

Calendar of Events

Young Athletes

Daemen College, Academic and Wellness Ctr.
3PM

Nov 6
Dec 4, 18
January 29
February 5, 19
March 5, 12
April 2, 16, May 14

November 12 **Fall Dance**
Magruders, 4995 Broadway, Depew
5:30PM

December 3 **Holiday Party**
Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart
3860 Main Street, Buffalo
11AM

January 22 **Family Bowling**
Transit Lanes, 7850 Transit Rd, Williamsville
1-3PM

February 11 **Valentines Dance**
Magruders, 4995 Broadway, Depew
5:30PM

February 25th **UB Bulls Basketball**
Alumni Arena, 175 Webster Rd, Amherst
3:30PM



DSPG of WNY, Inc.
547 Englewood Avenue
Kenmore, New York 14223



REMINDER: Save those Pop Tops! If you have pop tops or would like a collection house to benefit Ronald McDonald House of Buffalo please contact Tracey, leo8408@gmail.com or Michelle, michgiambra@gmail.com.

The DSPG News is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November

UPCOMING EVENTS

Young Athletes

Young Athletes is an early introduction to sports and the world of Special Olympics for children ages 2 1/2 to 7. The children enjoy games and activities that develop motor skills and hand-eye coordination. They learn new things, play and have a great time! Families are encouraged to participate and siblings are welcome to join the fun!

Starting Sunday, October 16, we will be meeting at the Daemen College, Academic and Wellness Center (the old YMCA) on Main Street in Amherst, at the corner of Amherstdale & Main Street.

2016 Practice Schedule

November 6
December 4
December 18

2017 Practice Schedule

January 29
February 5
February 19
March 5
March 12
April 2
April 16
May 14



Special Olympics
young athletes

All practices will be held at the Daemen College, Academic and Wellness Center from 3-4 pm. The 2017 Spring games are Saturday, May 20th at Tonawanda High school. Please contact Melissa Garrity at mgarrity76@gmail.com for registration info.

DSPG Fall Dance

November 12th

Come get your groove on, Saturday, Nov 12, 2016, from 5:30-9:30 at Magruders, located at 4995 Broadway in Depew. The DSPG will provide pizza, salad and drinks. Families with the last names A-M are to bring an appetizer, and families N-Z will bring a dessert. Please RSVP to Lynette at lph@roadrunner.com. Please RSVP by November 6, so that we can ensure adequate food and seating.

DSPG Holiday Party

December 3

Celebrate the holidays with DSPG family and friends at our annual Holiday Party, Saturday, December 3, 11am-2pm at the Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart, 3860 Main Street. **This is the 30th year the Sacred Heart students have hosted this event!** Enjoy games for the younger kids as well as the Zoo Mobile. If you would like your children to receive a gift from Santa, please bring them wrapped and labeled. DSPG will provide pizza and beverages. Families with the last names beginning with A-M please bring a dessert and N-Z please bring a side dish. RSVP to Barb at bb.wakefield1@verizon.net by November 27 to let her know what you are bringing.

Family Bowling

January 22

Put on your bowling shoes and join us at Transit Lanes in Williamsville, Sunday, January 22 from 1-3pm. The cost of the event will be \$7.00 per person which includes two hours of bowling and shoe rental. Due to your continued generosity throughout the year, the DSPG will cover the remainder of the cost. This event is for immediate family members and space is limited to the first 100 bowlers. This is not a drop off event. If parents choose not to bowl, they must remain at the bowling alley with their child. Mail checks made out to DSPG to Bonnie Zon, 222 Culpepper Road, Williamsville, NY 14221. Contact Bonnie at bonzon1102@aol.com or 632-0137 with any questions.

DSPG Valentine's Dance

February 11th

The Valentines dance will be Saturday, February 11, 2017 from 5:30 to 9:00 pm, at Magruders, located at 4995 Broadway in Depew. Stay tuned for more details....

UB Bulls Basketball Game

February 25th

Bring your family to watch the UB Bulls courtesy of the DSPG on Saturday, February 20 from 3:30 - 5:30pm at Alumni Arena. Activities for kids and concessions will be available. For tickets contact Janet Poreda at janpo788@aol.com. Immediate family only please.

The Museum of Disability History presents
"In Celebration of Down Syndrome"

The exhibit, featuring vibrant multimedia and Hollywood memorabilia, explores medical history, myths and facts, success stories and popular culture.

Thank you Down Syndrome Parents Group of Western New York, Inc for your support of the development of this exhibit.

3826 Main St, Buffalo, NY
 716.629.3626 • museumofdisability.org

The exhibit is supported by a grant from the New York Council for the Humanities

Exhibit on display until December 2016

Board News

At our Annual Meeting on September 14, we re-elected 2 Board Members and elected 4 new members. Amy Monson will continue her position as president, and Gretchen White will continue her role as vice President. We proudly welcome Joan Cofield-Bridges, Craig Donatelli, Melissa Garrity and David Rosenhoch as members-at-large. Congratulations!

We are always looking for new people to help out at our many functions throughout the year....

If you are interested in helping out with any activities contact Amy Monson at amonson23@gmail.com.

If you have a change of address (email or regular mail) please email us at dspq@dspgwny.org



Spaghetti Dinner & Basket Raffle 2017

Our annual Spaghetti Dinner & Basket Raffle will be held March 5, 2017 from 3-7pm at The Columbus Hall, 2735 Union Road Cheektowaga. We will be looking for a few volunteers for the event, and will also be accepting basket donations along with donations of baked goods for the dessert table. Stay tuned for more information....

Welcome to Our New Family:
 The Willis Family

Direct Care Workers Deserve a Living Wage! #bFair2DirectCare Coalition

This past spring, with 300 days until the next State Budget will be adopted, the #bFair2DirectCare Coalition launched the "300 Days to Better Pay" Campaign. We have been working with policymakers in Albany and around the state to secure funding in the next state budget to begin increasing wages for Direct Support Professionals and other vital but low paid direct care staff. We are looking for every opportunity to spread our message.

ACTION REQUESTED: We need your help. Our community of families, staff, volunteers, and program participants is more than 100,000 strong and we need to speak up so all of our voices are heard! The Governor and State Legislature need to make this issue a priority and they need to hear why they must act. Help us ensure Direct Support Professionals receive a living wage in this year's State budget. You can join our efforts by doing the following:

- LIKE** the bFair2DirectCare Facebook page: [facebook.com/bFair2DirectCare](https://www.facebook.com/bFair2DirectCare)
- FOLLOW** the bFair2DirectCare Twitter account: @Fair2DirectCare
- CALL, EMAIL or TAG** your NYS Senator, Assembly Member, and Governor Cuomo on social media! Urge them to include funding for wage increases for the people that support people with developmental disabilities in your next state budget. [Click here](#) to find your NYS Senator and Assembly Member.



The 9th annual awareness walk was a huge success! Despite the rain, we had our largest attendance to date, and the sun made its way out just in time. Thank you to everyone who supported us with a donation, registration or both. Your generosity and support makes us stronger as a group and helps spread the word that our loved ones with Down syndrome are such an asset to our families as well as our community!

DSPG Halloween Party

Lots of fun was had at our annual Halloween party on October 22! There were great activities, games, delicious food and trick or treating in the hallway. Thanks to all who helped out.

Thank You To Our Donors

Donations in memory of Eric Hetzelt.
 Donations in memory of Germaine Scofield
 Donations in memory of Elizabeth McMahon
 United Way



<https://www.facebook.com/DSPGWNYPARENTSGROUP>



DSPG NEWS Has Gone Green

In an effort to reduce our carbon footprint, we will only be mailing printed versions of this newsletter to anyone not currently on our email list. You can receive a printed copy by mail by sending a request to dspg@dspgwny.org. Thank you!

DSPG BOARD MEMBERS

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