



Learning Disabilities Association of WNY

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Help us ensure independent and meaningful lives

Let's face it - COVID-19 turned our world upside down. The most vulnerable populations were left needing supports that service providers, the community and our leaders had yet to design. TeleHealth, Zoom meetings and self-isolation became mandated. A new world was emerging overnight, expecting us to adapt quickly.

At the Learning Disabilities Association of WNY (LDA), we know that successful independence relies on stability – and that **our staff and board needed to be that stable force for the people we support**. Staying connected, and building those bridges for connection with each other and the community, has been our main priority.

Here's some of what LDA did to respond:

The Starlight Studio & Art Gallery staff got art supplies to its artists and launched Zoom Hangouts so all could safely make art together from their homes; our LEAD 716 team stayed engaged with families, creating "learning kits" comprised of much-needed learning materials while offering virtual tutoring; Community Habilitation staff ensured their clients had access to groceries, medical appointments and socially distanced walks; our residential clients had the peace of mind knowing they lived in a clean, safe, and supportive environment.

All across WNY, from Orleans to Chautauqua to Allegheny Counties, our staff continued to ensure that the 1,200 individuals with disabilities we serve each year had the supports to live an independent and meaningful life in their community.

What is an independent and meaningful life? Meet Paul Chandler



Paul Chandler at BICA with his artwork, "Doorway to Valhalla", included in the exhibit "Wedding of the Waters" Curated by A. Will Brown.

In August, during the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Starlight artist Paul Chandler [pictured] was included in an exhibit entitled *Wedding of the Waters* at the Buffalo Institute of Contemporary Art (BICA) alongside 9 other nationally exhibiting artists. His work was selected by A. Will Brown, a curator based out of Chicago, after having toured Starlight Studio and Art Gallery. Impressed with his work, Brown included one of Chandler's largest fabric works into the exhibit; it was great to have Starlight Studio on Brown's list of places to visit in Buffalo.

Help us create more stories like Paul Chandler's

Our Annual Appeal goal is \$5,000. We believe that our community has the power to lift each other up, especially during these trying times. Let's do just that. Please donate today to help ensure more independent and meaningful lives are lived in WNY.

All the best,

Parrish Gibbons Herzog
Board President, LDA of WNY



Discover some of the programs and services the Learning Disabilities Association of WNY has to offer:

Community Habilitation promotes independence and community integration by providing flexible and scaled supports and services to help individuals develop skills necessary to achieve the outcomes most important to them.

Starlight Studio & Art Gallery is a vibrant art studio located in downtown Buffalo that supports adults with disabilities in their artistic development.

ILearn provides adults a relaxing, fun and exciting setting to socialize with peers, make new friends and gain greater community independence.

Vocational Employment Services help adults get and keep a job. This has been especially challenging during a time when so many people have lost their jobs.

The Learning Center is our adult education center located at Goodwill Industries at 1119 William St., Buffalo NY. TLC offers adult basic education and TASC preparation classes with experienced teachers at a convenient location.

LEAD716 is a free program aimed to provide critically-needed early academic intervention to preschool children in Western New York diagnosed with elevated lead levels in their blood. LEAD716 mentoring focuses on early literacy skill development and helps ensure the children are prepared for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Visit our Websites or Follow us on Social Media:

www.ldaofwny.org

www.starlightstudio.org

www.Lead716.org



Yes! I would like to support: (choose one)

- ☐ The Learning Disabilities Association of WNY
- ☐ Starlight Studio & Art Gallery
- ☐ LEAD716

There are many ways to donate:

-Give at www.ldaofwny.org/annual-appeal

-Call (716)874-7200

-Or return this form to LDA of WNY:

2555 Elmwood Ave, Kenmore, NY 14217

I would like to be acknowledged as follows:

_____ (Please Print)

- ☐ I would like to remain anonymous

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ Other _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

☐ Check Enclosed (payable to LDA of WNY, Starlight Studio & Art Gallery, or LEAD716)

☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX ☐ Discover

Account # _____ Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____ CVV: _____

Recurring Monthly Donation (Credit Card Only)

\$ _____ per month beginning: ____/____/____ ending: ____/____/____