



Directions in Independent Living
Helping those with disabilities live more independent lives.
Summer 2022

Helping those with disabilities live more independent lives.



Directions in Independent Living, located in Cattaraugus and Allegany counties in the Southern Tier of New York State, is mission-driven to help individuals with disabilities live with greater dignity and independence in their personal lives and as active members in the community.

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- 2626 W. State St., Suite 202 & 208, Olean NY 14760
716-379-8670
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585-296-3408

www.directions-olean.com

Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9 am - 12 p.m. & 1 - 4 p.m.

www.directions-olean.com

2nd Annual Walk Ride Run

The agency honored the historic passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act with the 2nd Annual 3.1-mile Walk/Ride/Run event. The event celebrated the additional civil and social freedoms people with disabilities received with the passage of the ADA 32 years ago. Throughout the week of July 17th participants were able to walk, ride or run at their own pace and share their progress on DIL's Facebook page. Participants' were also encouraged to post pictures.



Since freedom of expression in both the arts and athletics are emblematic of this historic legislation, Directions held an art by artists with disabilities contest to mark the event.

The winning artwork for this year was created by Jacob Spears, of Olean, who has participated in services offered by Directions. His design was used on the official poster and on the t-shirts for the event.

On July 22, DIL staff joined classes at the Olean Intermediate Middle School to walk the track with students to participate in this event. Jacob was on hand participating and ran most of his laps to complete the 3.1 mile goal. There was a great turn-out with several kids and adults participating and enjoying the sunshine and fun.



Museum Muster!



Friday, July 15th, Directions own Cattaraugus County Dwyer Veteran Program with the support of the Enchanted Mountain Veteran Coalition hosted the Eldred WWII "Museum Muster" which provided free entry, lunch, and a tour for veterans and their dependents. The Eldred WWI Museum features over 15,000 square feet of models, historical artifacts, and personal stories. If you have never been to the museum you should definitely put it on your list. It is comparable to nationally acclaimed war museums in its display and organization of WWII subject matter.

A huge shout out to all of the vendors and organizations that helped provide this amazing event for our veterans. And to our veterans, thank you all for your service!



Accept

Include

Empower

Together We Thrive Golf Tournament

On Saturday August 27th, Directions in Independent Living's "Together We Thrive" program hosted a golf tournament at the Ischua Valley Country Club. The proceeds from this tourney will benefit the program, which serves at risk youth ages 10-25 in both Cattaraugus and Allegany counties. The organizers report that everything went smoothly and they received very positive feedback from the golfers that participated. A huge thank you to our golfers, our golf committee, and to our amazing sponsors without whom we could never pull off such an awesome event. We would also like our sponsors to know their generosity is greatly appreciated, and their contributions will go a long way towards helping the "Together We Thrive" program. The event sponsors included our Diamond Sponsors - Black, Lyle, and Habberfield, LLC, and The Michelle Heavern Snoopy Fund, our Gold Sponsors - Sassy's Truck Stop, Ashley Home Furnishings, and Acme



Business and our Bronze Sponsors - Hamlin Bank and Trust, Community Bank, N.A., and Mr. Brad Monroe. Also, a huge thank you to the band "not Norman" for playing during the luncheon after the tournament. They volunteered to play to support our cause.



Quarter Carnival

On June 22nd, DIL's Transitions program hosted a quarter carnival for the public. Carnival goers could exchange quarters for tickets to play games- such as balloon pop and ring toss, get their face painted, do crafts, or have some snacks including snow cones, popcorn, and hotdogs. The event ended with a color war where participants had fun spraying each other with colored water. As each guest arrived, they were asked to choose a local charity for the money raised at the event to be donated to. The carnival raised \$244 and the charity that was chosen was the Cattaraugus County SPCA. Many of our Transition consumers volunteer at the SPCA so we are happy to be able to give back to them.



Lexie Provorse, Deb Coble, Laura Whitford, Bob Weber, Kate Steigerwald and Krissy Wagner

We would like to give a special mention to the Dr. Lyle F. Renodin Foundation, A Ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, New York, for supplying DIL with a \$4,000 grant to help supplement our Transitions program and support our young adults with developmental disabilities to participate in community and social activities such as the quarter carnival. We were honored to have Board President, Laura Whitford, and Board Member, Bob Weber, join us on this fun day!



Transitions Park Fun!



Throughout the month of June the Transitions program took consumers to local parks to get exercise and do fun activities. On June 15th they visited Letchworth State Park where they saw waterfalls and enjoyed salads. On June 24th they visited Bridal Falls where they walked the trails, painted rocks and made their own trail mix. On June 28th they visited Rim Rock State Park where they hiked, swam and made their own fruit pizzas. These adventures showed them being healthy can be fun!



ACCES-VR Visit Rookmini Mangal pictured left, and Joseph Tedesco, pictured right, from NYS Education Department Independent Living

Unit, made a site visit to Directions in Independent Living in late May. Howard Cornwall, center, greeted Rookmini and Joseph and showed them around our main office. NYS Education Department Independent Living Unit, also known as ACCES VR has been Directions' largest funder since 1988.





DIL staff DJ Moore, Ted Jordan & Marcie Thurst participating in the Wellness fair at the OGH Strawberry Fest in June



On Friday, July 22nd, the Cattaraugus County Compeer hosted "Day in the Park" where adult peers and friends socialized, relaxed and played casual games.



On July 30th the Dwyer Veteran program went skydiving at WNY Skydiving in Albion, NY.



On June 8th DIL hosted a Girls Day at the Olean Public Library where consumers made crafts, had snacks and relaxed



Deb and Autumn Coble participating in the Wellness Fair at Genesee Valley School in June



On August 26th the Transportation program took consumers to Darien Lake for a day of fun!

Featured Consumer:

T-Shirt Art Contest Winner



Throughout the years, Jacob Spears has participated in DIL programs providing social activities and fun with his peers. He is 17 years old and from Olean NY. He graduated from Olean Senior High School in June 2022 and made the decision to continue his education as a Super Senior in the fall.

In June, DIL held an art contest for the t-shirt design for the Walk/Ride/Run event and Jacob was the winner. When he was asked what his motivation was behind his drawing submission, Jacob said "I wanted people to know that anyone in a wheelchair can win a race and that I always want to spread love."

Jacob is a Buffalo Bills fan, and his future plans include running for Alderman in the city of Olean in 2023. He is also looking forward to becoming a pastor in the future.

Look out world- Jacob is here to do great things!

Looking Forward to Fall

DIRECTIONS IN INDEPENDENT LIVING PRESENTS OUR

1st Annual Wine Walk

In Conjunction with StrOlean, Join us on Oct.8 from 1-4pm on Union Street in Olean, NY

Registration table will be located at Lincoln Park by the sign. Pick up your bracelets and passports there at 12:30. No wine served until 1pm!

\$35 PER TICKET

For any questions or for more info please call us at 716-379-8670 x8833

Register here: www.app.com/fall2022/registration/896239/

ORDER FROM THE FOLLOWING LINK, OR USE THE QR CODE: [SECURE.OGIV.COM/FORM/24FF/EVENT/896239/](https://secure.ogiv.com/FORM/24FF/EVENT/896239/)

For questions or comments, please contact Jennifer Cowden jcowden@directions.org

OCT 8

Directions in Independent Living Presents

2nd Annual FALL FUNDRAISER

In Partnership with Wilson Beef Farms

We are pleased to announce our partnership with Wilson Beef Farms Snack Sticks for our 2022 Fall FUNDRAISER!

Not only are these snack sticks delicious, but they are also made with only top quality meats-no fillers!

PERFECT FOR: TAILGATES * CAMPING * HUNTING * BONFIRES * AND MORE!

SEPTEMBER 15 to OCTOBER 15 2022

PLEASE SEE A COMMUNITY HABILITATION SPECIALIST FOR ORDERS AND NUTRITION INFORMATION!

ORDER FROM THE FOLLOWING LINK, OR USE THE QR CODE: [SECURE.OGIV.COM/FORM/24FF/EVENT/896239/](https://secure.ogiv.com/FORM/24FF/EVENT/896239/)

For questions or comments, please contact Jennifer Cowden jcowden@directions.org



S.T.R.A.W.W.

Southern Tier Recovery Activities Without Walls Presents Life Hacks 101

All things Fall Crafts, activities, and snacks

September 27th

11AM-12:00

The Olean Public Library

134 North 2nd Street. Olean, NY 14760

Free and open to the public

S.T.R.A.W.W is a no cost support and linkage program of Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, and Allegany Counties, providing support complimentary to the other mental health services in the local communities.

Please contact

Kimberly: (716)378-3848

Cerrissa: (585)933-0003



recoveryoptionsny.org



DIL SUMMER FUN!

DIL Staff Advance



On June 7th DIL staff gathered for an all staff in person “advance.” With many of the staff working remotely it was a time for everyone to get together in person and meet staff that they have not met previously. We did “work” things such as a staff meeting and a training however we incorporated some fun team building activities into the day as well. Best of all was a very yummy chicken bbq lunch!



“EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT”

Courtney Lathrop

Courtney was deemed DIL’s very first employee of the quarter because she has not only stepped up in her role as the Rep Payee Coordinator but also putting forth effort to represent the agency as a whole. She has stepped up and cleaned up the rep payee program while, also finding ways to improve the program. Courtney is always willing to take on extra tasks and tries to figure out ways to not only grow her program but others as well. Courtney is a huge asset to the agency and continues to prove this every day.



Courtney has worked for DIL for 5 years and loves that each day is never the same and the family friendly environment. Working with DIL started out as a stepping stone for her getting out of a bad situation and turned into an amazing career with a lot of room for growth. She is very passionate about what DIL does as a whole and truly sees DIL as an extension of her family.

Courtney has 2 daughters and 2 dogs. She enjoys spending time with family, friends, and coworkers. She loves doing outdoor activities, helping others, and being creative.

Courtney is honored to be recognized and we at DIL are truly blessed to have her!



Together We Thrive Swordsman Event- On Friday, July 15th the Together We Thrive Program along with the United Way, hosted the Swordsman Event at War Veterans Park in Olean. This was a free event and open to the public. Coach Wayne, an expert swordsman, gave lessons in the Spanish Montante method of sword fighting that originated in Spain in the 1500s. The youth that participated were all eyes and ears and were amazed by Coach Wayne’s knowledge and skills. Also, there were several local vendors that participated in the event. B.A.C.A. (Bikers Against Child Abuse), the SPCA, 4H, members from the local Fire Department and some of our County Sheriff’s Deputies were on hand to provide outreach and fun for our local youth. The Ashford Junction Depot ice cream truck, a Veteran owned business, traveled here to offer an amazing array of cold and delicious frozen treats for the kids. A huge shout out to Eric for making the trip to support us and also to the other organizations that attended and helped give participants a fun day!



Cooperate Challenge

On June 23rd DIL staff and family ran, walked, and cheered on participants in the Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce Corporate Challenge. Participants ran a 5k or walked 2 miles around Olean and came back to celebrate their accomplishments as a team on the JCC campus. We are looking forward to doing it again next year!



United Way Newspaper Day

It was a cool and sunny morning when volunteers by the dozens posted themselves on busy intersections throughout the county to sell special copies of the Olean Times Herald to early morning commuters for the 30th annual Community Day fundraiser.

Among those volunteers were four staff from DIL. Krissy, Marcie, DJ and Ted stood on the corner of 4th street from 6:30 am - 9 am showing their support because they believe in what the organization does for the community and all the nonprofits.

