



Center Happenings

Celebrating World Down Syndrome Day: March 21, 2026

World Down Syndrome Day (March 21, 2026) is a wonderful way to celebrate the beautiful diversity and joy that individuals with Down syndrome bring to the world. Staff and people at the Center participated in the "Random Acts of Kindness" campaign to honor individuals with Down syndrome by making compassion visible and inspiring others to join us in making a

difference. In addition, our staff showed up in their brightest blue and yellow to celebrate the day, and Down Syndrome Aim High Resource Center hosted a fantastic event at Bring on the Spectrum, where families and friends enjoyed the sensory gym and had the chance to connect with one another.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the event, wore their blue and yellow, or joined the "Random Acts of Kindness" campaign. You all helped make World Down Syndrome Day truly meaningful.

SAVE THE DATE: Mark your calendars for the 30th anniversary of the **Capital Region Buddy Walk** on September 27, 2026, to continue to celebrate individuals with Down syndrome!

More chances to celebrate are coming up:

- April is Autism Awareness Month
- May 4-8 is Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 6-12 is National Nurses Week

Staff Graduate From Residential Supervisory Training Program

On April 8, we celebrated 25 Residential division team members who graduated from our Residential Supervisory Training Program!

Each graduate currently serves in a supervisory role, and their commitment to this program reflects their dedication to going above and beyond, strengthening

their leadership skills, supporting their teams, and ultimately enhancing the lives of the people we support in our homes.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this possible, from our instructors and planning committee, to those behind the scenes preparing materials and providing support.



Congratulations to our graduates. Thank you for taking part in this program in addition to the important work you do every day!

New Fund Dedicated to Providing Adaptive Equipment to People Supported by the Center: The Wayne A. Smith Jr. Supportive Fund

The *5280: Wayne A. Smith, Jr. Supportive Fund* was established to continue Wayne's legacy by providing essential aid not covered by insurance or other government or community funding sources for individuals supported by the Center for Disability Services and its affiliates.



To qualify for assistance, applicants must demonstrate a financial need, provide documentation supporting the request and be supported by CFDS or one of its affiliates.

To learn more about this fund and how to apply, please contact Melissa Phillips, Director of Annual Giving 518-944-2111 melissa.phillips@cfdnsy.org

Back by Popular Demand! Family Support Services Swim Program

Our Annual **Family Support Services Swim Program** provides swim instruction for children with developmental disabilities who are not able to participate in community-based swim programs due to their disability. The program takes place at Queensbury Elementary School (431 Aviation Rd. Queensbury) and is available for children ages 5-18.

[LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP](#)

It's almost Summer. Time to get in the POOL!

Did you know that the Center has public open swim hours and offers "Learn-to-Swim" lessons (one-on-one) taught by certified instructors for children with or without disabilities? Our pool is located at 314 South Manning Blvd., Albany, NY 12208.

[Check our website](#) for times and pricing.



Staff Spotlight

CFDS Welcomes New Directors in Several Departments

We are pleased to welcome several outstanding leaders to the Center at the director level or above. Each brings a wealth of experience, fresh perspectives, and a shared commitment to *helping people get better at life* and supporting our teams. Our new directors will play a critical role in shaping strategy, strengthening collaboration, and driving innovation across their respective areas. Their leadership will help us continue to grow, adapt, and deliver meaningful impact for the communities and partners we serve. Please join us in extending a warm welcome as they settle into their new roles. We look forward to the knowledge, energy, and vision they bring to our organization and to the important work ahead.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Family Network

Thank you to everyone who completed the all-family survey in February. Future programming will be based on feedback.

Take a moment to check out our [family resources](#) page, full of great products, places and resources for you, all suggested by fellow CFDS families. This page will be updated continually as more resources and referrals are submitted.

Advocacy note: Now is the moment to speak up for the I/DD community and the dedicated staff who make independence, dignity, and opportunity possible every day. Rising costs of living are impacting staff and the people we support, yet state funding hasn't kept pace. Your voice can help ensure essential services receive the support they need. The NYS budget deadline has been extended, so you can still make your voice heard with just **ONE click**. Let's

The Family Network 
At the Center for Disability Services
Where people get better at life™

make sure every New York State legislator hears what matters most. Your action today makes a real difference.

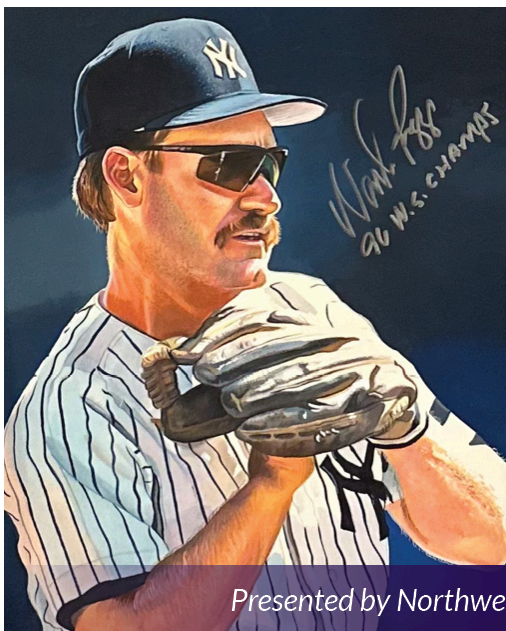


CFDS Foundation

ANNOUNCING WADE BOGGS AT AFICIONADO!

We are thrilled to reveal the 2026 An Aficionado Experience Special Guest: **HALL OF FAME THIRD BASEMAN WADE BOGGS!** Wade Boggs, inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2005, built an unforgettable career with the New York Yankees, Boston Red Sox, and Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Boggs was a 12-time All-Star and 5-time batting champion, and he is widely regarded as one of the greatest third basemen in baseball history. And now you can meet him!

- ✦ Meet, mingle and take photos with Wade Boggs
- ✦ Purchase baseballs on-site to have autographed
- ✦ Live music and dancing to Ten Most Wanted
- ✦ An open bar and complimentary food
- ✦ Networking with Capital Region professionals
- ✦ An online and at-event silent auction



32ND
ANNUAL

An Aficionado EXPERIENCE

With Special Guest **Hall of Fame Third Baseman**
WADE BOGGS

JUNE 4, 2026

Presented by Northwestern Mutual | To benefit Center for Disability Services

Save these dates...

The dates are in place for our 2026 signature fundraising events! Participating is a great way to support the Center. Mark your calendars and plan to attend, sponsor or give to one of these wonderful events!

[LEARN MORE](#)



518Gives was a success!

The Center would like to thank everyone who contributed to the 518Gives Telethon. Your generosity helped us surpass our goal of \$100,000! We would also like to congratulate the Yankees VIP experience winner, Sandra C. from East Greenbush. Sandra is looking forward to attending!



Join the conversation



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