



## WHAT IS AUTISM?

- **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)** is a complex neurological disorder characterized by challenges with communication and social skills, as well as repetitive or restrictive patterns of behavior or interests.
- **About 1 in 54 children** have been identified with ASD.
- **Boys are more than 4 times as likely** to be identified with ASD than girls.
- **Although there is no cure for autism**, children can make substantial gains with early intensive intervention.
- The first signs of ASD usually appear **before age three**.
- **The earliest signs** typically include:
  - Poor eye contact
  - Lack of pointing
  - Difficulty in the use and understanding of language
  - Unusual play or lack of play



\*Information provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

**Wear blue on April 2 to show your support for individuals with autism!**

**Stay Connected  
With Us!**

Follow us on social media!



150 Stahl Road | Getzville, NY 14068  
[www.thesummitcenter.org](http://www.thesummitcenter.org)  
716.629.3400  
[info@thesummitcenter.org](mailto:info@thesummitcenter.org)



# Employee Spotlight - Presented by West Herr

## Employee Spotlight



**AMY BURGER**

Teacher | Summit Academy

Presented by:



**How long have you worked at Summit?** I have been at Summit since 2017, but was promoted from teaching assistant to teacher in 2019.

**What is your favorite part about working at Summit?** I love working one-on-one with each student, building rapport with them, and individualizing each lesson plan to the student specifically.

**If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?** Alaska.

**What is your favorite movie?** Minions.



## We're Hiring!

Do you want to make a difference in the life of an individual with autism? Come join us at The Summit Center! We also provide many opportunities for professional growth through our staff training program, tuition reimbursement, and more. Learn more [here](#).

## Read Our 2020 Annual Report



Inside these pages you'll find stories that reflect on Summit's impact:

- A message from our CEO on this year's highlights
- A timeline from 2019-2020 as Summit navigated from "normalcy" to virtual services, due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- A feature story on how Academy teachers have been working hard to help students wear masks so that they "can be a good friend to others"
- A focus on Behavioral Health Division's transition to tele-therapy services
- A story on Malik Mathews who has opened up more than ever due to virtual services at S.T.E.P.S.

And more! Read [here](#).

## Free Training!

### Attention Parents and Professionals!

We've updated our online Training Center. Visit our website to watch pre-recorded webinars or to register for a live training event. [Link.](#)



## Happy Mother's Day!

With Mother's Day coming up, honor her with a gift that will last a lifetime: a brick on Summit's commemorative walkway. Your donation will be recognized with a certificate that you can present to your honoree. It's a unique and special gift that also provides valuable resources for our exceptional programs and services.

A commemorative brick is a meaningful way to honor birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and other life events. Read about all of the details [here](#).







*Help us Reach the Summit.  
Plant your Flag. Make Lives Better.*

Saturday, May 15 & Sunday May, 16



**2021 Autism Walk**  
*Virtual Challenge*



Register at [www.SummitWalk.org](http://www.SummitWalk.org)!

## Register for the 2021 Autism Walk!

The Summit Center's Autism Walk has never been just about a route, the activities, or the goodies in the food tent. The Walk is a celebration of our love for someone with autism.

Join us on May 15 and 16 for a fun-filled weekend to raise funds for The Summit Center. Even though we can't gather together in large groups just yet, you can participate in your own home, in your neighborhood, or at your favorite park.

### FREE When You Register!

- A Summit flag (for first 500 participants who register)
- An Autism Walk bracelet
- A snack pack of goodies from Tops



Visit [SummitWalk.org](http://SummitWalk.org)  
to register!

**TOMMY**  
**SUMMIT**  
**ACADEMY**



**Celebrating Our**  
**Successes**

Summit Academy student Tommy Blackner attended his own CSE (Committee on Special Education) meeting last month. Through the help of Summit Academy staff member DeLacy Kennedy, Tommy did a fantastic job!

Watch her explain Tommy's success story [here](#).

Learn more about the successes of Summit individuals by visiting our website: (Coming Soon!)