

**July-Sept 2024**

Celebrating **43** Years

**FULL  
DETAILS  
page 35**

## **WORKSHOP GUIDING AGING INNOVATION**

**Tuesday, September 24, 2024 • 9am-11am  
UB South Campus - Hayes Hall**

**Calling all NIA members – We are in need of volunteers!** We will be hosting an educational meeting in preparation for the innovation challenge. The main purpose is to give the students areas of need in the aging population.

**We are looking for a table captain for each of the eight domains of living –**

- Outdoor spaces and buildings
- Transportation
- Civic participation and employment
- Communication and information
- Respect and social inclusion
- Social participation
- Health services and community supports
- Housing

**REGISTER NOW! [WWW.NETWORKINAGING.ORG](http://WWW.NETWORKINAGING.ORG)**

## **TASTE OF THE NETWORK**

**Tuesday, July 23rd • 12:00 to 2:00 pm**

**Cost: \$15 (check/Venmo: @Network-In-Aging) • Credit Card: \$17**

**AMHERST CENTER FOR SENIOR SERVICES  
370 John James Audubon Pkwy • Amherst, NY 14228**

**FULL DETAILS PAGE 36**



**Walk-Ins  
Welcome  
(pay at door)**



## HIGHLIGHTS OF 4TH ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER EVENT

April 18th • The Reikart House Ballroom



**THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!**



## NETWORK WITH THE NETWORK

Thursday, June 20th

**Oasis Senior Advisors & Noble Companion kicked off the summer of 2024!**





**Network in Aging**  
of Western New York, Inc.

## OFFICERS

### President

**April Romanowski**  
*Lawley Insurance*

### V.P. — Community Relations

**Paula Venné-Clendening**  
*Walsh Duffield Companies, Inc.*

### V.P. — Networking

**Stephanie Mruczek**  
*Solstice Senior Living at East Amherst*

### V.P. — Professional Development

**Pam Ricksgers Pace**  
*Amazing Home Care*

### Secretary

**Sharon Plant**  
*People Inc.*

### Treasurer

**Mimi Piciullo**  
*Senior Advocate Services*

### Past President

**Angie Crawshaw**

### Founding President

**Dr. Evan Calkins**

## BOARD MEMBERS

### Steve Buzzelli

*Emerling Floss Murphy & Associates*

**Dr. Kara Calandrelli, MHSA, DHA, LNHA**

### Stacy Jasinski

*Glenwell, a DePaul Senior Living Community*

### Ben Kanaley

*Fallon Health Weinberg PACE*

### Thomas Lang, JD, MBA

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Brothers of Mercy*

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*MJ Peterson Real Estate*

### Crystal Selk

*West Side Community Services*

## VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Ahhhhh, summertime! Time to relax. . . unwind. . . enjoy. . . in theory, anyway! I don't know about you, but I'm busier than ever, and so is our wonderful Network in Aging!

Spring was filled with fun events for the NIA. The Progressive Dinner at Reikart Banquets had fewer attendees this time around, but the food was wonderful, and the networking opportunities were plentiful! Special thanks to our sponsors, Trusted Choice Homecare, Glenwell, The Olear Team and Fallon Health Weinberg.

Kudos to all who participated in the Senior Resource Fair in May. The turnout was strong once again – all vendor spots filled quickly and there was plenty of great interaction with attendees. The Ironworkers Banquet Hall was a great spot to gather; we liked it so much we'll be back for this year's Annual Meeting! Please mark your calendar for Wednesday, November 6 and keep an eye on our website for Annual Meeting ticketing and sponsorship information. It will be here before you know it.

I hope to see you at our upcoming Network with the Network events. In an effort to attract as many people as possible, we're starting to schedule NWTN gatherings in the morning and lunchtime, in addition to our usual after-work socializing. Please look at the calendar on our website and plan to join us for some upcoming food, drink and engagement. Trusted Choice Homecare will be our host on August 15 for a Bills tailgate party, co-sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, WNY Chapter. Put on your Zubaz and have a great time! I'm also excited about our September NWTN at Fallon Health Weinberg. The theme is Taco Thursday! Extra guac on mine! Olé!

The Network in Aging is constantly striving to engage with our members and keep our organization vital and active. I was proud to be part of our Strategic Planning Committee which met throughout the past year and a half to examine ways in which we could build on our long history of service to Western New York seniors. Key areas of focus were improving our website, examining our membership levels/benefits, making the most of our networking/educational events and promoting engagement with all our members. We look forward to implementing our Playbook, with strategies to success spearheaded by our committees. It will be a process and we need your help! I strongly encourage you to let your voice be heard when we send out opinion surveys. Better yet, join one of our committees: Communications, Education, Membership, Networking, Nominating and Special Events. The time commitment is minimal, but your impact can be huge. Contact information for committee co-chairs can be found in the newsletter. Reach out. Ask questions. Attend a meeting. Get involved!

Wherever your summer adventures take you, I send my best wishes for health, safety, happiness, and (if you're so inclined) an umbrella drink!

With Warm Wishes,

**Paula Venné-Clendening**

**Network in Aging V.P. of Community Relations**

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER AGENCIES



  
**New Comer**  
*Cremations & Funerals*  
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& Funerals**

  
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Helpers**  
*Senior Care, Only Better.*  
**Senior Helpers LLC**

  
**The Willows**  
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**The Willows**



# PLATINUM MEMBER AGENCIES



**Perry Ciambella**  
Owner  
pciambella@firstlighthomecare.com  
6245 Sheridan Drive  
Suite 114  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
Office: 716-634-CARE (2273)  
Cell: 716-345-3360  
www.EastBuffalo.FirstLightHomeCare.com

## DID YOU KNOW. . . GARDENING EDITION

1) Did you know. . .tomatoes are the most popular home garden crop grown in the U.S.? According to The National Gardening Association, 86% of home gardens include some variety of tomato. And with around 10,000 varieties to choose from, the possibilities are endless!



2) Did you know. . .a watermelon grown by Chris Kent of Sevierville, TN, holds the Guinness World Record for being the heaviest? The Carolina Cross variety watermelon weighed in at a whopping 350.5 lbs. in 2013!

3) Did you know. . .Ancient Egyptians revered the onion bulb? They believed the spherical shape and concentric rings were symbols of eternal life. Onions were even used in Egyptian burials. Traces of onion were found in the eye sockets of Ramesses IV!

4) Did you know. . .Americans first planted victory gardens during WWI to help offset national rations on meat, sugar, fat and flour. The U.S. Government distributed pamphlets teaching home gardeners about soil and crops, encouraging Americans of all ages to grow their own produce. More than 5.2 million garden plots were cultivated in 1918!

We hit over  
**1,000**  
FOLLOWERS  
on Facebook!!



**Benjamin Kanaley**  
Enrollment Coordinator

716-810-1880  
cell: 716-341-2025  
1-855-665-1113  
fax: 716-250-3160  
benjamin.kanaley@fallonweinberg.org

Fallon Health Weinberg  
461 J.J. Audubon Parkway  
Amherst, NY 14228

# PLATINUM MEMBER AGENCIES



Get peace of mind.  
Make a plan today.



**Elder Law Attorneys**  
716-204-1055 | pbellderlaw.com



Judy N. Cuzzacrea Wagner  
Elder Law Attorney  
726 Exchange Street, Suite 1000  
Buffalo, NY 14210

716-200-5157 | www.harrisbeach.com | jwagner@harrisbeach.com



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• Responsive Web Site Design & Development  
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Check out the new [NetworkInAging.com/](http://NetworkInAging.com/)

View a portfolio of our work at [www.surdej.com](http://www.surdej.com)





# NETWORK AGING

OF WESTERN NEW YORK, INC  
EST 1981



## MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR NETWORK MEMBERSHIP BY JOINING A COMMITTEE TODAY

ALL MEETINGS VIA ZOOM

### COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS & MEETING INFORMATION

Please be sure to verify meeting date, time and location  
as there are occasional changes!

#### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Establishes and directs the Network's print and online communications with its members and the public. Meetings are on the **second Tuesday** of the month at 10:00am.

##### CO-CHAIRS

Pamela Pace  
pamela@amazinghc.com  
716-863-9035

Paula Venné-Clendening  
pvenne@walshduffield.com  
716-255-1593

#### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Plans and carries out educational programs/workshops on aging related issues, along with planning and preparation for the annual meeting. Meetings are on the **second Thursday** of each month at 9:00am.

##### CO-CHAIRS

Crystal Selk  
cselk@wscsbuffalo.org  
716-884-6616

Ryan Kozyra  
ryan.kozyra@prudential.com

#### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Reviews and recommends changes in membership dues and benefits; coordinates ongoing membership recruitment efforts. Meetings are on the **fourth Thursday** of each month at 8:30am. No meetings in August and December.

##### CO-CHAIRS

Jane Nogowski  
jnnogowski@brothersofmercy.org

Mimi Piciullo  
mimipiciullo@gmail.com  
716-698-1089

#### NETWORKING COMMITTEE

Plans and carries out member-to-member functions, including Networking events. This committee meets the **first Thursday** each month at 9:00am. Additional dates may be scheduled.

##### CO-CHAIRS

Stacy Jasinski  
sjasinski@depaul.org  
716-608-7000

Stephanie Mruczek  
eastamherstdsm@solsticeseniorliving.com  
716-688-7880

Nancy Maira  
nlmaira@verizon.net  
(317) 727-7532

#### SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

Plans social functions for the Network, including the January Social, Taste of the Network and annual meeting venue. Meetings are on the **fourth Tuesday** each month at 8:30am. No meetings in January, July and December.

##### CO-CHAIRS

Bonnie McMorrow  
bmcmorrow@feedmorewny.org  
716-822-2002

Sharon Plant  
splant@people-inc.org  
716-817-9229

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This committee solicits and accepts nominations for positions on the Network in Aging Board of Directors and presents a slate of officers and directors to the membership for their consideration.

##### CO-CHAIRS

Dr. Kara Calandrelli  
karaanncalandrelli@gmail.com  
716-689-4195 ext 111

Michael Olear  
michael@olear.com  
716-481-9959



## ABSOLUT CARE


### Short-Term Care Options for Those with Memory Loss

Absolut Care of Aurora Park in East Aurora is pleased to offer **memory care respite stays** designed for caregivers who need temporary care for a loved one while they travel or tend to business.

Aurora Park's memory care unit provides holistic, person-centered care for individuals with all stages of dementia. The newly renovated and **fully secured unit** includes evidence-based features that benefit those with memory loss including custom lighting, visual cues, an enclosed outdoor courtyard and sensory nooks that allow residents to mimic past-life activities in office, laundry and nursery settings. Many of the therapeutic tasks that residents take part in involve activities and experiences from their younger days. The nooks provide stability and purpose, with the environments reflecting activities they once enjoyed, such as office work or rocking babies.

Programming on the unit encourages participation and self-expression. **Daily activities** are individually designed to enhance the overall quality of the residents' lives and can include music, art, baking and therapeutic tasks.

Respite stays are available for **up to 30 days**. Individuals can also transition to the long-term care unit after a respite stay, if appropriate.

Absolut Care of Aurora Park is located at 292 Main St, East Aurora and provides 24-hour skilled nursing care, subacute rehabilitation, in-house dialysis, hospice and respite/short-term care. **Contact Kashia Brosius at (716) 345-2647 or visit [www.livinglegendshealth.com/aurora-park](http://www.livinglegendshealth.com/aurora-park) to learn more.** 



WE'RE PROUD PARTNERS WITH THE

Erie County Department  
of Senior Services &  
the NY State Office  
for the Aging to Offer

*Respite For Caregivers*



#### YOUR LOVED ONE WILL BENEFIT FROM

- 24-Hour Care
- Assistance with Dressing, Grooming, Eating & Bathing
- 3 Nutritious Daily Meals Plus Snacks
- Daily Activity Programs

#### YOU WILL BENEFIT FROM

- A Chance to Rest & Rejuvenate
- An Opportunity to Travel
- Flexibility to Address Your Own Health Needs
- Peace of Mind & More!

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# FAMILY CHOICE OF NEW YORK

## Family Choice plan designed for residents of nursing home and assisted living facilities

For almost 20 years, Independent Health's Medicare Family Choice® HMO I-SNP plan has provided extra care and support to help meet the unique needs of Western New Yorkers residing in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.



Upon enrolling in the Family Choice plan, each member is assigned an Interdisciplinary Care Team consisting of the member's Primary Care Provider (PCP), a Family Choice Nurse Practitioner (NP) or Physician Assistant (PA), and a Social Worker/Care Manager. The specially-trained NP or PA is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide care and support any time it's needed. Their responsibilities include:

- Working in collaboration with the member's PCP and the facility's staff to identify potential problems before they become serious.
- Providing as many clinical services as possible in the member's residence.
- Minimizing unnecessary and disruptive emergency room visits and hospital stays whenever it's safe and appropriate.
- Keeping in close contact with the member's family, updating them about their loved one's condition and making sure that they are involved in the care-planning process.

### Other key features of Family Choice

- Low or no out-of-pocket costs
- Year-round enrollment open to all eligible Medicare beneficiaries
- Frequent on-site medical assessments and visits
- Individualized care plan that addresses the member's needs and health care preferences
- Single point of contact nurse or coordinator for benefit authorizations and care transitions
- Over-the-counter benefit with access to hundreds of health and wellness products
- Nearly 40 participating nursing homes and assisted living/adult care facilities

### Impressive survey results


Over the years, the Family Choice plan has consistently received high satisfaction marks from families and caregivers. A recent survey\*\* of people whose loved ones are enrolled in the program showed:

- 99% would recommend Family Choice to others.
- 98% feel their NP or PA provides their loved ones with the quality of care they expected them to receive.

- 97% are satisfied with Family Choice.

### Learn more today!

For additional information about Independent Health's Family Choice plan, please visit [www.independenthealth.com/medicare](http://www.independenthealth.com/medicare) or call Independent Health at (716) 635-4900 or 1-800-958-4405 (TTY users call 711), April 1 – September 30: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.; October 1 – March 31: Monday – Sunday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Independent Health has been approved by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) to operate as a Special Needs Plan (SNP) until December 31, 2026 based on a review of Independent Health's Model of Care. \*This plan is available to all Medicare eligibles that are entitled to Medicare Part A and enrolled in Part B. Members must reside in a participating facility in Western New York. Members must receive all routine care from participating providers. \*\*Survey conducted by Independent Health in July 2023 with 707 families surveyed and 178 families (25%) responding. 



**Time to hashtag #FindYourNextAdventure at an Erie County Parks campsite!** Today we're featuring Sprague Brook Park, which boasts beautiful electric and non-electric campsites, upgraded bath houses, and miles of hiking trails.

Details at: [erie.gov/parks](http://erie.gov/parks). Reservations can be made online at: [ow.ly/1p7C50OknWL](https://ow.ly/1p7C50OknWL)





### What show are you most excited for?

2024-25 Five Star Bank Broadway Season tickets are ON SALE!  
Go online or visit our Box Office at <https://www.sheas.org/become-a-subscriber/>



## UNLV | SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

SAGE's Center of Excellence is conducting a survey to better understand the current experiences, needs, and resiliencies of older people in the U.S. who identify as LGBTQ+. Learn how you can participate – and help spread the word. <https://lnkd.in/eQPrTgG>



## Advertise in our newsletter this August

- ✓ 12,000 + members, 55 and older
- ✓ Ads run in print and online
- ✓ Annual ads as low as \$125 per month
- ✓ Ads can be created at no additional charge

Contact Christina Yensan at:  
[cyensan@amherst.ny.us](mailto:cyensan@amherst.ny.us)

[AmherstCenterforSeniorServices.com](http://AmherstCenterforSeniorServices.com)



## NETWORK AGING OF WESTERN NEW YORK, INC.



### Private Group for Members ONLY

### Haven't joined our MEMBERS ONLY Facebook group yet?

- Share resources and expand referral network
- Announce events and post job opportunities at your organization
- Engage in discussions with other NIA members
- Ask for recommendations and pose questions
- Share ideas

This page can only be viewed by other NIA members – not to the public. If you belong to or are associated with a member agency, go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/niamembers> and request to join! Or go to our home page and click on Join Members Only page at the top.

# LIKE



## Assurance to take on the day.

*You don't have to face the challenges of serious illness alone.*

Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo provides in-home compassionate care to improve quality of life, plus emotional support for the whole family. Together, we can take on today, tomorrow, and what's to come.

< ART, Hospice patient in nursing home



Talk with the only certified hospice program in Erie County.  
Call 716-686-8000 or visit [HospiceBuffalo.com](http://HospiceBuffalo.com).

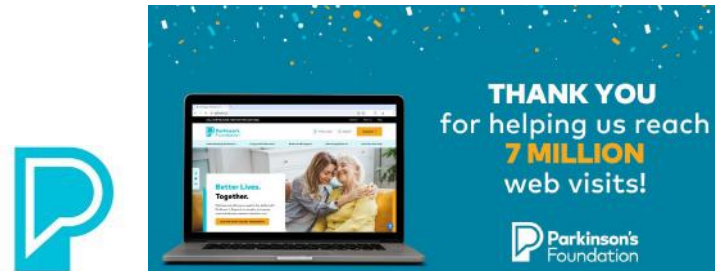


**HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE**  
BUFFALO

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS & RECOGNITION!



Elite Home Health Care is proud to once again be recognized as a **Great Place to Work**. Congratulations to all our employees! Thank you for your contributions to the great culture at Elite.



We're thrilled to announce that **Parkinson.org** has reached **7 million web visits so far this fiscal year!** We're thrilled to announce that Parkinson.org has reached 7 million web visits so far this fiscal year! Thank you for being part of our PD community. To celebrate, here are 7 reasons to visit Parkinson.org

- Educational Resources: Learn about Parkinson's disease from trusted experts.
- Healthcare Guidance: Find tips and advice for managing symptoms and treatments.
- Community Connection: Explore stories from the PD community and connect with others.
- Research: Stay updated on breakthroughs and scientific advancements.
- Practical Tools: Access guides and tools to improve daily living.
- Events & Webinars: Participate in events and webinars for learning and support.
- Helpline: Discover our free PD Helpline and other services available to you.

Visit us today at Parkinson.org to continue being part of our mission!



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS & RECOGNITION!

**Harris Hill Nursing Facility** is pleased to announce that it now offers specialized tracheostomy care. Our program is staffed by specialists dedicated to creating the highest quality of life for our residents.

Our physician-directed, multidisciplinary care team includes registered nurses, licensed respiratory care practitioners, and physical, occupational and speech therapists. We focus on exceptional outcomes with a goal of reducing hospital readmissions.

Our services include: airway clearance techniques; nebulizer treatment therapy; nutritional management; oxygenation; speaking valve – Passy Muir Valve (PMV); swallow study and evaluation; and tracheostomy tube and tracheal stoma care.

We are located at Harris Hill Nursing Facility, 2699 Wehrle Dr, Williamsville, NY 14221.



**We are proud to announce that Solstice Senior Living at East Amherst is a 2024 U.S. News and World Report Best Senior Living award recipient!** We're proud to be named among senior living communities with the highest family and resident satisfaction surveys. Thank you for the unwavering support from our residents and their family members!

## Brothers of Mercy Honors Network in Aging!

We were very proud to have been honored with the “non-profit organization” of the year award at the annual Brothers of Mercy Caritas dinner in May. This notable award is presented annually to an organization that has a significant impact on the lives of seniors in WNY.



Network in Aging  
of Western New York, Inc.





# ACCOMPLISHMENTS & RECOGNITION!



EFM&A WELCOMES  
**STEVE BUZZELLI**  
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND MEDICARE SOLUTIONS



an EFM&A Group partner

Emerling Floss Murphy & Associates proudly announces the appointment of **Steven Buzzelli** as the **Director of Marketing and Medicare Solutions**. Emerling Floss Murphy & Associates proudly announces the appointment of Steven Buzzelli as the Director of Marketing and Medicare Solutions. With a robust background spanning marketing, business development, and expertise in Medicare solutions, Buzzelli brings a wealth of knowledge to his new role. His journey into healthcare and marketing began with notable time at renowned companies such as Northwestern Mutual, BlueCross BlueShield, and Fisher-Price.

In his most recent endeavor, Buzzelli's role as Director of Marketing and Medicare Solutions at EFM&A commenced in March 2024.

Beyond his professional achievements, Buzzelli is deeply committed to community service. He serves on the Board of Directors of several local organizations. He has been recognized for his philanthropic endeavors, including being named the East Aurora Boys & Girls Club Man of the Year and co-chairing United Way's Day of Caring for Western New York.

"Joining EFM&A is an exciting opportunity to continue my passion for marketing and contribute to the company's success," said Steven Buzzelli. "I look forward to leveraging my experience and skills to drive growth and provide exceptional Medicare solutions for our clients and the community."

The Network in Aging is proud to have Steve serve as a board member and active participant on the Communications committee.

We are pleased to share that the **McGuire Group/ Living Legends and Erie County Department of Senior Services** has entered into an agreement to provide **Respite Care Services for Caregivers**. This agreement will provide short term respite care services for elderly residents living in our communities throughout Erie County.

**Overnight Respite Services:** This program will include Absolut of Aurora Park, Absolut Orchard Brooke (Assisted Living), Autumn View, Garden Gate, Harris Hill, Seneca Health. Coordination and eligibility for the program is done through Erie County with Julie Bugg and Kim Leonard. Caregivers can call 716-858-8526. Email [seniorinfo@erie.gov](mailto:seniorinfo@erie.gov) or visit [www3.erie.gov/seniorservices](http://www3.erie.gov/seniorservices) for more information.



**Touching Hearts at Home, Buffalo just received a top 100 recognition in N. America! Ranked #25 in North America**

The Top 100 Leader in Experience award is the highest honor we bestow, recognizing the 100 agencies with the highest Overall Satisfaction (OSAT) scores in North America. This annual award is based on the results of your client and caregiver experience surveys.

2024 Award Requirements: attain one of the 100 highest Overall Satisfaction (OSAT) scores in the industry for the year; complete a minimum of 2 client and 2 employee satisfaction surveys per month during the previous 12 months; earn both Provider and Employer of Choice Awards for the year; and actively secure clients and caregivers for at least one calendar year.



**THE MCGUIRE GROUP**  
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living legends



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS & RECOGNITION!



**Margaret Kleinmann was recently awarded Executive Director of the Year 2024 from Solstice Senior Living.** The banquet and ceremony was held in Carlsbad, California where Solstice and Integral Senior Living have their home offices. This annual prestigious award recognizes operational success in leadership, Net Operating Income, community high occupancy, resident and associate retention, community culture, net gain, five-star reviews and highest property Resident & Family Satisfaction rates four years in a row! Margaret's career in geriatrics has spanned over 40 years in the WNY area. This once in a lifetime honor, Margaret accepted humbly noting teamwork as most important in her success. Congratulations! (ISL/SSL ownership and national regionals presented award to Margaret Kleinmann.)

**Julia Moore has been promoted to Senior Vibrant Life Director at Solstice Senior Living in East Amherst.** Graduating from SUNY Buffalo with a fine arts degree, Julia joined the Solstice team enthusiastic to learn and grow.

This promotion includes mentoring other Vibrant Life Directors in the company to improved creative arts, activity and wellness programs. Congratulations to Julia!



Welcome to our team

**EVA  
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eva.christ@huntrealestate.com



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JOIN US IN WELCOMING



**Karen Young, RN**

Bringing over 20 years of experience in healthcare, nursing and sales industry to our community and clients!!!



**Congratulations to Sarah Drier, LPN, Resident Care Coordinator at Absolut Care of Gasport on Being Selected as NYSHFA/NYSCAL's LPN of the Year!**

Sarah is known for putting others before herself. She takes time out of her busy day to visit with patients and give them her undivided attention. Their interactions are a reflection of respect, compassion and kindness. Sarah is a true example of what it means to be a **Legend Caring for Legends**, and we're fortunate to have her as a member of our team. Sarah will be honored at the Annual Conference in May.

**Exciting News! Torino Gasbarre is thrilled to announce that he has been promoted to Admissions Coordinator at Fox Run at Orchard Park. Congratulations!**





# ACCOMPLISHMENTS & RECOGNITION!



**Congratulations to Autumn View Health Care Facility's Administrator, Michelle Murtha-Kraus on being chosen as a Winner of Business First's 2024 Excellence in Health Care Award!** "The things we do for ourselves are gone when we're gone, but the things we do for others remain as our legacy." Michelle has dedicated her life to serving the elderly and truly cares for others. She is an integral part of the fabric of our Autumn View Health Care Facility and the long-term care community.



**Exciting news! Brenda Houtenbrink has joined Touching Hearts at Home as Vice President, overseeing operations at our Syracuse, Rochester, and Buffalo locations.** With over 30 years of healthcare management experience, including roles at Highland Hospital and the University of Rochester, Brenda brings invaluable expertise to our team. Welcome, Brenda!



**Two nominees for the Professional Nurses Association Nurse of Distinction Award were recognized at a special dinner in June. Thank you both for being a Legend Caring for Legends. Congratulations!**

**Kate Hassett, RN, BSN, WCC, Assistant Director of Nursing at Absolut Care of Aurora Park.** Kate's approachable nature makes her a go-to for staff who find it easy to learn from her. She's the perfect blend of a manager and a clinician who has advanced up the career ladder while staying true to her nursing roots.

**Diane Gioia, RN, BSN, Director of Nursing at Seneca Health Care Center.** Diane's journey in nursing embodies resilience, leadership and a steadfast commitment to excellence. Her tireless efforts to educate, mentor and inspire others make her an asset to the team at Seneca Health Care Center and to the long-term care industry.



**Honoring WNY Citizens turning 100+ years old**  
Senior Wishes is honoring residents of Western New York who are turning 100 years of age or older. Each Centenarian will receive a special framed certificate and a small gift to commemorate this milestone.  
**NOMINATE A SENIOR TODAY!**

**We have an exciting new program launching...the Century Club!** This Club will recognize those seniors in Western New York who are turning 100 (or older) with a certificate and small gift. Eligible seniors who meet our guidelines may also request a wish! Nominate a Centenarian today at <https://lnkd.in/gX4VCnqH>





# ACCOMPLISHMENTS & RECOGNITION!

## Staff Spotlight

Bri Williams



Senior Development Officer

**Bri will be spearheading our exciting Pathways of Remembrance Capital Campaign.** Meet Bri: She joined the foundation team as Senior Development Officer in late 2023 and has quickly become an integral part of the Foundation Team. Her collaborative spirit and positive energy are uplifting to everyone around her. Bri and the Hospice Foundation play a crucial role in supporting Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo by raising much need funds to continue the mission ensuring that quality care is accessible to patients and families who need it.

**Congratulations Kelley Clem, RN, MS, VP Clinical Education and Patient Advocacy, on her presentation with the prestigious WNY PNA (WNY Professional Nurses Association) Ruth T. McGrorey Award.** This award recognizes nurses not only for their impact in the field but for their innovation, leadership, and representation of the nursing profession. Kelley is a true leader and gifted educator and advocate for patients, their caregivers, and staff. We are so proud of Kelley to be recognized for her extraordinary efforts and achievements.



*Vacation Stays*

**Short-Term Care for Your Loved One With Dementia**

Travel or tend to business while your loved one is safe with us!

**Financial Options Available**

**ABSOLUT CARE OF AURORA PARK**  
living legends

24-Hour Nursing Staff  
Secured Entrances & Exits  
PT, OT & Speech Therapies  
Enclosed Outdoor Courtyard  
Daily Activities

**CAREGIVERS - Are you in need of SHORT-TERM CARE for your loved one with DEMENTIA?** Absolut Care of Aurora Park in East Aurora offers VACATION STAYS. Travel or tend to business while your loved one is safe with us! CONTACT: Kashia Brosius - (716) 345-2647 or kbrosius@absolutcare.com. LOCATION: 292 Main St, East Aurora, NY.



Welcome to the board!

**Bernarda Arias, B.S., CDP®**

**Please join us in welcoming Bernarda Arias to our board of directors!** Bernarda holds the title of Director, Community Outreach and Engagement for the Corporate Social Responsibility/CARES Program at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. She brings experience in human resources and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, along with lots of community connections and community knowledge.

**Please join us in welcoming Thomas Lang to our board of directors!** Thomas is a graduate of the University at Buffalo School of Law and also holds his MBA from UB. He is a partner at Rupp Pfalzgraf LLC, where he specializes in business litigation and trusts and estate planning.



Welcome to the board!

**Thomas Lang, Esq.**

Thomas has adopted the Rotary motto, "Service above Self," as his personal maxim. He serves on multiple nonprofit boards, including Shea's Performing Arts Center, NETWORK IN AGING OF WNY INC, and Ken-Ton Meals on Wheels. Outside of his work at the law firm and his board service, he is also a dealer in rare coins and precious metals.

We asked Thomas what he likes best about living in Buffalo. He said, "The months of May to September. (No better May – September anywhere in the country than Buffalo, NY!)"

Welcome aboard, Thomas!

**In need of 24/7 care? Maybe just overnights? Respite care? We've got you covered!** Call us today and take the worry out of your home care needs! Here for you every hour, every day. Our home care services are available to connect your loved one to care, whether it's for a few hours a week or every single hour of the day. Count on us to provide compassionate and reliable support for your family.



**Touching Hearts® at home**

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER AGENCIES!



### SENIOR HELPERS



Since 2002, Senior Helpers has been a national leader in professional, in-home senior assistance services. More than 90% of seniors want to be able to age in place with dignity, but getting the right type of care can seem

daunting. At Senior Helpers of Buffalo we believe that getting the best care for your loved ones should not be complicated. We recognize the growing need for in-home care services, and with our passion for helping others, we are committed to delivering the best possible care to seniors in the Buffalo community.

We take the opportunity to provide care in your home seriously, and make it a priority to provide the highest level of client service possible. We have built an exceptional team of care professionals, each committed to remaining at the forefront of the in-home care industry through our proprietary ongoing training and education programs, including specialized Alzheimer's and Parkinson's care. You can feel confident that your loved one is in good hands with Senior Helpers.

We are located at 4764 North French Rd, East Amherst, NY 14051. Please contact us at either [info\\_buffalo@seniorhelpers.com](mailto:info_buffalo@seniorhelpers.com) or 716-815-3174 to learn more.

**Jim Sorge**, Owner - Senior Helpers of Buffalo  
4764 North French Rd • East Amherst, NY 14051  
P: 716-815-3174 • E: [jsorge@seniorhelpers.com](mailto:jsorge@seniorhelpers.com)

The Summer issue of the Western New York Chapter's Community Programs and Services Guide, listing education classes, support groups and other resources, is now available online at [bit.ly/WNYSummer24](http://bit.ly/WNYSummer24).

The guide covers programs and services offered in June through October across all eight counties of WNY. See the many ways we can assist you, whether as a person living with dementia or as a caregiver. If you would like a hard copy mailed to you, call 716.626.0600 ext. 8982.



### THE WILLOWS ADULT HOME



We would like to formally introduce ourselves to you as the new owners and administration team at The Willows Adult Home! We are so excited to be a part of The Willows family and to be able to provide compassionate, personalized care for our residents. We are a team of family members ourselves with the common focus of taking care of others! Here's a

little bit about us:



**Jacquie Morgante** is a licensed speech pathologist who has practiced for 25 years in various settings, including her most recent 10 years at Wyoming County Community Health System where she worked with the senior residents receiving care in both the hospital and the nursing home settings. Jacquie has a passion for caring for the elderly and helping them live healthier, happier, and fuller lives. She will act as our administrator and resident care supervisor.



**Joseph Morgante**, Jacquie's husband, is a licensed pharmacist who practiced community pharmacy for over 20 years prior to becoming a business manager and executive at Wegmans Food Markets. His passion and dedication to service to the community as well as his business knowledge of the healthcare industry make him the perfect fit to serve as our business advisor.



**Jordan DeJac**, Joseph and Jacquie's niece, is a certified childbirth doula with a professional background in nonprofit administration. She brings her big heart, empathy, and caring for others to the forefront every day. Her top notch organizational skills position her well as our administrative assistant. Jordan will work in lock step with Jacquie, and together they will be your new direct contacts for The Willows!

We come from a large family that highly values the importance of love and care for family. It is our desire and plan to treat our residents as if they were members of our own family. With love, respect, and communication being at the forefront of our care, we encourage you to please contact us with any questions or concerns. We look forward to partnering with you for the wellbeing of our residents!

### SEE WHERE THE HEALTH OF OLDER ADULTS RANKS IN YOUR STATE IN THE NEW AMERICA'S HEALTH RANKINGS 2024 SENIOR REPORT.

- #1 Utah
- #2 Colorado
- #3 Vermont
- #4 New Hampshire
- #5 Minnesota

## WELCOME NEW INDIVIDUALS!

### MEAGHAN BISHOP – FAREWELL HEALTH



Fare | Well Medical Practice with Dr. Alisha Lall is a Lifestyle Medicine focused Primary Care that intentionally chooses alternative methods to medication to solve issues or encourage healthier living, while still providing medically necessary options when needed. Creating a mutually respected relationship and space for both the patient and the provider through intentional listening and additional time has also been crucial in creating the best balance for our transition. Dr. Lall is board certified in both Family Medicine and Lifestyle Medicine. Lifestyle medicine focuses on the 7 pillars which include nutrition, physical activity, stress management, restorative sleep, social connection, and avoidance of risky substances. The intent is to use the tools we have in order to be able to avoid or prolong medications, but to also incorporate medications when necessary.

We are a membership-based model that continues to accept medical insurance for all medically based appointments such as annual physicals, blood work reviews, hospital follow-ups, medical clearances, etc., where all other Lifestyle Medicine focused discussions and wellness coaching would be covered under the membership fee. All patients with the practice are part of the membership, which also includes a variety of monthly events and activities held at or off-site of the practice to include but not limited to; yoga and meditation, culinary medicine classes, walking groups, and social events.

If you would be interested in learning more about the practice, our pricing, or setting up a consultation with Dr. Lall; please feel free to reach out to the Practice Manager, Meghan Bishop via email at [mbishop@farewellhealth.com](mailto:mbishop@farewellhealth.com), or by calling our office at 716-675-1001 and leaving a detailed voicemail. Please note that initial consultations go through insurance and are honored outside of the membership. This gives you an opportunity to decide if it will be a good fit for you before joining.

Fare | Well Medical Practice w/ Alisha Lall, M.D.  
725 Orchard Park Rd. Ste. A • West Seneca, NY 14224

Meghan Bishop, Practice Manager  
Fare | Well Medical Practice w/ Alisha Lall, M.D. A trusted approach to balanced living. Eat well, move well, sleep well, do well, and be well.  
[www.farewellhealth.com](http://www.farewellhealth.com)



**EDWARD GOIT JR. – RETIREE**

### MARY KNIGHT – AGELESS ATTITUDES

### ANJOLIE PLANTE, HEARING EVALUATION SERVICES OF BUFFALO



Hearing Evaluation Services, founded in 1981, is the largest freestanding non-profit audiology group in Western New York. We are completely committed to providing the highest quality services available for all our patients using our expertise and knowledge to:

- Reduce the negative impact of hearing impairment on the health, lifestyle, and communicative abilities of the affected individual
- Respond to and incorporate advancements in the hearing device and assistive listening device industries
- Innovate through the consistent use of new concepts, new technologies, and the provision of quality services
- Evaluate dizziness and balance problems to bring relief to affected individuals
- Assess and provide therapies for persons affected by tinnitus and/or hyperacusis

At HES, our audiologists are not commissioned so you can be confident that any recommendations made by our staff are made in each patient's best interest alone. This philosophy has stood the test of time and most of our new patients come by word of mouth after hearing successful stories about us from their family and friends.

As a non-profit organization, giving back to our community is an integral part of our mission. Along with other charitable endeavors, our greatest is certainly the Dr. Ann E. Stadelmaier Hearing Aid Fund, which provides hearing assistance to individuals in need who cannot otherwise afford these services. Since it was founded in 2006, the Fund has provided the gift of hearing for over 500 community members with the assistance of our local Lions Clubs.

We have four conveniently located offices in Western New York in Amherst (Snyder) on Main Street, Williamsville on Wehrle Drive near Transit Road, Tonawanda on Sheridan Drive near Parker, and in Orchard Park on North Buffalo Street. We would love to help you with a comprehensive and honest recommendation for help with hearing, tinnitus, or dizziness/balance problems.

Anjolie Plante, PCC, Patient Care Coordinator  
Hearing Evaluation Services of Buffalo, Inc.  
O: 716.833.4488 F: 716.839.1218 • [HESofBuffalo.org](http://HESofBuffalo.org)

### RORY WENDELL, GOT MORINGA

We are retired law enforcement and we owned a private investigation company in Southern California for 33 years. Our Moringa Oleifera literally saved my life (Rory). It is proven to be 40 times stronger than anything on the market today! I had major blockage, high blood pressure, orostate issues, I was overweight, and I was tired all the time. I am 62 years old and I feel like a young man. We have seen countless people get off harmful medications over the last 11 years. Comes with a 100% – 30 day money-back guarantee.





# TOUCHING HEARTS AT HOME

Companionship is an essential part of a healthy and fulfilling life, especially for seniors who may be living alone or experiencing feelings of isolation. That's why Touching Hearts at Home offers a range of companionship services to provide social support, stimulate mental and emotional wellness, and improve the overall quality of life for seniors.

One of the primary benefits of companionship services is the opportunity for seniors to build meaningful relationships with their caregivers. At Touching Hearts at Home, we understand the importance of compatibility between our clients and caregivers, and we take the time to carefully match them based on shared interests, personalities, and lifestyles. This helps to create a comfortable and enjoyable experience for both parties, fostering a sense of trust and rapport that can lead to long-lasting friendships.

Companionship services also provide seniors with opportunities for social engagement and community involvement. Our caregivers can accompany clients on outings, attend social events, or participate in hobbies and activities they enjoy. This helps reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation and improves mental and emotional well-being and overall quality of life.

In addition to social support, companionship services can also include assistance with basic household tasks such as meal preparation, light housekeeping, and running errands. This allows seniors to focus on their physical and mental health, hobbies, and other activities they enjoy without the stress of daily household chores.

At Touching Hearts at Home, we understand that every client's needs and preferences are unique. That's why we offer customizable companionship services that can be tailored to fit each individual's lifestyle and schedule. Whether it's a few hours a week or round-the-clock care, our compassionate and dedicated Care Partners are available to provide the support and companionship needed to enhance the quality of life for seniors.

In addition to our standard companionship services, Touching



Hearts at Home offers specialized programs for clients with specific needs. Our dementia and Alzheimer's care services are designed to provide support and stimulation for clients with memory impairment, while our respite care services provide temporary relief for family caregivers who need a break. Our end-of-life care services offer compassionate support and comfort for clients and their families during difficult times.

Overall, companionship services are essential to senior care, providing social support, mental and emotional wellness, and overall quality of life. At Touching Hearts at Home, we are committed to providing the highest quality companionship services tailored to meet each client's unique needs and preferences. If you are interested in finding out more about our services or becoming a Care Partner, please call 716-898-8566

Wendy R Greenwood, Executive Director  
Touching Hearts at Home • 2813 Wehrle Dr. Suite #5  
Williamsville, NY 14221 • 716-898-8566 🌸

## HOW TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST POTENTIAL ID THEFT

The security rupture is a reminder that you can take steps to mitigate the risk to your personal data:

**1. Practice safe password hygiene.** Too many people fail to heed this basic yet important advice. Passwords should be simple enough for you to remember but not easy for anyone else to guess. Resist using a password with, say, your wedding anniversary date or the name of your dog or cat.

Instead, employ a string of upper- and lowercase letters, numbers and special characters — the lengthier the better.

**2. Employ two-factor authentication.** Also known as multifactor authentication, this step adds a secondary form of validation, typically through a one-time code provided by a text or phone call or through an app. Do not reveal the code to a stranger.

**3. Check credit card statements.** Watch out for suspicious or unauthorized charges.

**4. Monitor and freeze your credit report.** Scrutinize your credit report at least once a year and contact the credit reporting agency — Equifax, Experian or TransUnion — if something seems out of whack.

If you're not actively seeking credit, consider freezing the report, which makes it harder for would-be identify thieves to open accounts in your name. The reporting agencies can supply instructions.



## WNY FESTIVALS!

### JULY

- 7/14-7/21 Canal Fest of the Tonawandas  
7/20 Christmas in July on Old Falls Street (1pm-6pm)  
7/20 ROC Pride Festival - Rochester  
7/27 HillTAP Festival – Holiday Valley Resort (full day of music & adventure)  
7/26-7/28 Buffalo Irish Festival at The Outer Harbor  
7/26-7/28 Italian Heritage Festival – Hertel Avenue  
7/27-7/28 Garden Walk Buffalo (10am-4pm)

### AUGUST

- 8/1-8/4 Eden Corn Festival  
8/1-8/3 Lucille Ball Comedy Festival 2024 – (Block Party) – Jamestown, NY  
8/1 Sunflowers of Sanborn – Opening Day  
8/5-8/7 Buffalo's Country Music Festival – The Backlot in Akron, NY (4pm-11pm)  
8/7-8/18 Erie County Fair 2024  
8/10 Lewiston Art Festival – 10am-6pm (Lewiston)  
8/11 Asian Food and Cultural Festival – 11am-7:30pm – Canalside  
8/19 Puerto Rican and Hispanic Day Parade Festival of WNY – Niagara Square - Buffalo  
8/24 Poochella Day (dog day) on Old Falls Street (1pm-6pm)  
8/23-8/24 Lewiston Jazz Festival – Lewiston  
8/25 Beau Fleuve Music & Arts Celebration – Buffalo Central Terminal  
8/31-9/1 National Buffalo Wing Festival – Highmark Stadium in Orchard Park (starts at noon)  
8/30 Buffalo German Fest

### SEPTEMBER

- 9/1 Buffalo Jazz Festival – 12:30pm-8pm – Richardson Olmsted Campus on Forest Ave.  
9/5-9/8 Niagara County Peach Festival – Lewiston  
9/14-9/15 Orchard Park Festival of the Arts  
9/13-9/15 Ellicottville Rock' N Roll Weekend – Ellicottville  
9/13-9/14 Niagara Falls Blues Festival – Old Falls Street  
9/13-9/15 Borderland Music and Arts Festival – East Aurora  
9/14-9/15 Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival  
9/14-10/31 The Great Pumpkin Farm Festival – open daily (10am-7pm)  
9/14 Buffalo Cigar Festival – Wings of Hope Pavilion in Orchard Park (Noon-7pm)  
9/21 Music is Art 2024 Festival – (11am-11pm) – Buffalo State campus  
9/28 Buffalo Oktoberfest Bar Crawl – 4pm-11pm (Allen Street)  
9/28-9/29 The Lewiston Harvest and Hops Festival (Center St. Lewiston)

### OCTOBER

- 10/5 Roycroft Campus Fall Festival (10am-5pm)

## AARP NEW YORK

### Celebrity Scams in the Age of AI

by AARP New York

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the new shiny object that has captured the world's attention. It's also captured the attention of criminal scammers using it to make their fraudulent schemes more realistic than ever. One area where AI scams are particularly dangerous is celebrity impostor scams.

For many years, criminals have been impersonating celebrities online to steal from fans. Fake celebrity profiles offer fans personal connections, VIP access, investment opportunities or the chance to support favorite charities. These criminals attempt to create a bond through messaging or even a phone call from their "rep."

With the power of AI, these scams can move from messaging to deepfake videos. Recent fake celebrity product endorsements impersonating Dolly Parton, Elon Musk and Tom Hanks demonstrate just how convincing these schemes can be.

Posting on a celebrity's social media account might be exciting, but it could put you at risk of this impostor scam. In whatever way you choose to enjoy your favorite celebs, do so, recognizing that an opportunity to personally connect with them is likely a scam.


So be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam. You can join the fight by sharing what you learn about preventing fraud with loved ones and friends.

If you're interested in educating the community about fraud prevention, AARP New York is looking for volunteers to give presentations about this topic in the community. Contact Kat Benedetti-Fisher, AARP NY's Associate State Director of Community Engagement, at [kjfisher@aarp.org](mailto:kjfisher@aarp.org) for more details.

But we know that education alone will not solve this challenge. While spreading your knowledge is critical to helping others avoid scams, you should also report scams to local law enforcement.

For help from AARP, the AARP Fraud Watch Network is a free resource available for all. You can learn how to proactively spot scams or get guidance if you've been targeted. Visit [aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](http://aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork) or call our dedicated helpline to speak to a fraud specialist at 1-877-908-3360.

#### About AARP

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. 





## WNY INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC.

A partner of the Veterans Administration Medical Centers in Buffalo and Batavia, WNY Independent Living, Inc. received the sole contract for Veteran Directed Care with the VA. While the Veteran Directed Care model is new to WNY, it has demonstrated success in self-directed care by Veterans across the nation. VA Medical Centers partner with non-profit Independent Living Centers to empower Veterans to employ their own aides (often already being provided by family members).

WNY Independent Living CEO, Douglas Usiak shares, “As an aging service-connected disabled Veteran myself, I am excited to know that my brother and sister Veterans will have the comfort to direct their own homecare needs and remain in their home of choice as long as possible. A secondary satisfaction to being involved in the launch of this program is the opportunity to work with the VAMC in the capacity of a partner, and not just one of their consumers of services. This partnership gives me the opportunity to promote my lifelong passion of promoting the Independent Living philosophy that believes that we all have a right to live in our homes, work in our communities, and engage in society as a person with a disability.”

A focus of this program is to reach the underserved rural parts of WNY where Veterans face provider shortages, geographic and distance barriers, limited broadband coverage with limited ability to participate in telehealth, and social determinants of health relative to rural living experiences (i.e. access to transportation, employment).

To ensure a trust-built rapport with Veterans, WNY Independent Living has employed another Army Veteran, Thomas Patterson, to serve in the Person-Centered Counselor role and interface directly with the Veterans in assessing their needs in their homes and communities. Veterans and Tom work together to build a Spending Plan to identify costs for their Personal Assistants and obtain any additional goods and services the Veteran requires to improve

quality of life in their home and community.

The power of this Veteran Directed Care program can be recognized in the experiences of the individual Veterans who are participating in VDC. For example, a 94-year-old Veteran who functions independently in his own home and wants to remain there with some additional oversight for specific household tasks and community access – like going to the library for a new mystery novel, has employed his daughter-in-law for these functions. Another Veteran depends on his granddaughter for activities of daily living and then she needs to go to her job in the community to support herself. Being able to be paid to continue the care she already provides to her “Poppy” will improve the quality of life for both. One thing is certain: their stories are being heard.

Crucial to WNY Independent Living’s successful launch as a VDC program, VDC Director Julie Andrews Krieger expresses gratitude for the mentorship of the other providers in the VDC community, including the Independent Living Center of Hudson Valley and VA Medical Center in Albany.

WNY Independent Living will support Veterans across the wider WNY region in Niagara, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Wyoming, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany Counties. We are proud to serve the Veterans in our community. To qualify for this program, a Veteran must request Veteran Directed Care from their VA physician and Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) at the local VA Medical Center or VA Clinic and an assessment is completed and referral made to the VDC program. 🌸



### DID YOU KNOW

**Americans 60-plus are among the happiest people in the world. ■**

Source: World Happiness Report, 2024

### Interesting!

The once-common idea that young people are living their happiest years seems to be a rapidly changing reality in the U.S. Gallup’s recent survey data, featured in the 2024 World Happiness Report, suggests that Americans in the oldest surveyed group (age 60 and older) enjoy greater happiness than their younger counterparts. This group ranked in the top 10 globally

on the list of the world’s happiest people, at number 10, compared to younger Americans, age 30-44, and the under-30s who ranked 42 and 62 respectively.

Why are the rankings so different among the age groups? John Helliwell, founding editor for the Happiness Report and professor emeritus at the Vancouver School of Economics, University of British Columbia, says one reason older adults are happier is that they can brush off negativity more easily and bring what’s truly important in life into perspective.

# ELITE HOME HEALTH CARE

## Elite Home Health Care Receives 2024 Best of Home Care® – Provider of Choice Award

Elite Home Health Care announced today that it has received the 2024 Best of Home Care – Provider of Choice Award from Home Care Pulse (HCP). The Provider of Choice Award is granted only to top-ranking home care providers, based on client satisfaction scores gathered by HCP, an independent satisfaction research firm for post-acute care. Elite Home Health Care is recognized among a select few home care providers across the country who have proven their ability to provide outstanding care.

**Isaac Weider, COO of Elite Home Health Care says:** “We are honored to receive this award, which helps showcase our unwavering commitment to providing exceptional in-home care. This recognition is a testament to our dedicated team and caregivers who always ensure that our patients receive the highest quality of care. Our focus on customer service and our meticulous hiring process for our caregivers are crucial in delivering the best possible care to our clients.”

At Elite Home Health Care, customer service is not just a priority but a crucial part of our agency. We recently implemented a comprehensive customer service training program that all employees participated in. This program emphasizes empathy, effective communication, and personalized care, ensuring that every team member is equipped to meet the specialized needs of our clients. Equally important is our careful hiring process for our caregivers. We ensure that we bring on board only quality and skilled home health aides who truly love what they do. This commitment to quality care is reflected in the positive feedback from our clients, such as Cynthia, who reached out and expressed her gratitude to Tamika, her father’s home health aide, and shared her story.

*Cynthia wept in tears and said how much Tamika, has changed her family’s life. She says: “No matter what, Tamika will always report to my father’s aid and never misses a day. Tamika has taken the time to get to know the ins and outs of my father’s daily life and always keeps both my father & his apartment clean.”*

*Before Tamika, Cynthia’s family went through 5 different aides with multiple different agencies trying to find the right aide to care for her father. She expressed how grateful she is to have found Elite Home Health Care and Tamika because they have done so much for her family.*

By focusing on these core values, we continually strive to provide the best possible service to our clients and their families.

“We’re excited to congratulate Elite Home Health Care for their well-deserved achievement on earning the Best of Home Care – Provider of Choice Award,” says Todd Austin, President of HCP. “It’s wonderful to see the hard work that Elite is putting in to provide high-quality care and employment—their effort isn’t going unnoticed. This award allows them to provide proof of quality to potential new clients and caregivers.”

To learn more about Elite Home Health Care, please visit <https://elitehhc.com/> or call 718.925.2525

Elite Home Health Care is a fast-growing home healthcare agency that provides a comprehensive range of home healthcare



services. We pride ourselves on our skilled, quality care in the comfort of the patient’s home. At Elite Home Health Care we offer skilled care defined by compassion and respect. Sometimes the needs of a loved one extend beyond your capabilities. We’re here to take the stress off your hands so you can focus on enjoying quality time with them, safe in the comfort that they are in capable, caring hands. Whether you are looking for someone to ease the transition from hospital to home or want a companion to assist your loved one with household chores, our qualified caregivers are skilled in a range of areas.

Your family is ours. There are now over 6,000 people in the Elite family, including caregivers, clients, and their loved ones. Join our family today. 🌸





## YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

**The Education Committee is calling on YOU! We're currently on the hunt for some new members!**

Do you want to contribute to and make decisions as a collective group regarding the annual meeting and other educational events? This would entail things such as brainstorming speakers, topics, ideas, and other decision-making efforts.

Now is the time to be heard!

Give it a trial run and see what it's all about. The committee meets the **2nd Thursday of each month at 9AM**. Contact me at [lisa@networkinaging.org](mailto:lisa@networkinaging.org) or one of the Education co-chairs listed on page 4.



### Message from the Medical Director

**Debra Luczkiewicz, MD**  
Medical Director  
Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo

#### When is it time to call Hospice?

Contacting Hospice can be a difficult and often emotional step for families as well as loved ones experiencing illness. Hospice care is available to anyone with an illness that is more likely than not to lead to the end of life within about 6 months. Examples of illnesses that may apply include:

- Cancer that is no longer being treated or when treatment is not helping.
- Heart disease including congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease.
- Lung disease including COPD, emphysema, pulmonary fibrosis.
- End-stage dementia.
- Neurological conditions such as stroke, ALS.
- Any other illness or combination of medical problems causing a significant and progressive decline.

#### What are the signs to look for?

Someone eligible for hospice care may be:

- Experiencing more weakness.
- Needing more help to take care of themselves.
- Eating much less.
- Losing weight without intending to.

- No longer receiving or doing well with treatments such as chemotherapy for cancer.
- Frequently in the hospital or emergency room and no longer desiring testing, procedures, and treatments or to return to the hospital.

#### How do I inquire or enroll?

If you or a loved one is thinking it's time to reach out to Hospice, just call our main number, (716) 686-8000, or reach out through our website, [hospicebuffalo.com](http://hospicebuffalo.com). We will speak to you and your doctor to decide together if the time is right for hospice.

**For those living with a serious illness, help starts *here*.**

The right time to start the conversation is right now. Connect with us today.

Call (716) 686-8000 or visit [HospiceBuffalo.com/Help](http://HospiceBuffalo.com/Help)



Almost 25% of adults reported either they or a member in their household skipped doses of medicine, cut pills in half, or didn't fill a prescription last year due to costs.



No one should be forced to sacrifice their health care because of finances.

That's why at SCS Trust Services, our goal is to help your loved one manage their finances and assets so they can receive Medicaid coverage without any issues.

Reach out today so your loved one can receive health coverage while their income and assets are properly cared for.



#### 2024 Hospice Gran Fondo

Registration is officially OPEN for the 2024 Hospice Gran Fondo! Race day is SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, rides start at 7:30am. Post-Race party from 11am-2pm with live music, food, drinks & more!

# HARRIS HILL NURSING FACILITY LIVING LEGENDS

## For the Love of Horses

*Alan Deacon's story of perseverance, paint, and ponies*

If the vibrant yellows and greens of springtime are what make you happy then Alan Deacon has the perfect paint pallet for you! Swing by Harris Hill Nursing Facility, or open Facebook and watch Alan's livestream for a daily dose of color. Alan is an artist and resident at Harris Hill who creates fabulous watercolor paintings. Even more fascinating than his beautiful brushstrokes is how they get there. Faced with MS, and loss of mobility in his arms and legs, Alan paints with a brush attached to the brim of his ballcap, an ingenious invention devised by his son Alex.

A construction owner by trade, Alan was always on the fringe of the artistic world creating custom dynamic drawings and buildings. "Painting is a way to contribute and become relevant again," he stated. While Alan's passion is painting, there's truly a higher purpose behind each stroke. He sells his paintings to support Phoenix Rising Equine Rescue & Rehabilitation, a horse rescue organization he and his wife Karla own at Spruce Meadow Farm. The Deacons purchased the farm in 1989 and opened the rescue in 2009. "My wife loves horses and I love her," Deacon remarked about acquiring the farm. Many of the horses came from racetracks, abusive situations, and kill pens.

Alan was diagnosed with MS in 2005 and became a resident at Harris Hill Nursing Facility in August 2022. As someone who was always on the go, he began looking for ways to stay active. Now the walls of his room are lined with painting caps donned with brushes




of all sizes. He paints with the help of a specialized electric chair that allows him to stand at his easel and work his magic. Alan sells matted prints for \$40 and originals starting at \$75.

As if his unique method of painting isn't incredible enough, Alan also creates videos and photo collages of his artwork using an assistive head mouse device implanted into the lens of his glasses. Alan's electronic chair, head mouse, and a retrofitted vehicle he uses for transportation were made possible by generous donations from members of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Clarence Center where Alan and his wife have been parishioners since 1989. Currently, the Deacons are in the market to replace the 2001 vehicle with something newer and more reliable. The Deacons' organization is a 501(c)(3), and each year they host a variety of fundraisers. They provide lessons, summer camps and other activities at the farm.

Alan's talent is no doubt remarkable given the challenges he faces. But it is his love for

his family and the horses that brings him to the easel each day. Most importantly, he gives all the glory to God and operates under the motto, "If I can, I will." And that he surely does!

Alan can be contacted about his paintings, rescue, or donations at [adeacon9@gmail.com](mailto:adeacon9@gmail.com) or 716-253-7282.

Learn more at [www.helpsavehorses.org](http://www.helpsavehorses.org). Visit <https://www.livinglegendshealth.com> to learn more about Harris Hill Nursing Facility. 



Millions of individuals establish a Pooled Income Trust to protect their finances while they receive uninterrupted Medicaid coverage.

Learn the ins and outs and partner with an experienced team when you choose SCS Trust Services!



**Did you know?**

The below expenses are NOT allowed in a Pooled Trust!

- ▶ Child support
- ▶ Payments on past debts
- ▶ Income taxes (unless an actual tax liability is established)
- ▶ Vacation expenses for family members

Learn more at [scstrusts.org](http://scstrusts.org)





# POSITIONS AVAILABLE!



Glenwell, a DePaul Senior Living community in Cheektowaga is looking to hire an **Administrative Assistant**. It is a full time, day position. Apply at <https://www.depaul.org/employment/>



**Have you heard? Lawley is growing!** Due to internal growth and many newly created positions, we have multiple openings for commercial insurance account managers in our Buffalo and Purchase offices as well as our Connecticut offices! In our Rochester office we have openings for a personal insurance account manager and account technician. All positions are hybrid opportunities. Apply today!

**Lawley**

INSURANCE | EMPLOYEE BENEFITS



**The Absolut Care Rehab & Nursing Facilities Offer a Wide Range of Opportunities** in CLINICAL and NON-CLINICAL Fields! OPPORTUNITIES FOR: Business Office, HR Recruitment, Medical Records, Maintenance, Social Work, Clerical /Administrative, Nursing, and Certified Nursing Assistant & Paid Trainees. WE ALSO OFFER INTERNSHIPS!

APPLY INSTANTLY: <https://lnkd.in/gg9-qzK>

6 LOCATIONS: Absolut Care of Allegany in Allegany, Absolut Care of Aurora Park in East Aurora, Absolut Care of Gasport in Gasport, Absolut Care of Three Rivers in Painted Post, Absolut Care of Westfield in Westfield, and Orchard Brooke Assisted Living Center in Orchard Park.



Join Our Team of Living Legends with a rare opening for an **Administrator** at our Northgate Health Care Facility in North Tonawanda.



**LPNs - A Great Career STARTS HERE! Harris Hill Nursing Facility** has full & part-time openings with your choice of shifts. PLUS up to \$3,000 SIGN-ON BONUS!

**TRANSPORTATION:** We provide shuttle pick up/drop-off at the University Bus Station (main and bailey). Cost is minimum!!! Pay Rate up to \$28.17/hour depending on experience and benefits.

**LOCATION:** Harris Hill Nursing Facility, 2699 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville (across from the Golf Dome).

CALL or TEXT: 716-803-7041, Sarah Jankowski



Explore rewarding caregiving opportunities in Medina, NY! Join our team, which is dedicated to positively impacting lives. Apply now for fulfilling caregiver positions



**Attention Registered Nurses!** Nascentia Health is excited to extend a remarkable opportunity with a \$15,000 sign-on bonus for qualified candidates interested in joining our team as a Mobile Acute Care RN! In this role, you'll have the privilege of delivering exceptional care directly to patients in the comfort of their homes, empowering them to achieve optimal health outcomes.

Don't miss out on this extraordinary chance to be part of a team that's revolutionizing healthcare delivery. Apply today at <https://lnkd.in/d3knxPW> and take the first step toward an exciting new chapter with Nascentia Health!



<https://ow.ly/cypA50Sa3tl>

**Job Opportunity for Service Coordinator with People Inc.** Position open at Folwell Apartments at 140 Hodge avenue in Buffalo (the old Children's Hospital campus)- \$20.00 an hour - 20 hours a week- flexible schedule

The Service Coordinator will provide general case management and referral services and link ESSHI qualifying tenants within the project to supportive services or medical services provided by public agencies or private practitioners within the general community. The service coordinator will assess service needs, determine the eligibility for public services, and coordinate the delivery of service with the appropriate state and local agencies. Contact Sharon Plant to apply. 716-817-9229 or email [splant@people-inc.org](mailto:splant@people-inc.org)

# POSITIONS AVAILABLE!

## DO YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR WORKING WITH FAMILIES? JOIN OUR TEAM!

Catholic Charities is hiring **Multisystemic Therapists** in Erie and Niagara counties. Employee benefits include:

- Competitive salary - starting at \$48,690
- 12+ paid holidays and 25 PTO days per year
- Comprehensive health, dental and vision coverage
- 403B retirement plan

APPLY NOW [ccwny.org/careers](http://ccwny.org/careers)



Catholic Charities is looking for dedicated, compassionate people to join our team as Multisystemic (MST) Therapists in #Erie and #Niagara counties!

As an #MST therapist, you will empower families to address problematic behaviors in youth ages 10 to 17 and make life-transforming changes.



Start chasing after your goals TODAY! And let Catholic Charities help you on your way. Our Workforce & Education Department offers an array of programs and services to help you take the next step in your schooling or into the workforce. Give us a call today or find out more at [ccwny.org](http://ccwny.org) and complete an online referral.

## Catholic Charities Workforce & Education

- GED/HSE Prep
- Job Readiness Skills Training
- Vocational Training
- Financial Empowerment
- Math & Reading Remediation

"When no one else was able to help me, Catholic Charities provided me the support that I needed."

-Jerry, former student

Get started today!



(716) 893-3500  
[ccwny.org](http://ccwny.org)



# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## We have an urgent need for volunteers for our following food pantry locations:

- Kenmore Pantry: 3370 Delaware Ave., Kenmore, NY 14217, Mondays 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Perry-St. Brigid Pantry: 305 Perry St., Buffalo, NY 14204 - Wednesdays 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Bishop Kmiec Pantry\* : 920 Tiff St., Buffalo, NY 14220 - Thursdays 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Lovejoy Pantry\* : 136 N. Ogden St., Buffalo, NY 14206 - Fridays 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

\*For Bishop Kmiec and Lovejoy pantries, we're looking for volunteers who can stay from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and be able to do physical work without restrictions.

Those interested in volunteering can reach out to Carolyn Stewart, Program Manager, at (716) 218-1450, ext. 2003.



It takes two to chat! If you'd like to receive calls, or are interested in volunteering, call 716-262-6164.

A new friendship is just a phone call away! With help from our partners at Catholic Charities of Buffalo, NY, The Telephone Assurance Program (TAP) is a free service that provides regular phone calls to older adults and individuals with disabilities who are homebound to increase their socialization and check on their well-being.

It takes two to chat! If you'd like to receive calls, or are interested in volunteering, call 716-262-6164.



Get started today!

**A new friendship is just a phone call away!**

The **Telephone Assurance Program (TAP)** is a **free** service that provides regular phone calls to Erie County homebound older adults or disabled persons to check on their well-being and to socialize.

Interested in receiving phone calls or volunteering? Call (716) 262-6164!

LEARN MORE

SCAN ME

TAP is grant funded through the Erie County Department of Senior Services and the New York State Office for the Aging.

## ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION®



Calling all retired teachers, social workers, healthcare professionals and others!

## Make a difference as a COMMUNITY EDUCATOR

Community Educators are volunteer public speakers who provide Alzheimer's Association education programs to community audiences. These volunteers deliver presentations using prepared training materials.

Interested in learning more?

Contact Kailea at [kalalka@alz.org](mailto:kalalka@alz.org) or 716.241.0352 or apply online at [bit.ly/ALZeducator](http://bit.ly/ALZeducator)



## HIGHLIGHTS OF MAY 15TH SENIOR HEALTH & RESOURCE FAIR!

Great job from the Networking committee for pulling off another successful resource fair!  
 Thank you to all 90 organizations and individuals that participated in this event. Great turnout!  
 Shoutout to Bee News, Forever Young and Buffalo Healthy Living for providing us with extra coverage  
 in their publications. (We'll work on the parking issues next time!)







## IS SEEKING WISHES!

Help Bring Joy to a Senior.



For more information:

Visit our website: [seniorwishes.org](http://seniorwishes.org)  
or  
call 716-508-2121

- Wish recipients must be 65+ and a resident of WNY
- Annual income under \$38,000 for household of one or \$44,000 for household of two
- Permanent residents of care facilities are exempt from income qualification.
- Recipients must be unable to fulfill the wish on their own or with family assistance.

presented by  
**Tops**  
Friendly Markets

featuring  
**Fresh Catch**

## party at the Pier

benefiting FeedMore WNY

Thursday  
**Aug. 1**

**6 to 9 p.m., Buffalo River Fest Park**

- music by DJ Sike and Too Yacht To Handle
- open bar
- food and drinks for seafarers and landlubbers alike!

**Our hottest new summer fundraiser is back!**

Join us Aug. 1 at Buffalo River Fest Park for Party at the Pier to benefit FeedMore WNY! Presented by Tops Markets and featuring a delicious menu from Fresh Catch Poke Co., guests will enjoy a vibrant summer evening on the waterfront with live music, food & drinks for seafarers and landlubbers alike! Tickets and more info at: <https://lnkd.in/gJnQrRK3>



Join us! **WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S**  
ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

**SEPT. 7 - Orleans County**  
State Street Park, Medina

**SEPT. 14 - Genesee/Wyoming**  
Centennial Park, Batavia

**SEPT. 21 - Niagara County**  
Reservoir State Park, Niagara Falls

**SEPT. 28 - Buffalo**  
Outer Harbor, Buffalo

**OCT. 5 - Chautauqua County**  
Point Gratiot Park, Dunkirk

**OCT. 5 - Southern Tier**  
JCC Campus, Olean

**Register at [alz.org/wnywalk](http://alz.org/wnywalk)**

### Come join us for a Lunch & Learn at Eagle House in Williamsville

We will show you how we can help your clients position assets to pay for your services. Here at Prudential, as financial planners, we help bridge the conversation between parents and children when it comes to assets. Our goal is to make sure families can pass as much generational wealth down as possible, in the most efficient way. Presented by Ryan Kozyra and Lori Marinaccio. RSVP to Ryan Kozyra [ryan.kozyra@prudential.com](mailto:ryan.kozyra@prudential.com)

Wednesday, August 28, 2024 • Noon-1:30pm  
Eagle House Restaurant  
5578 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221



**Free event for NIA members!**





# NETWORK WITH THE NETWORK "Go Bills"

**COMING UP!**

**THURS., AUGUST 15th • 5pm-7pm**

Trusted Choice Homecare  
500 Seneca Street, Suite 501  
Buffalo, NY 14204



Trusted  
Choice  
Homecare



## SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Let Us Help You To  
**SPREAD THE WORD!**

**Did you know you can submit  
your own event?**

- On home page [www.networkinaging.org](http://www.networkinaging.org), under EVENTS, Submit Your Event! It's EASY!
- Just fill in Title, Date/Time, Description, Cost, Venue and add an image!
- It gets added to our website calendar of events on the home page. We'll also post to Facebook!

## KIND LEADERS



## NICE LEADERS

Address issues directly  
and constructively.

**Conflict**

Avoid conflict to keep  
everyone happy.

Set clear expectations and  
hold their team accountable.

**Accountability**

Let things slide to avoid  
upsetting anyone.

Give honest feedback  
to help others grow.

**Feedback**

Sugarcoat feedback to  
protect feelings.

Encourage continuous  
improvement and learning.

**Improvement**

Accept the status quo to  
maintain harmony.

Show empathy and  
understanding.

**Empathy**

Offer superficial sympathy  
without real understanding.

Take responsibility and  
lead by example.

**Responsibility**

Focus on being liked and  
avoid difficult decisions.

Encourage open and  
honest communication.

**Communication**

Avoid tough conversations to  
keep the peace.

Find this helpful? Follow **Justin Wright** for more. [LinkedIn.com/in/jwmba](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jwmba).



## Community Speaker's Bureau

We are here to provide education, care, and support to those faced with serious illness. Learn about the programs we offer to help best advocate.

### PRESENTATION OFFERINGS:

- Family/Caregiver Resources & Support
- Care Options for Those Faced with Serious Illness
- Spiritual Care: Finding Peace, Meaning, and Comfort
- Hospice Care versus Palliative Care
- Sharing Healthcare Wishes: A Gift for Yourself and Your Loved Ones
- Self-Care Tips
- Coping with Grief and Loss

Request a speaker for your workplace, faith community, service organization, library, senior center, school, or club.

To request a speaker, call (716) 901-0294 or visit [HospiceBuffalo.com](http://HospiceBuffalo.com).

We provide care, support, advocacy, and education for the Western New York community.



# MOMENTS IN TIME



## A Memory Café

### What is a Memory Café?

A memory café is a monthly gathering of individuals with memory loss along with their caregivers, or friends and family, in a safe, supportive, and engaging environment. First and foremost, it is a social gathering - an opportunity to make new friends and interact without judgement. Many also find it an avenue for sharing concerns and providing support as well.

### Who should attend?

Anyone who is concerned about their memory is welcome to attend. Memory cafés can be great groups for those with Mild Cognitive Impairment or a diagnosis of dementia or memory impairment. The person with memory loss may attend individually if independently safe, but typically they are encouraged to attend with a caregiver, as the cafes are fun for everyone!

- **Safe, calm and inclusive space for individuals affected by dementia and their care partners**
- **Engaging activities, socialization, support and education**
- **Refreshments and snacks served**

Brought to you by:



**CARE Patrol**™

Your Partner In Senior Care Solutions

### WHERE:

111 St Gregory Ct  
Williamsville, NY

### WHEN:

Second Friday of Every Month  
Starting in August  
10:30-11:30am

### COST: FREE

(REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

**SPACE IS LIMITED, REGISTER TODAY!**

Call Julie at (716) 463-2955

Email [jlewinski@carepatrol.com](mailto:jlewinski@carepatrol.com)

<https://carepatrol.com/buffalo-niagara/events/>



Location Sponsor:

**Elderwood Village at  
St Gregory's Court**

Promotional Partner:



Interested in promotional partnership opportunities?  
Call Julie at (716) 463-2955





**LOOKING TO  
SPONSOR?**

## LOOKING TO SPONSOR? Promote your business even further?

The October Cocktail Pairing  
Event is the perfect one!  
**Thursday, October 17th • Sto Lat**

### \$250 sponsorship includes:

- 1 free ticket
- Signage at event
- Highlighted on website,  
social media, newsletter
- Opportunity to speak to attendees
- Opportunity to set up a  
sponsor table/banner

## ATTENTION MEMBERS!! Looking for co-hosts for the following Network with the Network events:

- All planning details up to the discretion of the host/co-host (theme, food, etc.)
- Budget, the discretion of the host/co-host

**September 19th** – Thursday - Fallon Health Weinberg

**October** – Event TBD

**November TBD** – Tennyson Court

**December TBD** – Solstice Senior Living at East Amherst

### For more info, contact one of the following:

Stacy Jasinski, [sjasinski@depaul.org](mailto:sjasinski@depaul.org)

Lisa Boron, [lisa@networkinaging.org](mailto:lisa@networkinaging.org)

Stephanie Mruzek, [eastamherstdsm@solsticeseniorliving.com](mailto:eastamherstdsm@solsticeseniorliving.com)



## IS YOUR LOGO CORRECT ON OUR WEBSITE?

Is it linked to your own website?  
Go to our home page and check it out!  
Email [lisa@networkinaging.org](mailto:lisa@networkinaging.org) if you need it updated.



### 12th Annual Raise a Glass

Please join us for our annual Raise a Glass fundraiser for the Nascentia Health Charitable Foundation. Take in the views from the beautiful Timber Banks Golf Club, bid on amazing silent auction items, enter to win one of dozens of raffle baskets, enjoy delicious food, and more!

The nonprofit Nascentia Health Charitable Foundation provides direct support to improve the quality of life for our financially challenged patients and their families throughout Central New York, and also provides specialized education and training to our nurses and home health aides.

- Event by Nascentia Health
- Sun, Oct 6, 2024, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (your local time)
- Timber Banks, 3536 Timber Banks Pkwy,  
Baldwinsville, NY, US, 13027
- Timber Banks Golf Club
- Event link <https://nascentiahealth.org/raiseaglass>

**Nascentia Health**  
TOMORROW'S HEALTHCARE TODAY



## PLATINUM MEMBERS! Promotional Email Blast!

- Act today! Reserve your spot!
- Topic/Ad/Layout of your choosing
- Emailed to the entire membership (500+)
- Contact Lisa at [lisa@networkinaging.org](mailto:lisa@networkinaging.org) to schedule

# LAST CHANCE to take advantage of your NEWSLETTER BENEFITS!

ONLY ONE MORE ISSUE REMAINING!

## Submissions include:

- Articles (no word limit), include images and pictures
- Business card size ad
- Quarter page ads – Platinum/Gold members
- Job postings
- Acknowledgements and Recognitions

Looking for  
**ARTICLE AND  
AD SUBMISSIONS**  
for the  
**Oct-Dec 2024**  
edition!

Email Lisa Boron at  
[lisa@networkinaging.org](mailto:lisa@networkinaging.org)  
to reserve your spots.



**Do you know a senior with a wish?**

Visit [www.seniorwishes.org](http://www.seniorwishes.org) to view our application

**Senior Wishes** grants life enriching wishes to income eligible seniors 65+ in Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming and Genesee counties. Common wishes are to visit a loved one not seen in years, participate in a hobby long abandoned, experience something they always wanted to do, or have a simple need met. Ask a senior you work with, "If you had one wish, what would it be?" You may be surprised to hear their response! It is never too early to apply for a wish as sometimes it takes months for details to be planned. Applications accepted year round at [www.seniorwishes.org](http://www.seniorwishes.org)



## Cleanup Services

- Water / Flood Cleanup
- Sewage Cleanup
- Fire & Smoke Damage
- Nicotine Removal
- Mold Remediation
- Estate Cleanouts/  
Cleanouts
- Deep Cleaning
- Post Construction Clean
- Post Pest Clean
- Odor Removal



716-912-6940



Locally owned and operated.  
Woman owned.

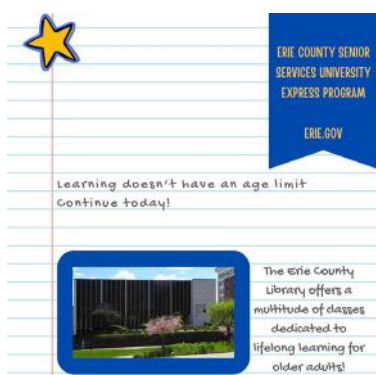
Proudly service North Tonawanda and its surrounding areas.

716-912-6940





Learn how to protect yourself and your loved ones from potential scams used through technology! Check out our University Express classes, Parachute's monthly webinars, and more!!



The Erie County Library and EC Senior Services University Express program provide a diverse range of classes tailored for older adults, fostering lifelong learning and yielding numerous beneficial outcomes. Learn more on both websites today!



## Facebook Members Only – Your opinions and feedback count!

- **Did you attend a Network event?** Share your thoughts so we can make every event better!
- **Did another NIA member help you recently?** Tell your referral success stories and demonstrate the power of networking!
- **Have you noticed a new trend in your industry?** Give us your best resources/websites for learning new skills and keeping up on the latest information!
- **Is there a must-see Netflix/Amazon Prime, etc. show you've binged on?** Let us know your favorites (bonus points if they cover senior or healthcare topics)!
- **What are your best travel tips/vacation spots?** We all need some down time!



**Financial Safety:** Educate seniors about common scams and help them

**Elder Abuse Prevention:** Recognize signs of abuse and ensure seniors know how to report it and access support services.

**Transportation Safety:** Provide safe transportation options for seniors, whether driving, using public transit, or rideshare services.

**Technology Devices:** Use technology to enhance seniors' safety and independence, including medical alerts and smart home devices.

**Home Safety:** Keep homes hazard-free with proper lighting, clear pathways, secure rugs, grab bars, and handrails.

**Medical Safety:** Manage medications carefully and prioritize regular check-ups to monitor health and prevent complications.

**Emergency Preparedness:** Seniors need a comprehensive emergency plan, including contacts, medication lists, medical history, and essential supplies.



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CENTER FOR  
ELDER  
LAW &  
JUSTICE



Discover the world of support waiting to embrace Erie County older adults! Together, let's dive into the array of benefits and services designed to uplift and empower them.

Safety is a universal language of care! Prioritizing the well-being of older adults by implementing measures of security brings peace to the minds of all. Learn more about different safety initiatives!



CENTER FOR  
ELDER  
LAW &  
JUSTICE



**Absolut Care of Aurora Park –  
Annual Car Show**  
REV UP YOUR ENGINES  
for our Annual Car Show

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14th • 4:00pm**

The event is open to the community, as well as our residents, their families and staff.

Featuring live entertainment by ONE MAN ROCKIN' BAND - Lyle Stang

There will also be a hotdog vendor provided by American Legion Post 362.



**COMING UP!**  
**Network with the  
Network**  
**TACO THURSDAY!**  
**Taco 'Bout a Party!**  
**Thurs., September 19, 2024**  
**4:30m-6:30pm**

Fallon Health Weinberg  
John James Audubon Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14228



**DATE CHANGE!**

Please note that this year's annual conference is scheduled for **WEDNESDAY, November 6th**

**COMING SOON!**  
**Annual  
Meeting Award  
Nominations**



***Be on the lookout  
for PROGRAM OF  
EXCELLENCE & MERITORIOUS  
awards information!***

- The Meritorious award is designated to honor a person who has made a significant contribution to the field of aging in WNY.

- The Program of Excellence award has been established to showcase a program that has been successfully implemented to enhance the WNY geriatric community.

Award nominations that were not selected last year may be submitted again this year.

Go to our website: [www.networkinaging.org](http://www.networkinaging.org) and check out the criteria & nomination forms on our home page (under Awards/Scholarship)



# LIFE LESSONS

## LIFE LESSON – MARCH/APRIL 2024

### “PAW-SOME”LY SPRING”

Winner of the \$25 Amazon gift card was  
Nichole McDonald from MartonCare



Nichole McDonald  
- MartonCare



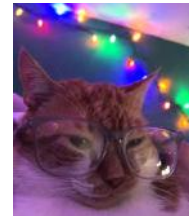
Shannon Radlich -  
Monte Birdie



Dawn Harsch – Mr.  
Bojangles



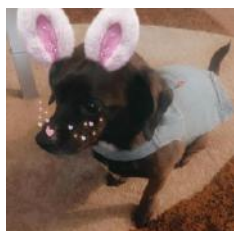
Sharon Plant –  
her girls



Corey Haertel -  
Mr. Calvin



Lisa Gentzke –  
Lacy



Shavon Mayweather  
– Blossom aka B



Samantha Eberhard  
– Raider



Jeanette  
Carlin – Jack



Kathy Bragagnola –  
Gracie



Lynn Weaver –  
Oakley

## LIFE LESSON – MAY/JUNE 2024

### “THEN AND NOW”



Michael Olear



Carey Greenan – with daughter Zoie



Michelle Claus



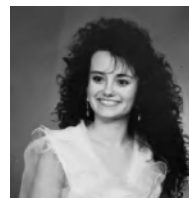
Shannon Radlich



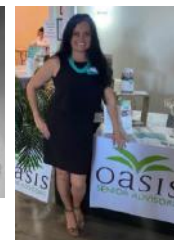
Don Lewinski



Stacy Jasinski



Tracy Reese



## LIFE LESSON – JULY/AUGUST 2024 (Coming Up) “Summer Fun in WNY”

Summer is here & we want to see how you have SUMMER FUN in WNY!

Whether it's swimming at the beach or a local pool, enjoying live music down by the lake, having dinner on a patio, going to festivals, theme parks, county fairs, or just hanging out in your own backyard, going for a walk in the

park, or getting some ice cream, show us your favorite SUMMER FUN ACTIVITIES in WNY! We'll post your photo on our Facebook page and you'll also be entered to win a \$25 GIFT CARD! Send your photo and info to [lisa@networkinaging.org](mailto:lisa@networkinaging.org). One winner will be picked at random and announced on Friday, AUGUST 30TH.



# WORKSHOP

## GUIDING AGING INNOVATION

**Tuesday, September 24, 2024 • 9am-11am**  
**UB South Campus - Hayes Hall**

Join us in driving innovation for the aging population! This year, we're teaming up with the Occupational Therapy Department and The Blackstone LaunchPad at the State University of New York at Buffalo to **GUIDE AGING INNOVATION!**

This workshop will build on past Network in Aging conversations, focusing on identifying gaps in services, products, and innovations for aging. We'll empower Occupational Therapy students to develop new ideas that support aging populations in our communities and beyond.

Be a part of this important initiative that will open new perspectives on aging, foster lifelong conversations, and provide mentorship to guide the future of aging. Help identify gaps and share ideas to address crucial aspects of social determinants of health for older adults.

Students will pitch their ideas at the "Aging Innovations Challenge" later this year in November, resulting in potential real-life innovations to support the aging population.

Gain insights into various sectors posing challenges in aging care needs, from community-based to systemic, environmental, to health and well-being and more. Learn how Occupational Therapists are forging new non-traditional roles using their unique perspectives and skill sets in ways that can impact us all. Discover how The Blackstone LaunchPad is driving the next generation to solve societal problems through innovation, design, services, entrepreneurship, and more.

**Your seat at the table is only \$15**, but the impact on potential real-life innovations to support the aging

population is invaluable to our community. Don't miss out. **BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!**

**Calling all NIA members – We are in need of volunteers!** We will be hosting an educational meeting in preparation for the innovation challenge. The main purpose is to give the students areas of need in the aging population.

**We are looking for a table captain for each of the eight domains of living –**

- Outdoor spaces and buildings
- Transportation
- Civic participation and employment
- Communication and information
- Respect and social inclusion
- Social participation
- Health services and community supports
- Housing

Additionally, we would love to have additional volunteers to assist in the student conversations. **If your company/industry matches up with and of these domains and you want to share your experience with the students, please reach out to Lisa Boron for additional information.**

We will also ask that you're available for brief questions after the session. This is such a great way to get involved in the challenge and see the information you share being used to make positive innovations in your industry.



# TASTE OF THE NETWORK

**Tuesday, July 23rd • 12:00 to 2:00 pm**

**Cost: \$15 (check/Venmo: @Network-In-Aging) • Credit Card: \$17**



**Come and sample the culinary creations made by the dining services from 10 of our member agencies. PARTICIPANTS:** Bristol Village, Brompton Heights, Elderwood, FeedMore WNY, Glenwell, Heathwood Assisted Living & Memory Care, Peregrine Senior Living at Orchard Park, Solstice Senior Living at East Amherst, Weinberg Campus & Wheatfield Commons

**\*\* Bottled water courtesy of People Inc. \*\***

**AMHERST CENTER FOR SENIOR SERVICES  
370 John James Audubon Pkwy • Amherst, NY 14228**

**REGISTER NOW! [WWW.NETWORKINAGING.ORG](http://WWW.NETWORKINAGING.ORG)**



Network in Aging  
of Western New York, Inc.

7954 Transit Road, #254  
Williamsville, NY 14221

# Annual Meeting & Conference 2024

## "BETTER TOGETHER: AGE FRIENDLY AND DEMENTIA FRIENDLY"

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024**

**8:00AM – 2:30PM • Cost: \$60 members, \$75 non-members**

**MORE INFO COMING!**

As members of the Network in Aging, we certainly serve our community better together, and we embrace the notion of all members collaborating to support the aging population. In keeping with the theme of BETTER TOGETHER, we bring together two great speakers and topics that blend well to provide us with understanding, insights, and education on how we can strive to bring Age Friendly and Dementia Friendly principles to

our approaches, practices, services, products, environments, and communities. **Join us to continue to grow BETTER TOGETHER!"**

Keynote Speaker: Bill Armbruster, Senior Advisor, AARP Livable Communities Programs, Community State & National Affairs. Speaker: Andrea Koch, Director of Education & Training, Alzheimer's Association, WNY Chapter

The Network in Aging of Western New York, Inc. is a non-profit, voluntary corporation, which brings together individuals and organizations involved in aging and long-term care. Our diverse membership includes educators, health and social service professionals, community leaders, government agencies and area businesses. **Our mission is "To help our members by providing opportunities for resource exchange, professional development and interdisciplinary collaboration through networking events, educational programs, strategic partnerships and promoting public awareness of the organization and its mission."**

For more information about the Network in Aging of WNY, contact Lisa Boron at 716-954-3075 or go online to [www.networkinaging.org](http://www.networkinaging.org).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**TASTE OF THE NETWORK • JULY 23, 2024 • NOON – 2:00pm**

**NETWORK WITH THE NETWORK • AUGUST 15, 2024 • 5:00 – 7:00pm**  
**Trusted Choice Homecare (co-sponsor Alzheimer's Assoc. of WNY) "Bills Theme"**

**NETWORK WITH THE NETWORK • SEPTEMBER 19, 2024**  
**Fallon Health Weinberg "Taco Thursday"**

**LUNCH & LEARN • AUGUST 28, 2024 • Noon**  
**Prudential – Eagle House Restaurant**

**WORKSHOP • TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2024 • 9:00 – 11:00am**  
**UB South Campus**

**ANNUAL MEETING • WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024 • 8:00am – 2:00pm**  
**Ironworkers Hall**