



Where Learning is Limitless

By supporting the **Where Learning is Limitless** fundraising campaign, you can help students with autism and developmental disabilities, thrive in the classroom and out in the real world.

Because of your support, children with autism and special needs are no longer limited to what they can't do. They will be given the opportunities they need to reach their true, untapped possibilities.

Children with autism have boundless potential when they have access to the right education and support. Summit Academy and the Early Autism Program have long-term positive effects on children with autism, providing the foundation they need to unleash the talents and passion inside of them.

Donate today at:

www.thesummitcenter.org/limitless

West Herr is Matching All Gifts (Up to \$20,000!)

As an added incentive to give, West Herr is generously matching all donations, up to \$20,000! Double your gift today!

Donate at www.thesummitcenter.org/limitless

Double Your Donation for Free!

Did you know your employer may match your gifts to The Summit Center at no cost? Thousands of companies match employee donations through their corporate giving programs. Examples include:

GEICO - General Mills - Home Depot - Starbucks - State Farm - Verizon

Click [here](#) to see if your company matches gifts: If you have any questions, check with your company's HR department.

Charitable Giving Tax Breaks for Donors

Did you know: In addition to the standard deduction, you can deduct up to \$300 for charitable donations you make to organizations like The Summit Center in 2020?

To read the complete details, visit IRS.gov.

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Celebrating our Successes This Year!

McKenna



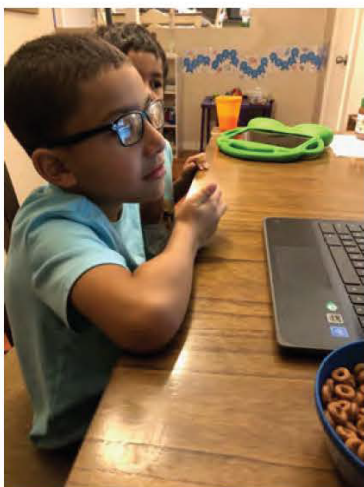
This is McKenna, a student enrolled in **Summit Academy**. She is pictured here enjoying her favorite Starbucks drink that she ordered all by herself!

This was a process that took months to complete. McKenna worked closely with staff at Summit Academy to practice making purchases. "Before COVID-19 hit, we had practiced making a purchase by walking to Nina's for ice cream or hopping in line when the Anderson's food truck would come," said her teacher Ms. Daniella Brawer.

McKenna's favorite drink is Starbucks hot cocoa and she loves making it at home with her family. She wanted to try and order it herself at a recent visit to the mall with her mom, using the skills learned at school. She was successful!

"She was like a teenager cruising the mall with her Starbucks!" her mom said.

Noah



We're so proud of Noah, an individual enrolled in our **STAR Training Program**. One of his biggest achievements made in STAR has been the ability to wear his glasses. Sensory sensitivity made it difficult for Noah to keep his glasses on his face, even though he needed them for school.

Summit staff members used his iPad as a reward system and created a personalized sensory story with his family members wearing glasses. His school librarian picked two books on wearing glasses and how to keep them safe. Within a week of follow through, Noah is now wearing his glasses for every 30-minute school session successfully!

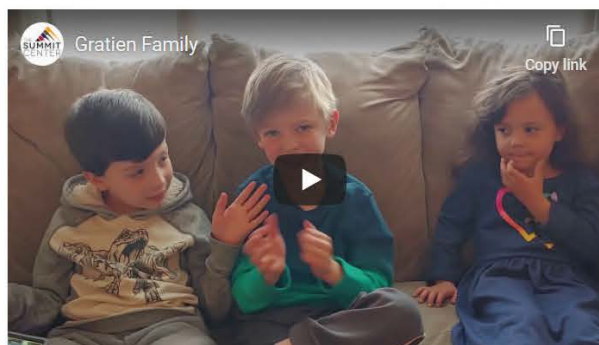
"He now reminds me to put on his glasses by shouting out 'Oh, wait! Don't forget my glasses!'" his mom said.

Owen

For Summit siblings Kaden and Morgan, The Summit Center has been invaluable in helping them communicate with their brother Owen, a **Summit Academy** student.

Watch this video to hear directly from them about Owen's successes.

Video: <https://youtu.be/5acwwMikBtw>



DONATE

Our Annual Conference has Gone Virtual!

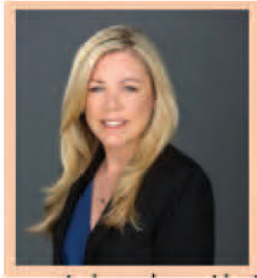
Annually, the WNYRCASD hosts a conference with presentations by experts in the field of autism spectrum disorders with the goal of providing information about evidence-based interventions and practices that have been shown to improve educational outcomes for children with autism spectrum disorders. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will host four virtual sessions. Register for each session at thesummitcenter.org/events.



Wednesday, January 27 @ 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

I Can Do It Myself! Behavioral Strategies to Increase the Independence of Children with Autism

Presented by Bridget A. Taylor, Psy.D., BCBA-D of Alpine Learning



With the advance of behaviorally based programming, children with autism can learn many skills never thought possible. Children with autism can learn to talk, play with toys, socialize with their peers, and become active functional participants in their families and communities. The goal of any intervention program, however, is to help individuals with autism perform these responses without supervision and direct prompts from adults. The first hour of this presentation will review specific skills that enhance the independent functioning of individuals with autism across a range of curriculum areas and behaviorally-based teaching strategies to achieve independence.

During the second hour, course participants will be able to identify research-based strategies to promote independence, identify procedures to increase motivation to teach independent skills and identify the reasons for addressing curriculum areas related to independence. The last 15 minutes will be used for Q & A.

Join us for Mini-Workshop Wednesdays

This free series of six 30-minute mini-workshops focuses on educating children with autism virtually. Each workshop will include a 15 minute presentation and a 15 minute question and answer session.

These sessions, sponsored by the Western New York Regional Center for Autism, are targeted to teachers, classroom aides, and related-service professionals who work with students with autism.

Learn more and register for each session at www.thesummitcenter.org/events.

Mini Workshop 3: Using Visuals to Drive Student Success During Synchronous Instruction

(Wednesday, December 16 from 2:30 – 3 p.m.)

The presenter will introduce numerous visual strategies to incorporate into Virtual Teaching Sessions.



Happy Holidays from The Summit Center!

Thank you, Home Depot!

We'd like to give a huge shout out to our wonderful friends at the Amherst Home Depot, who so generously presented us with a check for \$1,000 as well as a cart full of safety supplies and kid's crafts. Thank you!!



Holiday Cheer Update



Thank you to everyone purchased a gift for our Holiday Cheer program! Holiday Cheer is an agency-wide program to help support our Academy students and their families by granting wishes to any family in need of help this holiday season. Thanks to you, 200 wishes were granted for 42 children.

Consider Us When Shopping for the Holidays!



Did you know that you can shop for all your holiday gifts online, while supporting Summit?

We are a beneficiary of **iWorld Fundraising** (where you can buy brand name products), **Embrace the Difference** (where you can buy some beautiful jewelry), **Amazon Smile** (where you can buy anything!), and **KidsCents** at Rite Aid (where you can buy all your gift wrapping products and more).

Visit our "Shop for Summit" page at www.thesummitcenter.org to learn how to shop through any of these sites.



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.

This newsletter was written and designed by Marketing Communications Coordinator, David Goodwin. Feedback is appreciated. Please email dgoodwin@thesummitcenter.org.

www.TheSummitCenter.org