

ANNUAL REPORT

2024
-
2025

Support. Educate. Connect. Empower.



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MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kimberly Kadziolka

Dear Friends,

At Parent Network of WNY, we know that strong families are the bedrock of strong communities.

Despite so many uncertainties, I am proud to share that we remain strong and unwavering in our mission to support individuals with disabilities and their families.

This strength is possible because of the power of partnerships—community organizations, foundations, schools, service providers, and advocates who work alongside us—and the dedication of our remarkable staff, who go above and beyond every day to empower families with knowledge, guidance, support, and compassion. Together, we create a network of hope and opportunity.

Your support helps us continue this vital work. Your donation, attendance at one of our events, or just by following us on social media, Parent Network of WNY can remain a trusted resource for families navigating complex systems and ensure that every individual with a disability has the chance to reach their fullest potential.

Thank you for being part of this community of care. Together, we are making a difference.



With gratitude,
Kimberly Kadziolka

FROM JULY 2023 TO JUNE 2024

PARENT NETWORK OF WNY SERVED

2,624
People

4,758
1-on-1 Support Services

255
Events

9,000+
Website Visits

Parentnetworkwny.org

In The **Eight** Counties of WNY



OUR MISSION

Supporting families and professionals to empower individuals with disabilities to reach their full potential.

TAGLINE

We provide 1-On-1 support and education on disabilities, special education and services.

“ **Parent Network is so helpful. They will do all they can to make sure you don't just float in the wind.**

You don't have to worry about being judged or worry about someone not understanding what you're going through.

- Parent of a child with a disability ”

“ **Parent Network acted as my liaison, explaining the step-by-step process, which was immensely helpful.**

I didn't realize the scope of help Parent Network provided to the special needs community, nor did I realize what services they could offer my son.

- Parent of a child with a disability ”

MEET OUR STAFF

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Nancy Campbell
DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Theresa Drum
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY & DEVELOPMENT

Kimberly Kadziolka
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gary Pochatko
BUSINESS MANAGER

Tonia Weichmann
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

MARKETING TEAM

Destiny Lopez
MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

David Scherff
MARKETING SPECIALIST

NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (NYSED) TEAM

Gretchen Carbone
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT FACILITATOR

FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM

Connie Bodemer
BILINGUAL FAMILY SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Michelle Davis
ELIGIBILITY NAVIGATOR

Kim Hernandez
FAMILY SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Jara Kim
BILINGUAL FAMILY SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Jessica Wilson
FAMILY BEHAVIOR SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Erin Reisdorf
EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

OUTREACH TEAM

Lizmarie Adorno
BILINGUAL OUTREACH SPECIALIST

Toddie Rogers
OUTREACH SPECIALIST

Jennifer Zolnowski
OUTREACH COORDINATOR

SUPPORT TEAM

Ann Kinney
Central Access Point Coordinator

Julissa Montanez
ADMIN ASSISTANT

Lizzy Nankumba
SERVICE ACCESS SPECIALIST

Bonnie Doyle
FUND DEVELOPMENT ADMIN SUPPORT



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Julie Barber
SECRETARY



Michael Cardus
CO-CHAIRPERSON



Charise Cobbs



Keana Donaldson



Michelle Hartley-McAndrew



Jill Johnson
TREASURER



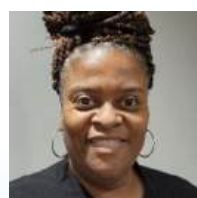
Amanda Newton



Jason Petko
CO-CHAIRPERSON



DeWan Stroud



Letitia Thomas



Theresa Abrams

MESSAGE FROM CO-CHAIRPERSON

Michael Cardus

Dear Friends,

It is a privilege to serve as Board Chair of Parent Network of WNY. At its core, our organization exists to do one thing well: equip families and professionals with the tools, knowledge, and support they need so that individuals with disabilities can thrive.

This work is not abstract. Every day, it shows up in a parent who feels less alone, in a teacher who leaves a workshop with a new strategy, in a child who gains confidence because the adults in their life are better prepared.

Over the past year, Parent Network has reached more than 5,000 children, families, educators, and service providers across Western New York. That reach is matched by depth: 1-on-1 guidance, specialized workshops, and ongoing support groups that meet people where they are and move them forward.

Many of us on the board are parents of a child with a disability ourselves, and we know firsthand how complex these systems can feel. That lived experience shapes how we lead and reinforces why this work matters. As a board, our role is to ensure that this mission remains strong and sustainable. We are committed to thoughtful governance, diverse funding, and a long-term perspective, so that Parent Network remains the trusted destination for families and professionals seeking clarity, connection, and hope.

Thank you for your trust, your advocacy, and your partnership. Together, we are making a lasting difference.

With gratitude,
Michael Cardus

SUPPORT

STANDING BY YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

Born prematurely at just 24 weeks, Ava faced challenges from the very beginning. She spent six weeks without amniotic fluid, leading to lifelong disabilities including dyslexia, auditory processing disorder, and physical impairments. Despite these obstacles, Ava's journey has been one of resilience—thanks to the power of support.

When Ava's mother, Ann, struggled to secure services from the school district, she leaned on Parent Network. That's when Parent Network's Family Support Specialists stepped in. With guidance from the Parent Network team, Ann found the strength to keep going.

"The support from Parent Network has been life-changing, helping us provide Ava with resources and services she previously lacked. The fact that we got OPWDD is amazing. It means she'll have support for the rest of her life, which is incredible, all thanks to the help of Parent Network."

The impact of Parent Network's support on Ava's life and her family's well-being has been profound. Ava now has access to a broader range of services, including financial assistance for therapies and a Community Habilitation Program. This support not only eases the financial burden but also provides Ava with the tailored help she needs to thrive.

Through their journey, Ava's family has learned the power of persistence—and the importance of having a strong support system to walk alongside them.

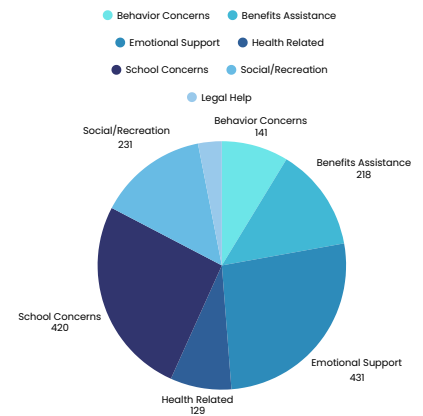


1-on-1 Support Served

1,143

Unique People In Need

1-On-1 Support Needs



EDUCATE

SHARING KNOWLEDGE THAT INSPIRES GROWTH.

When Cece, a 4-year old, was diagnosed with level 2 nonverbal autism and PICA, her mom felt overwhelmed. She wanted to learn everything she could to support her daughter but wasn't sure where to begin. That's when she connected with Parent Network.

Through various trainings and workshops, Cece's mom discovered resources she never knew existed. She learned about early intervention, navigating the school system, managing records, improving sleep habits, and so much more. Most importantly, she realized something powerful: she is the number one the expert when it comes to Cece.

"I don't just take everything at face value anymore," she shared. "I start with Cece's strengths and ask the right questions. Now I go into meetings confident, knowing how to ask, 'How will you meet her needs?' Parent Network honestly taught me so much and made me feel very equipped to advocate for my daughter."

This shift in perspective transformed not just Cece's future, but her mom's as well. "I know what to ask, what to push for, and what really matters, all thanks to everything I have learned first-hand through Parent Network." she mentioned. Instead of feeling lost in paperwork and conflicting advice, she now makes clear, informed decisions.



Hosted

142

In-Person Workshops



Hosted

113

Online Workshops



Workshops Served

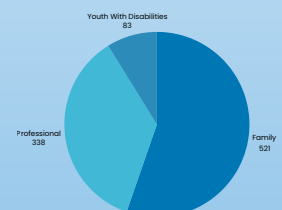
942

Unique People

Educational Materials Available

Fact Sheets **88**
YouTube Videos **86**

Workshop Audience





CONNECT

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

When Rachel's four-year-old son, Wesson, was diagnosed with generalized epilepsy in early 2023, her world shifted overnight. "It was overwhelming," she recalls. "At first, I felt lost and unsure of how to help him." In that pivotal moment, Rachel found a lifeline: Parent Network.

Through workshops, resources, and the encouragement of other families, Rachel found not only guidance but also a community that reminded her she wasn't alone. "Parent Network gave me access to more resources and connections to help Wesson," she shares.

With every conversation and connection, Rachel began to feel more confident as Wesson's advocate. She learned to trust her instincts, ask more informed questions, and lean on the strength she didn't realize she already had. "I've learned that it's okay to ask for help. I'm Wesson's mother, but I'm also my own person," she reflects.

This sense of community not only eased her stress but also empowered her as a mother. Most importantly, Rachel discovered the power of connection—the reassurance that she and Wesson are surrounded by a circle of support. "I realized we are not alone in this," she says.

For Rachel, connecting with Parent Network has meant more than guidance—it has meant hope, strength, and the knowledge that she and Wesson are never walking this journey alone.

Support Groups Served

129

People In Need



Hosted

25

Support Group Meetings

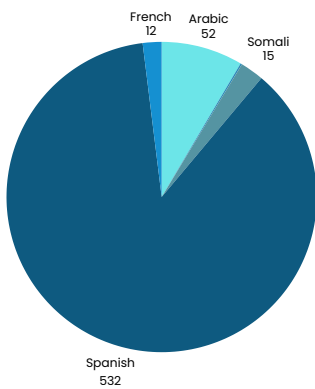


Provided

17,046

English Materials To The Community

Multi-Language Materials Provided



EMPOWER

ENCOURAGING EVERY VOICE TO SHINE.

When their five-year-old son prepared to start kindergarten, his parents were filled with both excitement and uncertainty. With his learning disability and speech delay, they worried about how to navigate the complicated systems of support and what the future might hold. The process felt daunting—until they connected with Parent Network.

Parent Network walked alongside them, introducing vital resources, helping them navigate paperwork, and showing them how to set meaningful goals that reflected both their child's challenges and his unique strengths. "Having access to the right information and support empowered us to make better decisions and confidently navigate services," his mom reflected.

"Parent Network empowered us to see that we are our child's strongest advocates," they shared. "We no longer feel lost or alone—we feel confident, capable, and supported every step of the way. The Parent Network team offered compassion, clarity, and guidance through what can often be an overwhelming process. It has made all the difference and has been life-changing"

This empowerment reshaped their journey. It gave them clarity where there was confusion and hope where there was fear. Today, they stand stronger as a family—better equipped, more resilient, and deeply grateful for the empowerment that continues to guide them forward.



Outreach Reached

5,398

People In The Community



Total Outreach Events

160



10

Professional Development Contracts

Outreach Type:

127

Table Events

17

Agency Presentations

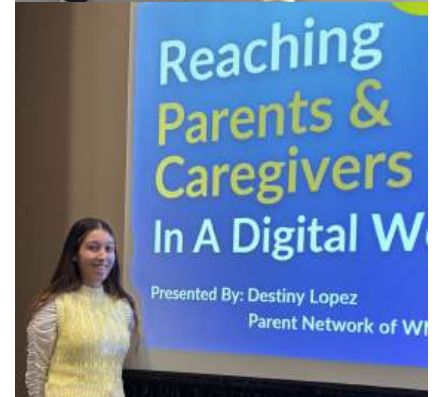
STENGTH IN COLLABORATION

Parent Network of WNY is committed to empowering families and professionals who support individuals with disabilities and special needs. While the organization offers direct services, workshops, and resources across Western New York, its reach and impact are amplified through strong collaborations with community partners and participation in regional and national conversations.

One way this collaboration comes to life is through Parent Network's participation in conferences and professional gatherings. Staff and leadership are frequently invited to present at local, state, and national events, sharing expertise on topics such as person-centered planning, family engagement, and inclusive practices. These opportunities not only highlight the innovative work happening in Western New York but also allow Parent Network to learn from others, bringing back new ideas and strategies to benefit the community.

Some of the opportunities we presented include the 2025 Care Management Coalition of WNY's Family Engagement Conference, where Destiny Lopez presented on Reaching Families in a Digital World; Ann Kinney and Erin Residorf presented on early childhood screenings and meeting the DEC's benchmarks and they also presented on this topic at DD Day. With funding from Live Well Erie, Ann and Erin presented a min-conference to early childhood professionals. Kimberly Kadziolka was invited to talk about person-centeredness at the 2024 Person Centered Services staff retreat. Parent Network facilitated a convening of Parent Center staff working with Native American families, proudly sharing the rich Native American heritage we are so fortunate to have in WNY, also sharing our majestic Niagara Falls with the group. Theresa Drum and Kimberly Kadziolka presented Parent Network's Health Care Passport at the Planetree International Conference in New Orleans. Also in New Orleans, Kimberly shared her knowledge as a Family Data Leader along with Susan Barlow. Kimberly and Susan also presented at the SPRE Conference on the role of Parent Network in the Care Management Coalition of WNY.

Staff from Parent Network also shared about Parent Network on Catching Up with the Clerk, Daytime Buffalo, the United Way's board recruitment event, our annual Recreation Festival, and so many more events! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn, and TikTok to check out all the places you can find us.



FUNDING

Office of Special Education (USDOE OSE):

PNWNY serves as a Technical Assistance Parent Center through the United States Department of Education.

- Community Parent Resource Center (CPRC) for the City of Buffalo
- Starbridge Parent Training and Information Center (PTIC): Subcontractor for Western Region



**New York State Department of Education,
Office of Special Education (NYSED OSE)
Family and Community Engagement Center (FACE)
Western Region**



**Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)
Family Support Services**



Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)



Adult Career and Continuing Ed Services (ACCES VR)



**Help Me Grow:
Early Childhood Centralized Access Point Coordination**



Fair Futures NYC/Say Yes Buffalo



Peter and Elizabeth Tower Foundation



William F Thiel Grants/Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo



The Health Foundation for Western and Central New York



Variety, The Children's Charity of Buffalo and WNY



Live Well Erie



The Children's Guild Foundation



Supported Decision-Making New York (SDMNY)



Center for Self Advocacy



Developmental Disabilities Alliance of WNY (DDAWNY)



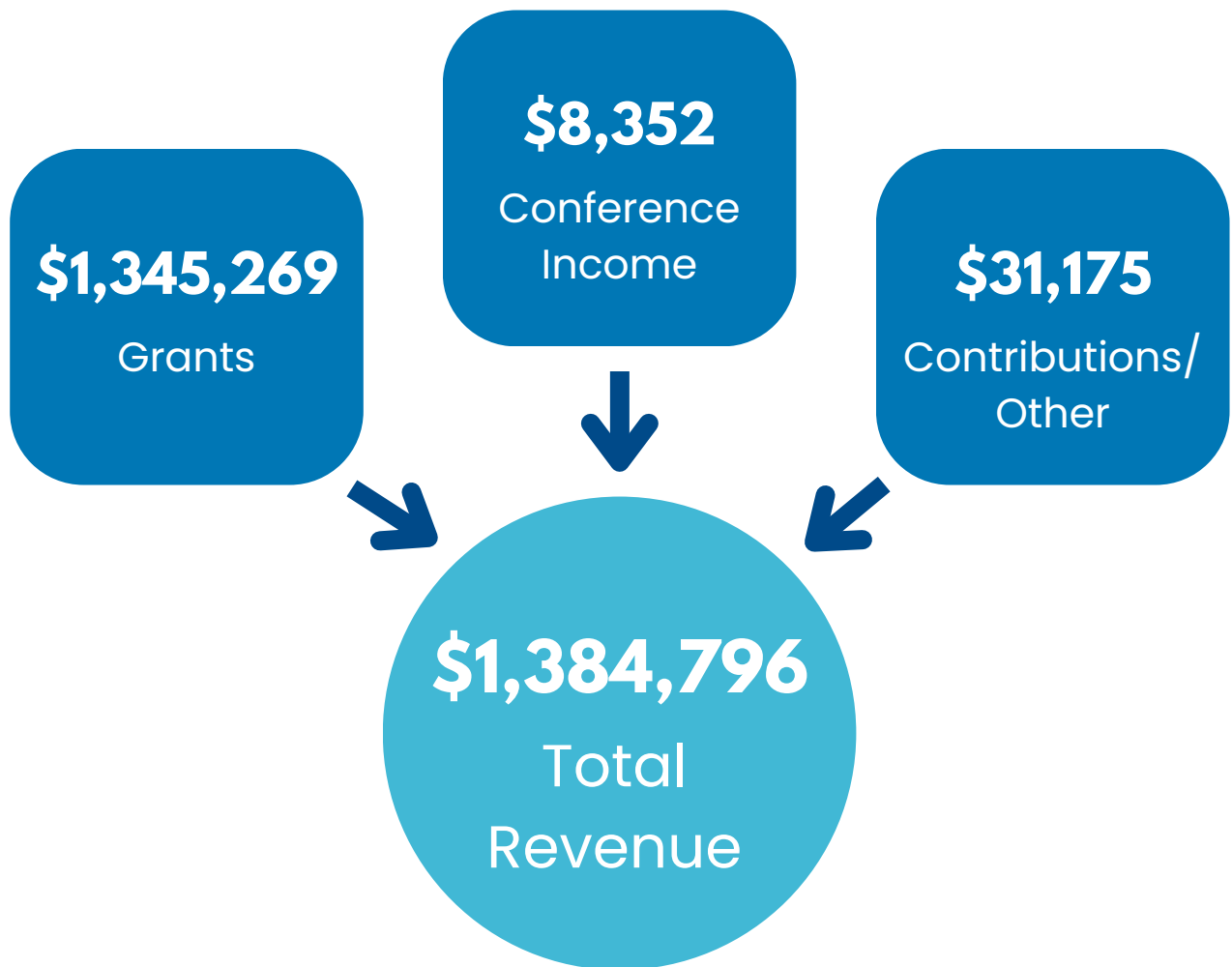
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network



WNY Integrated Care Collaborative



FINANCIALS



Program Services expenses are **86.6%** of the budget

Management and General is **12.4%** of the budget

Fundraising and Development are **1%** of the budget

*Financial information is generated from audits completed by:
Barbara A. Hauser; Certified Public Accountants*

Educational Trainings Offered for Organizations

Parent Network of WNY offers various training and services tailored to fit the needs of what your organization needs.

Roughly 13% of the population in the U.S. identifies as having a disability.

This means that your company will come into contact with or provide services to someone that has a disability, either visible or invisible. At Parent Network's Education Program, we can help support a variety of functions within your organization, whether it's how to manage a neurodiverse staff, or providing the best customer service to everyone.

Let us help you increase your capacity and work towards a world where everyone is included and valued!

Increase your staff's knowledge about:

Adverse Childhood Experiences 101 - Early Childhood

Conflict Resolution

Developmental Milestones

Effective Communication for Professionals

How to Have Difficult Conversations

Managing Big Emotions

Mindfulness Strategies and Tip Series

The ABC's of Learning Differences

The Basics of Neurodiversity

Understanding Autism: A Place to Start

Using Mindfulness to Prepare for Learning

Why Choose Us

Parent Network of WNY is a not-for-profit agency that provides education and resources for families of individuals with special needs (birth through adulthood) and for professionals. We provide 1-on-1 support and education through resources, workshops, and support groups to assist families of individuals with disabilities to understand their disability and navigate the support service system.

Parent Network is designated as a Technical Assistance Parent Center by New York State Department of Education and is a National Community Parent Resource Center (CPRC). Parent Network of WNY partners with many organizations locally and nationally.

Parent Network of WNY is the go to resource for professionals and families to support and empower those with unique needs across the lifespan. Our Fee for Service Education Program can provide distinct opportunities for anyone to learn more about special needs, neurodiversity, and more.

What We Offer



Flexible scheduling to meet your needs



In person, virtual or hybrid options available



Various topics or customized options



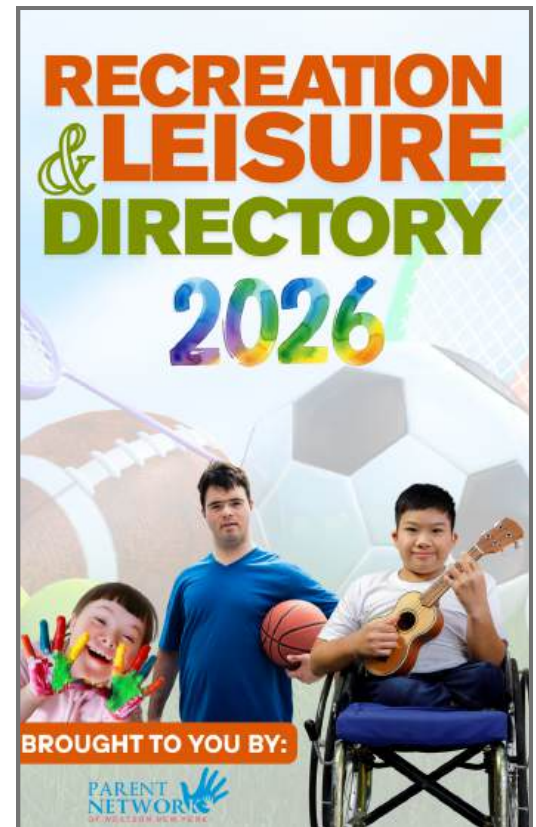
CALLING FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE 2026 REC DIRECTORY!

Does your organization or agency:

- ✓ Have accessible programs or activities?
- ✓ Located in one of the 8 counties of WNY?
- ✓ Free or paid programming to be included
- ✓ **2026 Recreation Festival**
SAVE THE DATE: April 11, 2026 at
The R.O.C.K. in West Seneca, NY

This directory is distributed at our annual Recreation Festival and available for viewing or download on our website!

Reach families and individuals of all abilities across Western New York to showcase your programs!



View the current directory:
<http://bit.ly/4njjP3C>

**SUBMIT YOUR INFO
TO BE INCLUDED!**

<https://rebrand.ly/recdir2026>



**Thank you to all of our
staff, partners, volunteers, and donors.**

**We couldn't have done amazing work
without your generous support!**

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 www.parentnetworkwny.org

If interested in
volunteering, please
email us. If you'd like
to show your support
and donate, scan the
QR code below.

