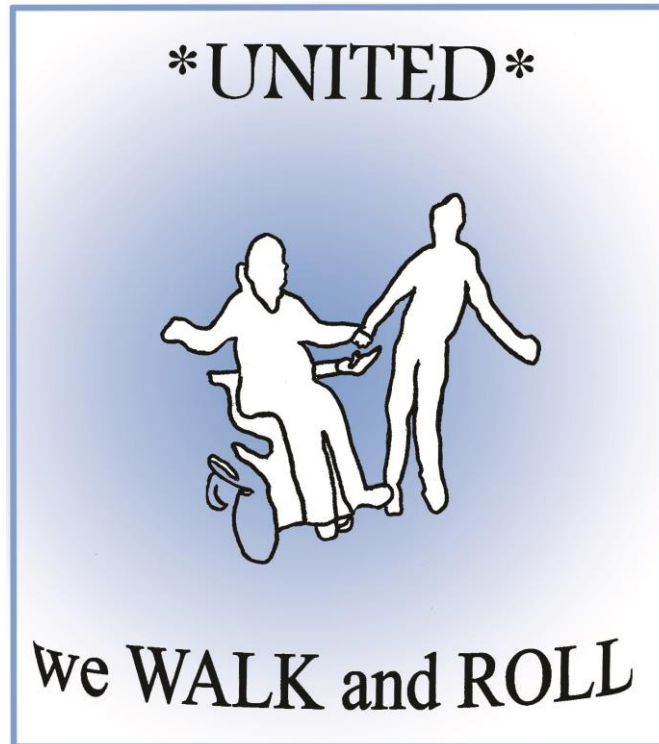




**Twenty-Eighth Annual
Developmental Disabilities Day
Registration & Workshop Information**



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 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 DD Day Registration Form

Name: _____

Agency (if appropriate): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____ Phone: _____

Please check all that apply:

Individual with Disability Family Member Professional Other _____

How did you hear about DD Day?

Print Advertisement Social Media

I am registering for:

Workshops and Lunch (\$35) Lunch Only (\$20) Workshops/Fair Only (\$15)

Lunch Choice: (All lunches come with Fruit Cup, Chocolate Mousse and Bread Sticks)

Antipasta Salad served with Italian Dressing (Gluten free)
 Eggplant Stack with Pasta and a la Vodka Sauce (Vegetarian)
 Chicken Parmesan with Pasta and a la Vodka Sauce served with a Vegetable Medley

Registration Scholarship

I am an individual with a developmental disability and/or have a family member with a developmental disability and would like to apply for a scholarship to attend the workshop and fair only. **Scholarships are limited – apply early.**

SESSION NUMBERS											
Please circle your workshop for each session. Register for only one workshop per session.											
Session 10:30 – 12:00	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Session 1:45 – 3:15	12	13	14	15	16	17	18				

Important 2016 Registration Information:

- Registration deadline is 5/9/2016.
- Register online at <http://www.ddday.org>
- Registration on the day of conference is \$20 – **No lunch provided.**
- Mail this registration form (above) with your payment (checks must be made out to DD Day) to:

DD Day 2016 – PO Box 46 – Strykersville, NY 14145

Additional accommodations: If you need an interpreter, FM loop, or other accommodations, please contact Becky Popiel at (716) 655-5043

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 dyeing clothing company called “Megology”.

Her mother, Kris, is known as her “Dream Maker”, and the two are an inseparable pair.



#1. "Don't Limit Me" – 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 - 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 - 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 - 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 - 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 - Tanja Peters, 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 - 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 - 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 - 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 - 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 - 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.

#12. Crossing Borders Trip - 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! - 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.

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: 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: 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: 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 – 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.

Event Features

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 (1:45 PM – 3:15 PM).

Performance/Healthy You – Mind, Body, Soul

Various performers including music, poetry and dance will entertain throughout the day. Located in the Cataract Room. There will be light refreshments in the afternoon. A Healthy You including Yoga, Zumba, Healthy Snacks, and Self –Expression!

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 DDDay logo design, along with the runners-up. The winning logo design can also be found on merchandise that is available for purchase at the DDDay 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. **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!**

Concessions will available on the day of the event.

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.



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.**



**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://dddofficialblog.wordpress.com/>

Flickr: DDDayOfficial

Email: developmentaldisabilitiesday@gmail.com

We would like to thank our sponsors!



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