

## Staying connected with virtual S.T.E.P.S.



Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., participants in S.T.E.P.S. (Success Through Engagement and Positive Supports) log online for a day filled with fun and engaging activities with their peers and Summit staff members.

"It's an incredible gift to work with these wonderful individuals directly from their home," said Benjamin Goldberg, MPA, Coordinator of Adult Day Services at The Summit Center (pictured left).

S.T.E.P.S. is a day habilitation program offered by Summit out of locations in Tonawanda, North Tonawanda, and Amherst. In the beginning of the pandemic after moving from in-person to a virtual program, staff members delivered iPads to program participants to eliminate any barriers to learning.

Keeping the group focused for four hours each day takes careful planning which incorporates topic areas that interest the individuals, as part of a person-centered approach, and help build important life skills. Materials are prepared by staff and delivered every week directly to the individuals served.

Each day, the group logs on and discusses topical issues like dealing with COVID-19, the importance of wearing a mask, hand washing, and maintaining a social distance. The group hosts "masks challenges" where each person tries to wear their mask as long as possible. Every 30 minutes, a new activity is introduced.

Every session is jam-packed with activities like yoga, reading Harry Potter, performing science experiments, learning how to prepare simple snacks, and much more. Staff members have adapted typical in-person activities to the virtual platform. For example, walking was an important component of the in-person program. Now, staff members lead participants through virtual tours of national parks.

Mr. Goldberg said the feedback has been wonderful. "We've had some parents tell us they have never heard their young adult communicate so much. We also check in with parents weekly to see how can provide any reinforcement."

"Doing the minimum isn't enough. We have to be great because these individuals deserve that. Summit's vision is 'Lives Made Better.' How do you make lives better in a pandemic? We're trying our best," said Mr. Goldberg.

To learn more about S.T.E.P.S., visit [TheSummitCenter.org](http://TheSummitCenter.org).

## Online Resources



### Mask Social Story!

Thanks to our Summit staff for putting together a wonderful social story about the importance of wearing a mask! Click [here](#) to watch.



### Sing Along with Us!

Summit Academy Creative Arts teacher Kelly Bova assembled a group of professional singers, musicians, and local talent to perform a special concert to watch from home! Click [here](#) to watch.



### Free Resources!

Make sure to follow the WNY Regional Center for Autism Spectrum Disorder Facebook page for some great resources!

Click [here](#) and become a fan!

# The Summit Center Virtual Autism Walk



**\$186,000 Raised!**  
**www.SummitWalk.org**

# THANK YOU!!!

## Thank you to our 2020 Walk Supporters!

Your actions let us know that you believe in The Summit Center. Thank for supporting the Virtual Autism Walk in June. Together we raised \$186,000 and we couldn't have done it without you!

More than 600 of you registered and inspired your family and friends to donate. You shared your personal stories and had fun doing it, too! From playing family games and working on puzzles, to creating works of art and performing random acts of kindness, you are the reason the Walk was a success.



Did you raise \$100 or more? Stop by The Summit Center on August 7 between 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Your incentives will be ready, drive up style! Stay tuned for an email with more details.



Summit Academy hosted a virtual Field Days Week for all students to participate in at home! This event was a fun-filled week with interactive activities created by our A.P.E. Department.

Participants received a Field Days Parent Packet to view the activities planned for the week, along with a materials list for each activity.

Go to our [website](#) to see the daily field days activities you can complete at home.

## #TEXT4 Caregivers

Are you a caregiver of a person with special needs in New York State?

Are you so overwhelmed that you forget to take care of yourself?

Do you want to connect with us?

We'll remind you of ways to take care of yourself with **FREE** texts!

Contact Project Director Valerie Colavecchio with questions: 631-434-6196 ext. 12 or [vcolavecchio@ptopnys.org](mailto:vcolavecchio@ptopnys.org)

Receive **FREE** texts from Text4Caregivers in 3 easy steps:

1. Visit our website: [www.ptopnys.org](http://www.ptopnys.org)
2. Click on the T4C link to sign up and start receiving free texts  
Texts can be customized to your caregiver experience

Text4Caregivers (T4C) is funded by the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC)



Developmental  
Disabilities  
Planning Council

## Create a Lasting Memory!



Support The Summit Center and create a lasting memory!

Honor or commemorate a loved one, friend, or teacher with a personal message on a permanent brick.

Learn more about the brick options and prices by clicking [here](#).

## Scholastic Book Fair

Our school is having a  
**SCHOLASTIC  
SUMMER  
READ  
-A-  
PALOOZA  
VIRTUAL BOOK FAIR**

- 📍 Orders ship direct to home
- 📖 Every purchase benefits our school

We're having a virtual book fair! The Scholastic Summer Read-a-Palooza Virtual Book Fair continues through September 4.

Items are shipped to your home with 25% of proceeds benefiting the Summit Center!

# Visit Our Website: [www.TheSummitCenter.org](http://www.TheSummitCenter.org)

With a staff of 500 professionals and expertise in autism and social/emotional development, The Summit Center is Western New York's leading provider of evidence-based educational, behavioral health, adult, and community programs to 1,350 children and adults each year with developmental, social, and behavioral challenges.