ext. 212
<b>What:</b>	<b>Bornhava's Men's Forum</b>
<b>Where:</b>	25 Chateau Terrace, Amherst 14226
<b>Why:</b>	The forum is open to fathers and male caregivers of children with developmental delays. They meet once a month to discuss coping with the stresses, challenges and rewards of being a father of a child with special needs. The group is facilitated by a licensed psychologist
<b>Who:</b>	Ellen Crawford, 839-1655
<b>What:</b>	<b>Bornhava's WOW MOMS</b>
<b>Where:</b>	25 Chateau Terrace, Amherst 14226
<b>Why:</b>	This is open to all women who care for a child with special needs. They meet once a month on a Thursday evening during the school year.
<b>Who:</b>	Pat/Ann, 839-1655 for more information
<b>What:</b>	<b>Sensory Processing Disorder Support Group</b>
<b>When:</b>	Call for meeting dates, times and location
<b>Why:</b>	Created for parents to provide information, resources and understanding to parents, friends, teachers, relatives, community members, professionals and anyone touched by the impact of Sensory Processing Disorder. Meetings feature group discussions, education and guest speakers. <i>Meetings are for adults only.</i>
<b>Who:</b>	Kirsten Seebald (716) 982-1770 or <a href="mailto:marilynballard@gmail.com">marilynballard@gmail.com</a>
<b>What:</b>	<b>Connections Parent Support Group for Families of Children with Asperger's Disorder</b>
<b>Where:</b>	Summit Educational Resources, 150 Stahl Rd., Getzville, NY
<b>When:</b>	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of each month
<b>Why:</b>	Share ideas, information, treatment options, educational options and advocacy strategies.
<b>Who:</b>	Sandy Cherre (716) 629-3400 x3422
<b>What:</b>	<b>Autism Society of WNY Support /Informational Meetings &amp; Workshops</b>
<b>Where:</b>	St. John Lutheran Church, 3512 Clinton Street, West Seneca, NY
<b>When:</b>	Check website for meeting dates & topics
<b>Why:</b>	To provide information to families & professionals who work with our children. Parents should call/email for a free book on ASD, and to be added to mailing list. Website lists upcoming workshops of interest in WNY area. <a href="http://www.autismwny.org">www.autismwny.org</a>
<b>Who:</b>	(716) 633-2275 or email <a href="mailto:info@autismwny.org">info@autismwny.org</a>
<b>What:</b>	<b>ACCEPT Evening Parent Support Group</b>
<b>Where:</b>	Brighton Community Church, 1225 Brighton Rd, Tonawanda NY 14150
<b>When:</b>	Third Thursday of each month, beginning Jan 19 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
<b>Why:</b>	A confidential support group for parents of children on the Autism Spectrum.
<b>Who:</b>	Rachel, 716-836-4378 RSVP greatly appreciated.

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<b>What:</b>	<b>United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation (UMDF)-WNY Mito Group</b>
<b>Where:</b>	Williamsville United Methodist Church, 5681 Main Street, Williamsville
<b>When:</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
<b>Why:</b>	An opportunity to meet others who are affected by Mitochondrial disease
<b>Who:</b>	Jennifer (716) 525-1102 or Jeanne (716) 674-1007
<b>What:</b>	<b>Families' Child Advocacy Network (CAN) Monthly Roundtable Discussion Group</b>
<b>Where:</b>	The Family Resource Ctr., 347 East Ferry St., Buffalo NY 14208
<b>When:</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
<b>Why:</b>	Families CAN is family run and family driven for all parents, grandparents, foster parents and caregivers raising a child with social, emotional and/or behavioral disabilities.
<b>Who:</b>	(716) 884-2599 or <a href="http://www.familiescanwny.org">www.familiescanwny.org</a> for more information.
<b>What:</b>	<a href="http://www.buffalodiocese.org/disabilities">www.buffalodiocese.org/disabilities</a>
<b>Why:</b>	To discover the spiritual resources provided to persons with disabilities in the Catholic Diocese of Buffalo
<b>What:</b>	<b>GLOW Family Support Program</b>
<b>Where:</b>	Hillside Children's Center, Genesee, Livingston, Orleans and Wyoming Counties
<b>When:</b>	Ongoing support groups and respite care
<b>Why:</b>	GLOW offers support, respite, advocacy, information and referral, newsletters, a library, etc. for families of children birth to age 21 with an emotional and/or behavioral challenge.
<b>Who:</b>	Integration Center at (585) 256-7500 for more information.
<b>What:</b>	<b>SMILE Support Groups in Niagara County</b>
<b>Where:</b>	Wheatfield Community Senior Center, 2790 Church Rd., North Tonawanda, NY
<b>When:</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday each month
<b>Where:</b>	The Dale Association, 33 Ontario Avenue, Lockport, NY
<b>When:</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
<b>Why:</b>	To provide support, education and information on topics selected by group members & parent facilitators.
<b>Who:</b>	Marge Wright at (716) 433-4487 to register.
<b>What:</b>	<b>Parents of Children with Disabilities Support Group</b>
<b>Where:</b>	Aspire, 7 Community Drive, Cheektowaga, NY
<b>When:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month 6:30 p.m.
<b>Why:</b>	This group is open to ALL parents who have a child with a disability.
<b>Who:</b>	Jill Kelly (716) 505-5248 for more information
<b>What:</b>	<b>Teen Pals Program</b>
<b>Where:</b>	Yad B'Yad, 2640 North Forest Dr., Getzville, NY
<b>When:</b>	Twice per month, once on the weekend, once during the week. Times vary.
<b>Why:</b>	Open to teenagers 13-18 who need help with social skills. Currently accepting names for a waiting list.
<b>Who:</b>	(716) 204-3583 for more information * <b>Cost:</b> \$200 for the year
<b>What:</b>	<b>Child &amp; Family Support Programs</b>
<b>Why:</b>	Offering support for families raising a child with emotional and/or behavioral problems. Meetings present an opportunity to talk, listen and learn about issues and feelings involved.
<b>Who:</b>	Child & Family Support Program, 716-886-1242 ext. 318
<b>What:</b>	<b>Peer Youth Support Group</b>
<b>Where:</b>	Mental Health Assoc., 999 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY
<b>When:</b>	Call for schedule of meetings
<b>Why:</b>	Youth 12-17 years old can plan monthly activities, share peer support and snack. Parent Support Group will take place at the same time in another room.

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# News from the Community...



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- What:** 20 Something Group  
**Where:** Mental Health Assoc., 999 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo NY  
**When:** Call for schedule of meetings  
**Why:** Young adults 18 years old and up can share stories and peer support, meet friends, participate in group activities, and snack.  
**Who:** 716-886-1242 ext. 313 to register for either of these groups
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- What:** **Parents-for-Parents Support Group**  
**Where:** The Resource Center Administration Bldg, 200 Dunham Ave., Jamestown NY  
**When:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Gateways Building, 51 E. Third Street, Dunkirk, NY  
**When:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
**Why:** A monthly parent/caregiver support group which connects and supports families of individuals with special needs of all ages.  
**Who:** Tess Kerzner, 716-661-1057 ([tess.kerzner@resourcecenter.org](mailto:tess.kerzner@resourcecenter.org)) for more information.
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- What:** **Autism & Children Connecting Each Other's Parents Together - ACCEPT**  
**Where:** Brighton Community Church, 1225 Brighton Rd, Tonawanda 14150  
**When:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
**Why:** Created by a mom of a 5 yr. old diagnosed with Autism, the group is for parents of children on the Autism spectrum to provide support, education and resources to families.  
**Who:** Rachel, 836-4378
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- What:** **Short Term Respite Care**  
**Why:** Respite may be provided for eligible families raising a child with mental health and serious emotional/behavior issues.  
**Who:** Child & Family Support Program (716) 886-1242 ext. 327
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- What:** **Northtowns Afternoon Respite Program**  
**Where:** Lockport High School, 250 Lincoln Ave, Lockport NY  
**When:** 2:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. weekdays  
**Why:** At a time when their peers may no longer need supervision after school, some kids with developmental disabilities still may need supervision, support and/or structured activities. This new program will provide fun activities provided by trained staff, offer homework help, and a safe place for students to hang out with friends.  
**Who:** People Inc., Andy Hall 716-692-0872 for more info.
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- What:** **Precious Jewels Day Care Center, Inc.**  
**Where:** 390 Emslie Street, Buffalo, NY 14206  
**When:** Monday – Friday 6:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
**Why:** A not-for-profit child care center licensed by the NY State Department of Social Services. They offer activities designed to promote the physical, emotional and intellectual needs of each child.  
**Who:** (716) 604-1514 for more information
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- What:** **Heritage Christian Services Club House Adventure**  
**Where:** Day Habilitation Site, 1000 Ellicott Creek Road, Tonawanda, NY  
**When:** 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. two Saturdays per month  
**Why:** A respite program for children and young adults with disabilities ages 3-25 who are eligible for services through the Western New York DDSO. Participants must reside in Erie, Orleans, Genesee or Niagara counties. Capacity is limited.  
**Who:** (716) 743-2020 or [scardinal@heritagechristianservices.org](mailto:scardinal@heritagechristianservices.org) for more information
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- What:** **Aspire Mental Health Clinic**  
**Where:** Aspire, 7 Community Drive, Cheektowaga, NY  
**Why:** An acute care, crisis prevention and intervention clinic that will provide short-term stabilization and therapy for dually diagnosed individuals with BOTH mental health & developmental disability diagnosis.  
**Who:** Mary Carol Roberson at (716) 505-5630
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<b>What:</b>	<b>The Heart Club</b>
<b>Where:</b>	Grace Baptist Church, 2525 Eggert Road, Tonawanda NY
<b>When:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of the month 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
<b>Why:</b>	To provide monthly social and spiritual interaction for developmentally disabled adults. Enjoy crafts, music, devotions and a snack while socializing with other adults 21 yrs. and older.
<b>Who:</b>	Jean Fitzgerald (716) 877-7080 for more information
<b>What:</b>	<b>Socialization &amp; Recreation Group Program</b>
<b>Where:</b>	Robert Warner Rehabilitation Center, 219 Bryant St., Buffalo, NY; various community locations.
<b>When:</b>	Every other Friday evening for 2 hours.
<b>Why:</b>	Teenagers aged 12-15 or 16-19 who have a developmental or medical disability may be eligible. Spaces are limited and filled on a first-come-first-serve basis.
<b>Who:</b>	Program Coordinator at 878-1260 for an application packet.
<b>What:</b>	<b>Resource Lending Library</b>
<b>Where:</b>	Autistic Services Inc., 4444 Bryant Stratton Way, Williamsville, NY
<b>Why:</b>	A place for the WNY community to turn for information about Autism Spectrum Disorders.
<b>Who:</b>	Call Veronica Federiconi at 716-631-5777 for more information.
<b>What:</b>	<b>American Sign Language Classes for Children</b>
<b>Where:</b>	Independent Living of Niagara County, 746 Portage Rd., Niagara Falls, NY
<b>Who:</b>	For more information contact <a href="mailto:jgrimaldi@wnyil.org">jgrimaldi@wnyil.org</a> or call 284-4131, ext. 203
<b>What:</b>	<b>Friends Program</b>
<b>Where:</b>	Yad B'Yad, 805 Delaware Ave., Buffalo NY
<b>When:</b>	20 outings per year, each approximately 2 hours long
<b>Why:</b>	Open to young adults age 18-30 with developmental disabilities living at home with family. Participate in age appropriate life activities that address life skill areas. Each participant will be matched with a volunteer.
<b>*Cost:</b>	<i>Need to have Medicaid waiver for funding.</i>
<b>Who:</b>	(716) 923-0020 for more information
<b>What:</b>	<b>Danceability, Inc.</b>
<b>Where:</b>	In the Tops/George Urban Plaza, 3859 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, NY
<b>When:</b>	Call for schedule of classes
<b>Why:</b>	A dance and creative movement program for children and adults with special needs.
<b>Who:</b>	(716) 651-0094 for information
<b>What:</b>	<b>Graceful &amp; Gifted Special Needs Dance Program</b>
<b>Where:</b>	5000 Saunders Settlement Rd., Bay #3, Niagara Falls, NY
<b>When:</b>	Call for schedule
<b>Why:</b>	A ballet/movement program for ambulatory and non-ambulatory individuals from 4 yrs. to adults.
<b>Who:</b>	For information and to register call Susan Farley-Akin, 716-946-7909
<b>What:</b>	<b>High Hurdles Therapeutic Riding</b>
<b>When:</b>	Call for schedule of classes
<b>Where:</b>	13339 Rte. 39, Sardinia 14134
<b>Why:</b>	Therapeutic riding offers individuals with special needs a unique opportunity for growth and development. Learn to care for and about horses while mastering riding skills.
<b>Who:</b>	716-496-5551 for more information
<b>What:</b>	<b>Getting There Transportation Program</b>
<b>Where:</b>	The Western New York Independent Living Project, Inc., Erie County
<b>Why:</b>	Provides transportation assistance to and from recreational activities. There are three levels of service, depending upon needs of the individual. Documentation of disability must be provided.

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**Who:** Ann Palmer at (716) 836-0822, ext. 18 **\*NOTE:** Need volunteer drivers to transport people of all ages with developmental disabilities to various social activities. Must use your own vehicle. For more information, call Cathy at 836-0822, ext.150

# News from the Community...



**What:** Paratransit Access Line (PAL)  
**Where:** Several stops located throughout WNY.  
**When:** Operates the same hours as Metro Bus & Rail service.  
**Why:** An accessible bus and rail system for individuals with disabilities. PAL provides curb-to-curb transportation service for various purposes, including social, medical and recreational activities.  
**Who:** (716) 855-7268 (voice), (716) 855-7377 (TDD), [www.NFTA.com](http://www.NFTA.com) for application information.

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## Treatment Study for Children with High Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorders (HFASD's)

This project is examining the effectiveness of computer instruction and practice activities on the emotion recognition skills and social behaviors of 7-12 year olds with HFASD and PDDNOS. It consists of two after school sessions per week over twelve weeks at Canisius College. Children work on computer games and lessons and practice skills with the program staff. Participation is free.

Contact Dr. Marcus Thomeer, 716-888-3188 or visit [www.canisius.edu/iar](http://www.canisius.edu/iar).

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