



2022
ANNUAL REPORT





OUR MISSION

Guided by evidence-based practice, we maximize life success for people facing developmental, social, and behavioral challenges.

Dear Friends of Summit,

The latest figures from the CDC's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network indicate that autism affects every 1 in 44 children. When I joined The Summit Center in 1995, the prevalence wasn't tracked in a consistent way. And today's rates are a far cry from the 1 in 150 that the CDC found in 2000.

As autism rates have skyrocketed, so has the need for The Summit Center's programs and services. Thankfully, because of our donors, we have the resources to provide highly personalized support for the children and adults we serve. We take the time to understand each individual's unique challenges, then give them the tools they need to achieve their full potential.

In Summit's 2021-2022 year, one of many programs that had a meaningful impact is P.A.C.E. (Prevocational and Community Experience). A disproportionate number of adults with disabilities are not employed. P.A.C.E. provides real work experience that helps people develop their strengths and build important skills. Summit partnered with Buffalo State College on a 10-month placement in the campus dining hall. Interns learned how to manage their time, work both independently and with a team, and interact with customers. A job coach guided them toward their goal of obtaining a future job.

Few treatment programs exist in Western New York for individuals with behaviors that cause harm to themselves or others. Over the summer, construction was completed on Summit Academy Enhanced, an extension of Summit Academy that will change the landscape for students with severe behaviors. Families grappling with the difficult decision to seek treatment at an out-of-state facility now have an option close to home. This groundbreaking program officially debuted in November 2022.

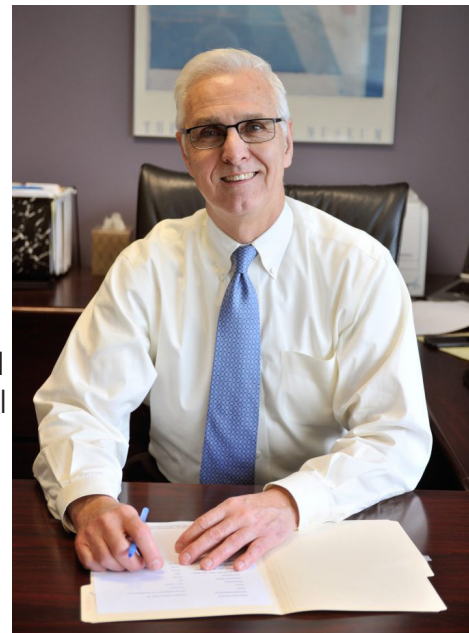
The WNY Regional Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders is a tremendous resource for caregivers and professionals who want to improve the lives of individuals with autism. As the lead agency in the partnership, The Summit Center organized and presented the annual conference in March. Nearly 1,000 parents, educators, and other professionals virtually attended The Intersection of Autism Spectrum Disorders & Anxiety. Experts in the field provided effective intervention strategies for these comorbid conditions.

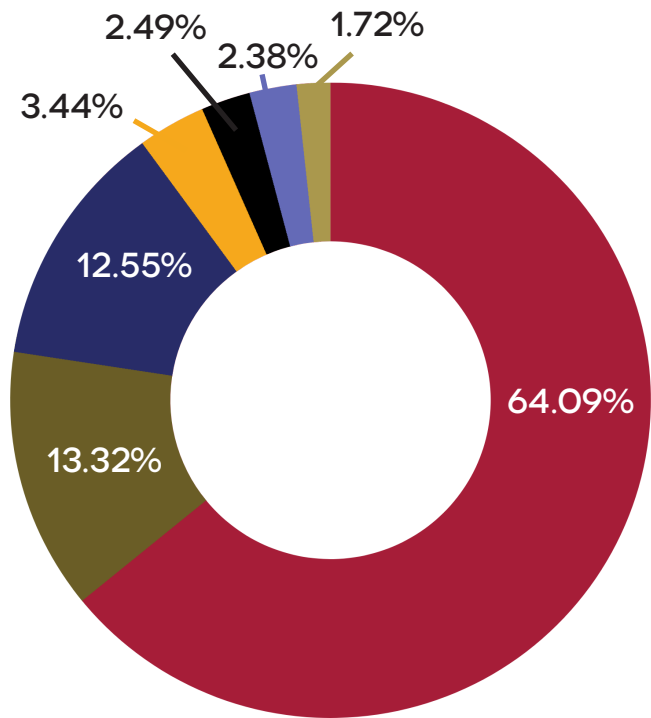
Philanthropy has allowed us to expand services in the community for the growing number of people challenged by autism. To those who already give to The Summit Center, thank you for making lives better. And if you've just been introduced, you'll soon have great admiration for the individuals we serve. They are thoughtful, funny, talented, hardworking, and full of promise.

With gratitude,

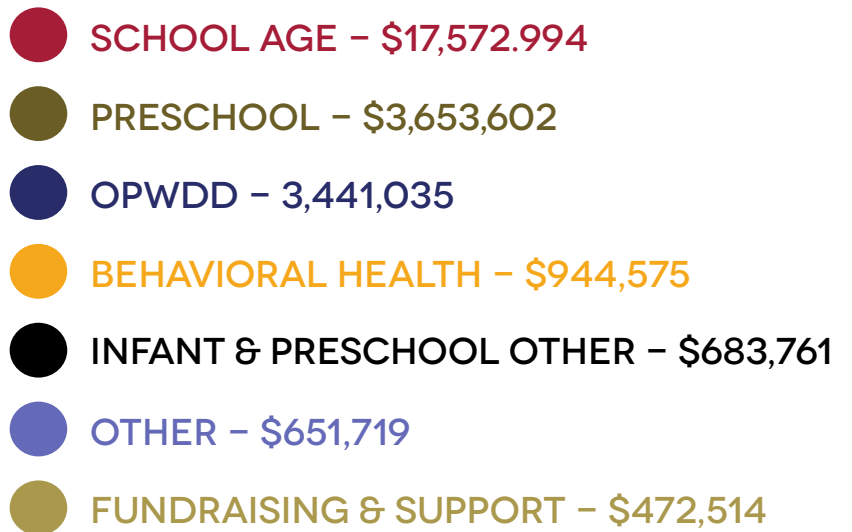


Stephen R. Anderson, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA
Chief Executive Officer





REVENUE

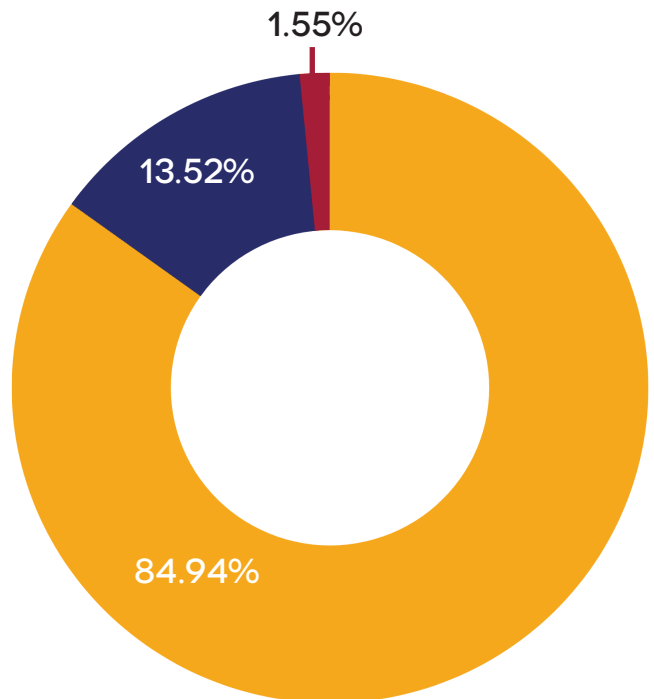


TOTAL: \$27,420,200

EXPENSES



TOTAL: \$27,560,889



*Below state-mandated percentage of 15%



LOGAN

Early Autism Program

Logan's face lights up when he is playing or interacting with his peers in his new classroom. He enjoys school as well as bowling, painting, and sports.

At this time last year, Logan was in a self-contained classroom. He displayed aggressive behaviors and could not use his communication device properly. His parents, Whitney and Tom, were told he would never be able to talk when Logan was diagnosed with autism at age 3.

Logan's parents jumped into action to give Logan every support possible to help him succeed. With their help and a combination of center-based and in-home services through Summit's Early Autism Program, Logan has grown by leaps and bounds.

He learned American Sign Language, started using his communication device, and now prefers using verbal communication. His aggressive behaviors have decreased and he has shown an interest in socializing with his peers.

"It's incredible. I thought I'd never be able to have a conversation with my son, but he proves us wrong every day," Tom said.

During the summer, Logan entered an integrated classroom of students with and without disabilities for a trial period. After excelling there, he was permanently placed in the classroom this school year and his individualized educational plan (IEP) has been completely amended.

"We're starting to get pieces of his personality now that he can communicate his wants and interests. It's amazing," Whitney said.

MELEA

Summit Academy

Melea enjoys expressing herself in class, socializing with her peers and staff, and sharing what she's learned.

She has grown a lot both behaviorally and academically this past school year. Melea used to come to class upset each day and was very dependent on prompts to engage with staff during lessons.

Staff gave her space to start doing things on her own, and they found this helped her progress. Melea began completing her arrival routine by herself. She now arrives to school happy and giggling. She uses her iPad throughout the day to talk and laugh with staff.

Melea's level of independence has skyrocketed. Her skills and knowledge really shine now as she becomes more productive and participates more frequently in large group activities.

Summit Academy serves approximately 340 students across two sites located in Getzville and Amherst.



BEN

Summit Academy

Each day Ben works on exploring emotions and responses alongside his peers. It's part of the Zones of Regulation curriculum some of Summit Academy's classrooms use to talk about emotions and the size of reactions.

Ben has come a long way in expressing himself. Last year, Ben was in a preschool classroom where he was one of the only verbal communicators. He had difficulty understanding and didn't have any peer role models. When he experienced unexpected feelings or was given a challenging task, Ben would engage in challenging behaviors.

After some collaboration between classrooms, Ben moved to a school-age classroom where he engaged with more appropriate peers. He worked hard with his teachers on learning how to identify his feelings and developing strategies to cope with distress.

Marlana Pernal, Ben's teacher, said, "I'm really proud that he can now share his feelings. He uses the phrase, 'I feel,' and then he says the feeling. He goes to the break area if he needs a break and is appropriately asking for help now."

Ben is also excelling in academics. Prior to moving into a new classroom, Ben had limited exposure to academics, but he has quickly become an important and cohesive part of the classroom's small groups. He gets excited about participating in class and enjoys helping other students who may be struggling.





TOMMY

Summit Academy Graduate

One of Tommy's favorite things to do is tell jokes. His sense of humor was incorporated in his keynote address at the 2022 Summit Academy graduation ceremony. For his mother, Janett, this was a special moment.

"To watch him grow from where he started to see him speaking and joking in front of a crowd of people was amazing," she said. "We always knew what he had to offer and now other people can see that."

Tommy was diagnosed with autism at age 3. Doctors told his family he would never speak, give hugs, or be empathetic in any way. But Janett never gave up.

She watched him excel as he started at Summit Academy. By age 8, Tommy could have full conversations and became more social. He started writing jokes and loved being around people.

As he grew into a young adult, Tommy became more independent, learning to shower by himself, tie his own shoes, and help with chores around the house.

Now Tommy is hoping to continue his progress by developing job skills and participating in community experiences.



MAGGIE

S.T.A.R. (Support, Training, and Respite)

On weekends Maggie enjoys spending time with her peers in Summit's onsite respite program. The program provides a place where she can relax, have fun, and interact with friends, while giving her family time to run errands, attend appointments, or unwind at home.

In the past year, Maggie's mom, Julie, said her daughter had started exhibiting challenging behaviors and was having a hard time in the traditional respite program.

"She moved to S.T.A.R. Intensive where it's one-to-one or two-to-one to address her needs and intervene," Julia said.

Through this program, Maggie received specialized attention and worked on a set plan to help her succeed in reducing challenging behaviors. After less than a year, Maggie was able to start attending traditional respite once again.

"Being able to go back to traditional respite was huge. As a family, we're grateful to have that time but it also gives her a chance to be with peers," Julia said. "The staff have been wonderful. We appreciate the time they take to talk to us and keep us informed. It's helped strengthen our family."



ANDY

S.T.E.P.S.

Andy brings a happiness and positivity to the S.T.E.P.S. (Success Through Engagement and Positive Supports) program every day. His infectious smile can be seen when he interacts with friends or plays a game of kickball or bowling.

In the past, Andy struggled with interactions and peers being near him. He has worked hard during the last few years to accept social situations and being near others. Staff helped Andy develop coping strategies for challenging situations.

Now Andy gives high fives to other individuals. He enjoys participating in group activities and spending time with his friends.

"After working with Andy for a year, I have watched him become a happier individual and enjoy being around his peers. We're so proud of Andy," said Tahjanae Collier, life skills trainer at S.T.E.P.S.



CHRIS

P.A.C.E.

After four years of participating in P.A.C.E. (Prevocational and Community Experience), Chris obtained his first job with Chartwells Dining Services. He is a food service worker in Buffalo State College's Bengal Kitchen, serving meals to students and staff, making sure stations are filled with what they need, and working the grill station.

During his time with P.A.C.E., Chris explored various career options and worked hard to develop job skills, such as time management, customer service, safety, and more.

When he received the job offer from Chartwells, Chris said, "I was so happy. I like working here with my co-workers and talking to the students."

After receiving his first paycheck, Chris decided to purchase a new laptop. He said he enjoys being able to buy things for himself and being more independent.

Starting a career is a goal for many adults at The Summit Center. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, only 19% of people with a disability were employed in the U.S. in 2021. Programs like P.A.C.E. and supported employment assist adults in exploring careers, developing job skills, navigating the interview process, and maintaining employment.

BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS CLINIC

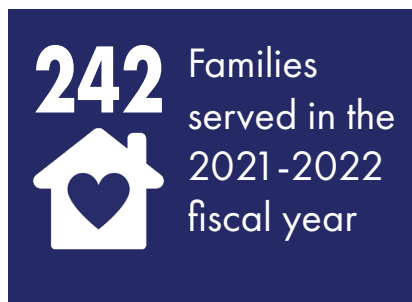
The Behavioral Pediatrics Clinic was established in 2012 to offer short-term therapeutic interventions to children and young adults struggling with common childhood problems such as anxiety, depression, behavioral concerns, and challenges related to ADHD and autism.

The clinic's staff include a team of licensed psychologists with many years of experience working with children and teens.

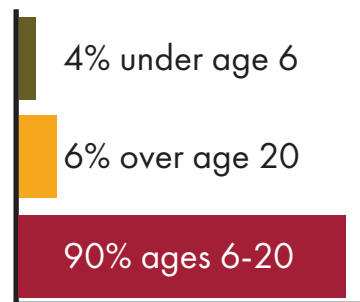
During the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the clinic provided 2,597 hours of service.



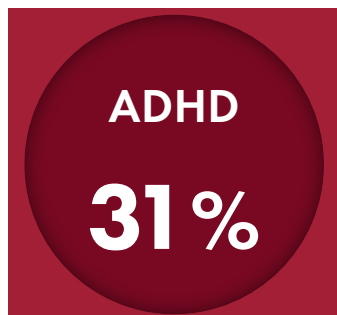
BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS CLINIC STATISTICS



CLIENT AGES



COMMON DIAGNOSES OF CLIENTS



AUTISM WALK RAISES MORE THAN \$290,000

In May 2022, The Summit Center Autism Walk, a community event that inspires passion and camaraderie, was back in person for the first time since 2019. Nearly 1,000 parents, family members, corporate partners, and autism advocates participated. Thanks to their remarkable fundraising efforts, the event raised more than \$290,000.

Donations to the Autism Walk directly support personal growth and independence in the individuals we serve. Our programs and services have a life-changing impact because of our commitment to higher staffing ratios, professional development, and careful decisions based on evidence. Thanks to funding from the Autism Walk, these principles are ingrained in our work.

This year's top fundraiser, Claudia Rosenecker, raised more than \$25,000. Since the Autism Walk's inception more than 24 years ago, the Rosenecker family has raised more than \$300,000! Rounding out the top five were Tammy Nicholson, Tony DeSimone, Britini D'Angelo, and Candace Richardson. For the third year in a row, West Herr served as the presenting sponsor.



FLUTIE FOUNDATION PROVIDES COMMUNITY INTEGRATION OPPORTUNITIES

S.T.E.P.S. (Success Through Engagement and Positive Supports) is a program for adults with disabilities that stresses community-based experiences. Participants have a choice in how they spend their time and the options are endless, from recreational activities to volunteering to shopping and dining.

In February 2022, S.T.E.P.S. purchased a new van for community outings through a \$10,000 grant from the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism. Reliable transportation is integral to providing people with widespread opportunities. Thanks to this new vehicle, participants have visited Niagara Falls, the Buffalo Museum of Science, farmers' markets, libraries, nature preserves, and more.

The Flutie Foundation has been a generous partner of The Summit Center for years, and we are grateful for their dedication to a world where individuals with autism are actively engaged in their community.



WNY REGIONAL CENTER FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS TRAININGS

The WNY Regional Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (WNYRCASD) addresses the needs of children and young adults with autism spectrum disorder. It's a collaborative program of The Summit Center, University at Buffalo, University at Albany, and The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities. The WNYRCASD offers educational opportunities to support parents, teachers, school administrators, human service providers, and other related professionals. In 2022, nearly 2,000 parents and professionals participated in the following trainings:

- WNYRCASD Annual Conference: The Intersection of Autism Spectrum Disorders & Anxiety
- Striving for Independence: Teaching Self-Help Skills to People with Autism
- Promoting Independence Using Activity Schedules: Explore the Possibilities
- Using Behavioral Skills Training to Teach Social Skills
- Tools, Tips, and Strategies for Successful Toilet Training
- Functional Communication Training: The Basics
- Behavioral Strategies to Reduce Inappropriate Mealtime Behavior
- Strategies for Effective Advocacy for Children with Autism
- Help Me Help You: Teaching Children to Complete Chores at Home
- Applied Behavior Analysis: What is it and Why is it Used?

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark E. Brand, Esq., President
Actuarial Consulting Services, Inc.

Eric Saenger, Secretary/Treasurer
Mission Critical Energy, Inc.

Gregory Fabiano, Ph.D.
Florida International University

Daniel P. O'Neill
Beechwood Continuing Care

Elizabeth M. Schachtner
Marketing/Planning Consultant

General Counsel:
Bruce Goldstein, Esq.
Kenney Shelton Liptak Nowak LLP

John R. Cinquino, Co-VP
Evans Bank

Lisa Burrows-MacLean, Ph.D.
Psychologist – Private Practice

Frederick G. Floss, Ph.D.
SUNY, Buffalo State College

Kathy Ralabate Doody, Ph.D.
SUNY, Buffalo State College

Kenneth Sniatecki
Citi Bank

Emeritus Member:
Anthony M. D'Auria
Waterbourne Real Estate Advisors, LLC

Tony DeSimone, Co-VP
New Era Cap

Rahsaan DeLain
Community Health Center of Buffalo

John Gavigan
Endeavor

Cindy Romanowski, MD
General Physician, PC

Emeritus Member:
Robert E. Spangenthal, Esq.
Lake Ledge Systems, Inc.

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thomas Rosenecker, President
American Eagle Fireplace & Playsets

Neil Arnold, Secretary
Independent Venture Capital
& Private Equity Professional

Cindy DeMarti
Founder, C.D. Financial

Rosemary Gambacorta

Joseph S. Brown, Esq., Vice President
Hurwitz & Fine, P.C.

David S. Aston
Stahlka Agency, Inc.

Roy Jordan
North Forest Office Space

Andrew Ryan
Motivair Corporation

Lisa A. Foti, CPA, Treasurer
The Summit Center, Inc.

Gerald Cornish
Merrill Lynch

Kent Keating
Buffalo Precision Glass

Charles Stodolka
GEICO



Summit Academy & Corporate Offices

A: 150 Stahl Rd. | Getzville, NY 14068
P: 716.629.3400

Summit Academy Paddock Vocational Training Center

A: 165 Creekside Drive | Amherst, NY 14228
P: 716.810.7700

The Summit Center Behavioral Pediatrics Clinic

A: 75 Pineview Drive, Suite 200 | Amherst, NY 14228
P: 716.629.3400

The Summit Center Community & Adult Division Offices

A: 75 Pineview Drive, Suite 200 | Amherst, NY 14228
P: 716.629.3400

716.629.3400

Learn more at www.TheSummitCenter.org

FOLLOW US



OUR DONORS

Our donors' generous support helps children and adults with developmental disabilities realize their strengths and achieve new levels of independence. To view the list of donors who gave between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, please visit **www.TheSummitCenter.org/ourdonors**.