

UPCOMING EVENTS



May 14 - An Evening "in Italy": Honoring Women Caregivers of Bornhava, DSPG of WNY, and Bornhava Alumni

Dinner 5/14 from 6:00-8:00-Join us for dinner provided by Olive Garden. Dinner will include salad, breadsticks, pasta, meats and desserts. We will meet at the **Harlem Road Community Center located at 4255 Harlem Road, Amherst, NY 14226**. This an adult only event for our female caregivers. There will be a limited amount of seating, and we expect this to fill quickly. RSVP to amonson@bornhava.org.



May 30 - Day at the Buffalo Zoo



Join us on May 30, 2026 for a day at the Buffalo Zoo with DSPG friends! Arrive any time after 10:00am and we will **meet up at the Carousel at 1:00pm for a group picture**. Wear your Step Up for Down Syndrome shirts or **blue** and **yellow** so we can spot each other! Each family will pay their own way to enter the zoo.

Arts Access passes may be used to provide free entry to the Zoo and many other area attractions for your loved one with a disability and one caregiver. For more information go to <https://www.arts-access.org/>.

August 22 - Summer Picnic



Its summer family picnic time at a NEW LOCATION! **Saturday, August 22 from 11:00am - 2:00pm at Harris Hill Park - Sunset Pavilion, 4085 Harris Hill Rd, Clarence**. There will be food, music, games, and lots of fun.

Please **RSVP by 8/18**. Register online at <https://form.jotform.com/dspgwny/picnic-2026>. Please contact Wendy at weedysliz@yahoo.com with any questions.

July 26 - Day at the Bisons Game

Join us for a fun family outing to the Buffalo Bison's game on **Sunday, July 26 at 1:05 pm when the Bisons take on the Rochester Red Wings**.

The tickets are free to immediate family of members of the Down Syndrome Parents Group. There are a limited amount of tickets available so please only order tickets if you know you will be able to use them. Please **RSVP by July 17**, at <https://form.jotform.com/dspgwny/bisons26>



All tickets will be mailed out 1 week before the game. Please contact Janet at janpo788@aol.com with any questions.

Resource Corner

Disability Pride Festival - July 24 - 2pm-7pm at Riverworks

<https://www.wnyil.org/wnyil-events/disability-pride-festival/>

2026 NDSS Scholarship Applications

<https://ndss.org/scholarships>

Regression in Adolescents and Young Adult's who have Down's Syndrome - May 21 - 10:30am-11:30am - Webinar

https://www.downs-syndrome.org.uk/our-work/services-projects/training/regression-webinar/?fbclid=IwY2xjawRkUqtIeHRuA2F1bQlXMAbicmlkETFzRUZ5NHQyTlJyJFldTBxc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHiehN86DenHyTnpt5H3kEIPEoOz1td3vxlXvBzZv9PfqPR3KbLvlZeXLRl73_aem_0gvfuiZFSTZq8_7aTgR4IA

NY State Parks Access Pass

<https://parks.ny.gov/visit/passes/access-pass>

Dysphagia (Swallowing Problems) in People with Down Syndrome

<https://adultdownsyndrome.org/resources/dysphagia/>

Black Down Syndrome Association

<https://www.blackdownsyndrome.org/>

DD Day - Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day Conference - May 28

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day has evolved into the biggest conference for developmental disabilities with wonderful keynotes, entertainment, an art room, a vendor fair, awards, a HealthyYou corner and so much more. The conference is

May 28th from 8:00 am - 5:30pm at Niagara Falls Convention Center

Register at:

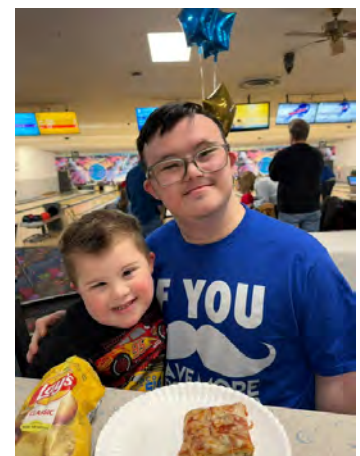
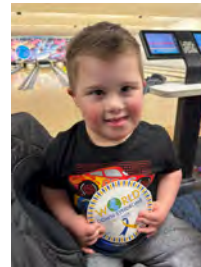
<https://ddawny.org/dd-day-2026-registration-now-open/>

July 16 - Give 716 Day



Give 716 is a collaborative effort between the Buffalo Bills Foundation and the Buffalo Sabres Foundation to unite the WNY community in an epic giving event. Keep an eye out for more information as we get closer to 7/16!

World Down Syndrome Day 2026



Board News

We would love more fresh faces to help plan and run our many events. Any assistance would be appreciated to keep our group going. If you can help out, please contact Amy at amy.m@dspgwny.org.

As always, if you have anything you'd like to share, contact any of the board members below or send an email to dspg@dspgwny.org.

2026 College Scholarships

We are providing college scholarships to deserving high schoolers who have volunteered with us for at least 4 years. Please email us with questions at dspg@dspgwny.org or for a copy of the qualifications. Applications for the fall of 2026 are due on June 1, 2026. We welcome our loved ones with Down syndrome to volunteer at our events. <https://dspgwny.org/eric-hetzelt-memorial-scholarship/>

Thank you to our Donors

Paul Irvin

Adella Kirchmeyer from the sales of her painted pumpkins

Donations in memory of Sean Parnell, Sr.

PJ Cools Ice Cream Shoppe from their World Down Syndrome Day fundraising event

Cornerstone Community Federal Credit Union supporting World Down Syndrome Day through Rocking Crazy Socks and sales of blue and yellow awareness bracelets

Scott Slaiman and Fresenius Kabi USA, LLC supporting World Down Syndrome Day through sales of Down syndrome awareness socks

United Way Donations

National Fuel Gas Company

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Barbara Wakefield

Barbara Jo Hard Award

SAVE the DATE
October 3, 2026
Step Up for
Down Syndrome
Awareness Walk

- Barb Wakefield, who we sadly lost
- this last July, was honored at the
- Bornhava Auction this past March by
- being presented with the 2026
- Barbara Jo Hard Award, in
- recognition of dedication and
- excellence for her many years of
- service volunteering for the
- Bornhava auction. Seeing Barb's
- dedication celebrated reminds us
- how much she gave to this
- community and how her influence
- continues to guide us forward.



Calendar of Events

- May 14 **Honoring Women Caregivers**
Harlem Road Community Center - Room #1
6pm
- May 28 **Developmental Disability Awareness Day**
Niagara Falls Convention Center
101 Falls Street, Niagara Falls
8am
- May 30 **Day at the Buffalo Zoo**
Buffalo Zoo, 300 Parkside Ave
1pm
- July 26 **Day at the Bisons Game**
Sahlen Field
1 James D Griffin Plaza, Buffalo
1:05pm
- Aug 22 **Summer Picnic**
Harris Hill Park - Sunset Pavilion
4085 Harris Hill Road, Clarence
11am
- Oct 3 **Step Up for Down Syndrome**
Canalside, 44 Prime St, Buffalo
11am



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