



2015 Annual Report



Aspire
of WNY



Annual Message From

Aspire's Leadership

For Aspire, 2015 was a year of leadership transition. Eileen Nosek was elected Chairperson of Aspire's Board of Directors after capably serving as Vice President for years. Aspire's Board also gained key direction from our newest members Delores Bellanti and Raphael Blochle, MD. Also, Aspire's Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Ted Handschumaker, retired after 23 years of service, leading us to recruit Jennifer Ball as our new CFO. Jennifer is a CPA and had served as CFO for a similar local human service agency. Jim Schwinger retired after 16 years of service as our Senior Vice President of Human Resources, while Melissa Roth was promoted to the position of Vice President of Human Resources. We are thankful for their past service and look forward to our new leadership as we continue facing a fiscally challenging environment.

In this year's report, we are excited to highlight two key services offered by Aspire that had important developments in 2015.

Aspire's Health Center added a number of primary care providers and now includes health services for the general public who are not disabled. Elizabeth O'Neill, MD and Anees Ahmad, MD joined our practice as quality internists and are caring for new and existing patients. Our Health Center also received accreditation as a Patient Center Medical Home (PCMH) measured against challenging standards that ensure comprehensive, coordinated, patient-focused care.

Aspire's Employment Division continues to expand and maintains its leadership position in Western New York. Our three main employment programs exemplify creativity, person-directed planning, and job placement. Aspire's Employment Team added sites for its World of Work (WOW) program, added business partners for internships, and had several school districts partner with us for transition and employment services.

As a valued supporter, your interest in what we do and, more importantly, to whom we provide services, remains a source of inspiration.

Thomas Sy
President/CEO

Eileen Nosek
Board Chairperson



Aspire Health Center:

Serving the Community

For more than 25 years, Aspire has operated a clinical facility, at 7 Community Drive in Cheektowaga, dedicated to providing premier care for the special needs community. In 2015, plans that were years in the making culminated in several significant changes and recognition for the quality of care being provided. The Health Center filled out the Primary Care Team with the addition of Dr. Elizabeth O'Neill and Dr. Anees Ahmad. With the additional staff, the Health Center now provides clinical services to the community-at-large. The new clinical focus allows any patient, age 18 and older, to visit the Health Center for a full-range of medical services.

One familiar face at the Health Center, Paris Adams, has been a patient for the past 16 years and is thrilled with the changes. "Years ago, when I first enrolled at the Health Center, it was a very small space," Paris explains. "Now, they have a big waiting room, and everything is very nice. I enjoy seeing Miss Hollie (Hollie Bojarski, MS, ANP-BC, RN), she is very knowledgeable and takes good care of me."

Paris works as an Office Assistant in a law office in downtown Buffalo and appreciates how quickly he gets in to see the staff at the Health Center. "I give the clinic an A+ for waiting time," he says. "I never wait too long and once I get checked, I can go right back to work!"

In addition to expanding the clinical focus, the Aspire Health Center was recognized recently by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) as a Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH). To earn PCMH recognition, the Aspire Health Center demonstrated that they are using evidence-based, patient-centered processes focusing on coordinated care and collaborative patient relationships.

"NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home Recognition raises the bar in defining high-quality care by emphasizing access, health information technology and coordinated care focused on patients," said NCQA President Margaret E. O'Kane. "This recognition shows that Aspire Health Center has the tools, systems, and resources to provide its patients with the right care, at the right time."

The PCMH recognition is good for the next three years after which the Health Center will reapply under the latest quality standards at the time of their application.

Pictured above: Paris Adams works in partnership with the Aspire Health Team to remain healthy and productive.



Aspire and Wegmans

Team Up for WOW

Since 2011, Aspire has been providing a job skills enrichment program, called World of Work (WOW), to school-age students with disabilities. WOW combines classroom skills training with on-the-job internships at participating local businesses and exemplifies the possibilities that exist when the doors of employment are opened to students facing intellectual or physical challenges. This year, WOW welcomed one of

Western New York's most respected employers, Wegmans, as a new business partner for providing student internships.

Executive Chef Prepared Foods, Fred Torrell, spoke about Wegmans' initial thoughts on the program.

"We were very impressed with the concept, and our team was receptive to the idea," he explains. "We really had to consider how we could ensure safety for the student interns, but we also wanted to make sure that if we participated, it would be meaningful for them also."

Torrell, along with Restaurant Manager, Jodie Kersten and Café Coordinator, Rachel Gould, worked with Aspire and determined areas within Wegmans Prepared Foods Department where the interns could work and learn. In September 2015, three students began their WOW internship at Wegmans. Right from the start, Steven Barnas (Sweet Home HS), David Price (Cheektowaga – Pine Hill), and Matt Garrison (North Tonawanda HS) were treated the same as others who come to work at the store. The team at Wegmans performed talent evaluations to determine their strengths and weaknesses, and while open to making accommodations, they found very few were necessary.

Finding the right business partners for WOW students is a key component to the ongoing success of the program. "Wegmans has been amazing so far," says WOW Associate/Job Coach, Amy Pope. "They have bought into the experience for the kids and made them feel like part of their team. When they gave the interns Wegmans shirts to wear, the boys were so proud and thrilled! It was special."

Not surprisingly, the WOW experience has had as much of an impact on the store and its employees as it has had for Aspire and the student interns.

"We were honored to host these students," claims Torrell. "You cannot place a value on the impact these kids have made on all of us, both personally and professionally."

Pictured above: WOW Interns are all smiles while working at Wegmans. From left to right: Steven, Rachel Gould, Matt, David, and Fred Torrell.

January – December 2015:

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\$20,000 OR MORE

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Aniyah Colston welcomes fellow students to the CFL Art Show.

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Theodore's Red Hots
Walt Disney World

\$100-\$499

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Betsy Dixon-Lang
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Tina Stevenson, who is supported by Aspire for self directed services, works at Bed Bath & Beyond.



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Bert's Bikes & Fitness
BHS Foodservice Solutions
Black Squirrel Distillery
Certo Brothers Distributing Co.
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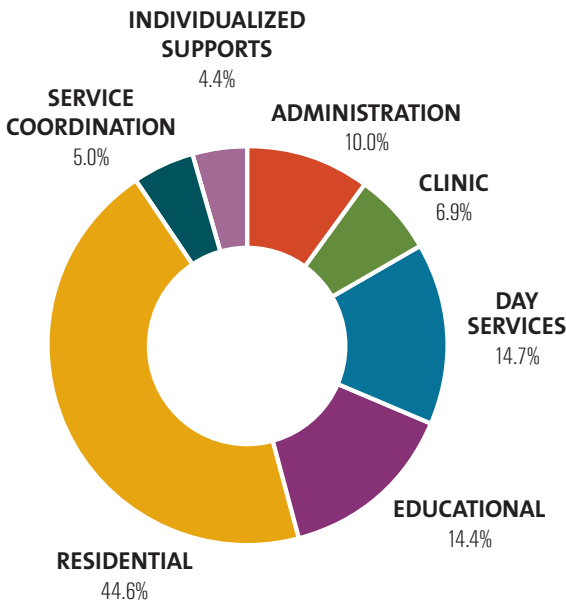
Nathan Queer working at a bait and tackle shop in Westfield, NY.

Seneca Gaming Corporation
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This listing includes new donations and gifts of \$100 or more received between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015. We do our best to be as accurate as possible; however mistakes may occur. Please contact Michael Holley at 716-505-5512 or michael.holley@aspirewny.org with any corrections. Thank you!

2015 Financials¹

Aspire of WNY & Affiliated Entities – Results of
Operations Per Audited Financial Statements



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REVENUE	2015
Program Service Revenue ²	\$68,718,177
Government Grants	\$1,959,767
Fundraising	\$473,373
Other	\$185,096
TOTAL REVENUE	\$71,336,413

¹ The above information was developed by management
based on information in the audited financial statements.

² 98.4% Federal and New York State Governmental Funding

EXPENSES	2015
Administration	10.0%
Clinic	6.9%
Day Services	14.7%
Educational	14.4%
Residential	44.6%
Service Coordination	5.0%
Individualized Supports	4.4%
TOTAL EXPENSES	100%



LAST WORD

Stacey Wetherwax

Take a full year to get over it
Losing you is losing myself
All the special places we went to
Won't be the same without you
Now you're there, some place up above
And my last word to you is "love"

Artwork above: "Fauvist Forest" by iXpress
artist Bria Rawles

2015 In Memoriam

INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY ASPIRE WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2015

Kirkland Barlow	Christine Kleinsmith
Ronnie Bess-Barksdale	Sharon Leach
Robert Cribbs	Gladys Lebron-Montes
Paul D'Agostino	John McManamy
John Essek	Edward Milliman
Edward Fletcher	Amanda Nichter
Zachariah Ghodbane	Corey Pitts
Leo Goffin	William Ridout
Andrew Gonzalez	Edward Sasinowski
Timothy Hoen	Abe Smith
Joanna Jenkins	Peggy Toni
Randall King	

**"Flock Descending" by iXpress artists
at the Brock Collaborative**



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