



**Thirty Fifth Annual
Developmental Disabilities Day
Registration & Workshop Information**



Tuesday, August 1, 2023

Doors open at 8:00 a.m.

The Conference Center Niagara Falls

101 Old Falls Street – Niagara Falls NY 14303

Visit www.ddday.org to register online

2023 Features

Innovative Workshops – Concession Service – Agency and Vendor Fair

Art Gallery – Therapy Dogs – Awards Luncheon – Open Reception

Presenting Sponsor



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2023 Schedule

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Welcome – Partnership and Art Logo Award Announced
9:30 – 10:15 a.m.	Keynote Presentation
10:15 – 10:45 a.m.	Break and Fair
10:45 a.m. – noon	Morning Workshops
Noon – 12:15 p.m.	Break and Fair
12:15 – 1:30 p.m.	Awards Luncheon
1:30 – 1:45 p.m.	Break and Fair
1:45 – 2:45 p.m.	Afternoon Workshops
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Reception with Music by “Universal Mind”

OPENING PRESENTATION

9:30 – 10:15 A.M.

Vickie Rubin, Award-winning Author

"I thought I would have to teach my child about the world. It turns out I have to teach the world about my child."

-Source Unknown

Vickie Rubin's presentation will discuss their family's life, Raising Jess, who was born with a rare chromosome deletion. Vickie says, "Our path differed from many of our friends and neighbors. But different does not mean worse or sad; merely different. Our opportunities and experiences changed our lives for the better."

Vickie will share the sibling, grandparents, and family experiences and why she documented their unique story in a book.



Intended Audience Key: I=Individual, F=Family, P=Professional, E=Everybody

#1. Letting Go and Accepting Help

Vickie Rubin M.S. Ed, Author / Parent/ Advocate

When our daughter Jessica moved into a group home, it was a tough decision for our family. We were Jessica's primary caretakers and support. Were we ready to Let Go of that role? This presentation will discuss what families struggle with as their child, who requires services, reaches adulthood. How can parents help their children gain independence to the best of their ability? This interactive session will include information for parents and siblings on how to start planning for life after school and guidance for professionals about working with and supporting families. It is Ok to accept Help! (E)

#2. Dementia & People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

F. Paul Lounsbury, Learning & Development Coordinator, People Inc.

Alzheimer's and Dementia impacts the population of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the same ways as the typical population. However, it is often unrecognized, misunderstood and misdiagnosed as a behavior concern. Further it is typically diagnosed late due to lack of diagnostic processes specific to people with intellectual disabilities. (P)

#3. Art of Advocacy

BJ Stasio, Vice President, SANYS and Max Donatelli, Family Advocate

This workshop will provide an overview of the Art of Advocacy: Assuring the Rights of People with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities. Participants will learn how this method of experiencing advocacy is "not a program but a way of life". Presenters will share how advocates, family members, and allies can gradually become more effective in advocating for themselves, and even help change larger systems by their actions. Presenters hope to teach new ideas and inspire those who attend. (E)

#4. Planning for Emergencies for People with Disabilities

Pati Aine Guzinski, Training Coordinator, EC DOH-OPHEP and Frank Cammarata, Executive Director, Erie County Office for People with Disabilities

Emergency Preparedness for people with disabilities can seem to be a daunting task. This presentation will show you how to be prepared at home, at work, and in your car. Learn actions to take and materials to have on hand to handle any emergency, especially the critical first 72 hours following that emergency. (E)

#5. Addressing Sexual Education for Youths with Disabilities

Desiree Walkowski, LMSW, People Inc.

Parents and care givers can struggle with sharing information on human development and sexual education with people who have a developmental disability. It's challenging to know where to start – is now a time to address this or can it wait? How much is too much information? How to discuss this topic comprehensively? This presentation will include resources to help caregivers address this topic on their own, as well as seeking professional support. Also, how much support should parents or caregivers expect from our public schools? (F,P)

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#6. Future Planning: First Step, “The Conversation”

Jennifer Allen, Senior Clinical Program Manager, Person Centered Services Care Coordinator Organization and Kristen Janik, Behavioral Health Manager, Person Centered Services Care Coordinator Organization

This presentation will be an information session to provide guidance on how care coordinators and people/families supported by care coordination can partner to have the difficult conversations needed to conduct long-term, future planning. Various decision-making models and resources will be provided and highlighted throughout the presentation. (E)

#7. Life on the Spectrum with a Late Diagnosis

Sue Abramowski, Residential Habilitation Aide/Respite Specialist, DePaul

Have you ever wondered what it is like to find out you are autistic when you are 31? Here’s your chance to find out! Sue always knew there was something different about her. She later learned that there was a reason for this after all! (E)

#8. Cherishing the Oral Health of Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Elisabeth Thompson, OTR/L, University Pediatric Dentistry; Dr. Katherine Dority, DDS, University Pediatric Dentistry and Christiana Berge, OTR/L, University Pediatric Dentistry

Individuals with developmental disabilities are at an increased risk for oral disease. This highlights the importance of providing equitable access to dental care and oral home care for this population. Neglecting oral health can result in intraoral pain, systemic health complications, and low self-esteem. The impact of poor oral hygiene as well as potential solutions to improve home care and dental visits for individuals with developmental disabilities will be further examined. (E)

#9. The Impact of Stress & Burnout on DSP’s & How Organizational Policies Can Support Them

Kimberly Kadziolka, Ed D., Executive Director, Parent Network of WNY

In 2019-2020, the presenter completed research related to the impact of compassion fatigue, stress, and burnout of direct support staff and the potential impact on their decision to change jobs. This session will discuss findings of the research and how these could impact policies and procedures implemented in organizations that provide services to people with disabilities. (P)

#10. How to Get Involved in the Partnership Coalition

Sam Mattle, Executive Director, Center for Self-Advocacy and Jeff Sanderson, Vice President Strategic Initiatives, People Inc.

Participants will learn how and why the Partnership Coalition began 18 years ago, about the important purpose the coalition serves, and how to get involved. We are a coalition of diverse voices advocating for collaboration that promotes best practices and true inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of life. Our members include self-advocates, family members, volunteers, and staff from provider agencies. We seek to increase awareness, effort, and progress toward the meaningful inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in organizational leadership and decision-making. (E)

AFTERNOON WORKSHOP SESSIONS

1:45 – 2:45 P.M.

#11. Voting Basics - You're your ballot and let your voice be heard!

BJ Stasio, Vice President, SANYS; Todd G. Vaarwerk, Chief Policy Officer, WNYIL and Sam Mattle, Executive Director, Center for Self-Advocacy

Self-Advocates will present on the process of letting your voice be heard by voting in elections. An example question of "What is your favorite sandwich?" will guide the discussion. There will also be an educational mock debate with candidates. Additionally, advocates will learn how to use adaptive voting systems currently available in Erie and Niagara Counties. (E)

#12. "Pandora's Inbox": Recognizing Malicious Emails and Messages

Robert Cunningham, Application Support Specialist, People Inc. and Israel Cruz, Advocacy Support, People Inc.

How can you tell if an email poses a threat to you? Is there a way to find out where the email actually came from? What do these people want from us, and how did they get our email addresses? We are going to talk about ways to keep ourselves safe from scammers and crooks. (E)

#13. TIES (Together Including Every Student)

Kathy Costello, TIES Program Director, Starbridge and Karen Polizzi, TIES Coordinator for Springville-Griffith Institute

Together Including Every Student (TIES), a program of Starbridge, promotes the participation of students and young adults who have developmental disabilities in inclusive, organized, extracurricular and community activities, with the natural support of trained peer volunteers. TIES has been implemented in several school districts in the WNY region. The presentation will include: the value and benefits of inclusive experiences for people with and without disabilities, perspectives from parents, participants, peer volunteers and school administrators. (E)

#14. Dress for Success: Making an Impact through Accessible Fashions

Erik Milbrath, Coordinator of Vocational Services, Aspire of WNY; Jennifer Young, Senior Employment Specialist, Aspire of WNY and Gary Threat, Senior Employment Specialist, Aspire of WNY

A recent study found that the lack of adaptive clothing in the mass retail market poses workforce barriers for people with disabilities. While retailers such as Target and Tommy Hilfiger sell casual adaptive clothing there remains a limited amount of professional clothing available. The secondhand retail market has become a mainstream part of the fashion world. This workshop will provide job seekers with resources from Aspire of WNY A.D.A.P.T Fashions! A community-based prevocational service that will bring professional attire to those in attendance seeking to make an impact through accessible fashion! (E)

#15. Introduction to Health Sexuality and Relationships

Emily Tennant-Koller, Education and Training Coordinator, Parent Network of WNY

Join Parent Network for an introduction to our Healthy Sexuality and Relationships course. Parent Network offers an array of Healthy Sexuality classes for family members, agency staff and individuals. In this 45-minute session we will begin to explore attitudes and beliefs around sexuality and relationships. This session is for everyone! (E)

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#16. LGBTQ+ and Developmental Disability

Shanell Davis, Advocacy Support Professional, People Inc. and Gwen Squire, Advocacy Support Professional, People Inc.

In this presentation, we will discuss the PrideAbility movement, how to access community resources and the power of pronouns. We will be providing some basic information on LGBTQ+ topics and leave time for questions. (E)

#17. Leadership - Taking Care of your Mind and Body

Shameka Andrews, Disability Advocate, Disability Empowered

In this workshop we will discuss finding the tools that help us take care of our mind and body and help us to be the best. (E)

#18. Be the CEO of Your Life!

Carlie Arnone, Mgr., Learning, Development & Diversity, Person Centered Services Care Coordinator Organization and Erin McGee, Dir., Learning, Development & Diversity, Person Centered Services Care Coordinator Organization

What would you do if given seven extra years of life? Spend time with those you love...Enjoy a hobby... Travel? Did you know that a positive mindset can increase your lifespan by seven years? In this interactive session, we will talk about how to be the CEO, **Chief Energy Officer**, in your life. The session includes: the power of positive thinking; tactics to be more inclusive and tools to navigate frequent changes in life.





Event Features

Healthy You – Mind, Body, Soul

This feature will be in the Cataract Room. There will be light refreshments in the afternoon. A Healthy You includes Yoga, Zumba, Healthy Snacks, and Self-Expression!

Art Gallery

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

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. **For the first time, some vendors will be selling some of their products at the conference, so be sure to bring some extra money for shopping!**

Therapy Dogs – People & Paws

Throughout the public areas of the convention, there will be therapy dogs and their owners on hand who can help provide general information about therapy dog programs and answer questions you may have. There will also be items for sale to promote their program.



Concessions available on the day of the event:

DD Awareness Day Merchandise

T-shirts and tote bags will be available for purchase to commemorate this event. Additional merchandise may be available on the day of the event.

Reception – 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

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.



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.**



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

Located in the Cataract Room



Find us on social media!

Facebook: DDDay- Developmental Disability Awareness Day

Twitter: @DDDayOfficial

Wordpress: <https://dddayofficialblog.wordpress.com/>

Flickr: DDDayOfficial

Email: developmentaldisabilitiesday@gmail.com

2023 DD Day Registration Form

Name: _____

Agency (if appropriate): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____ Phone: _____

Please check all that apply:

Individual Family Member Professional Other _____

How did you hear about DD Day?

Print Advertisement Social Media WNY Family Magazine

School Parent Network SANYS

I am registering for:

Workshops and Lunch (\$40) Lunch Only (\$20) Workshops/Fair Only (\$25)

Lunch Choices:

Lemon Herb Chicken Greek Salad with Olives and Feta (V, GF)

Grilled Teriyaki Chicken with Sesame Jasmine Rice and French Beans

Penne Alfredo with Roasted Vegetable Ratatouille (V)

Scholarships are available on a first come, first served basis on EventBrite.

Important 2023 Registration Information

Workshop Attendance will be on a first come basis.

Please note: Special Parking Rate of \$5

**TO GET THIS DISCOUNT, BRING YOUR PARKING SLIP INTO THE
EVENT TO GET VALIDATED!**

- Registration deadline is **7/21/2023**.
- Register online at <http://www.ddday.org>
- Registration on the day of conference is \$30 – **No lunch provided.**
- Mail this registration form (above) with your payment (checks must be made out to DD Day) to:

DD Day 2023 – PO Box 46 – Strykersville, NY 14145

Additional accommodations: If you need an interpreter, FM loop, or other accommodations, please contact **Rick Banner at 716-322-7070 or rbanner@people-inc.org**